

Press Release 12/10/05
Yolo County District Attorney's Office
Yolo County Sheriff's Department Animal Services Section

On Monday, December 5, 2005, Judge Doris L. Shockley of the Yolo County Superior Court issued an order that Ronald C. Wilson forfeit ownership of over 70 collies and other animals confiscated by the Animal Services Section of the Yolo County Sheriff's Department in 2004. Working together, the District Attorney's Office, Yolo County Environmental Health, Animal Services and other agencies prepared and prosecuted three animal abuse cases against Mr. Wilson. The number of animals involved required meticulous record keeping and documentation by Animal Services, which did an outstanding job.

The collies especially had been kept and produced under especially shocking conditions, and many of the unkempt dogs were very ill and suffered from debilitating genetic defects, as well as from conditions resulting from neglect. Since the animals were seized and kept under the control of Animal Services, dedicated volunteers for collie rescue and The Road Home K9 Rescue have spent countless hours caring for, rehabilitating and socializing the dogs to enable as many as possible to become adoptable as pets pending the decision of the court. Managing the care and treatment of the dogs has been a community effort, with local veterinarians, University of California Davis staff, and businesses assisting Animal Services with materials, space, and time. Management of such a large number of animals would have been impossible without generously donated funds and materials from the public.

The order forfeiting ownership of the dogs now enables Yolo County Animal Services to allow a number of the animals to be released to the public following standard procedures in such cases. Because of her general expertise, her specific knowledge of the individual dogs, and her dedicated management of the dogs throughout the pending criminal case, Dr. Cathy Toft of The Road Home K9 Rescue has been given the task of handling the post order adoption and care of the collies. Information about the dogs, the continuing need for funds and materials, and adoption procedure may be obtained from The Road Home K9 Rescue website: <http://www.theroadhome-dogs.org/> or by calling: (530) 759-8637. To learn more about the case, visit the Friends of the Yolo County Animal Services web site: <http://friendsyoloshelter.org/collies.htm>.