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Updated: 9:45 PM Dec 6, 2010

Accused Greyhound Dog Killer Enters 'Not Guilty' Plea

ChIPLEY - A Washington County man accused of killing more than 30 Greyhound racing dogs now has legal representation. A judge appointed a public defender for 36 year old Ronald Williams Monday morning, as he plead 'not guilty' to 42 counts of felony animal cruelty.

Posted: 9:45 PM Dec 6, 2010

Reporter: Vanessa Nguyen

Email Address: vanessa.nguyen@wjhg.com

Ronald Williams Arraignment

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ChIPLEY - A Washington County man accused of killing more than 30 Greyhound racing dogs now has legal representation. Font Size: [A](#) [A](#) [A](#)

A judge appointed a public defender for 36 year old Ronald Williams Monday morning, as he plead 'not guilty' to 42 counts of felony animal cruelty.

The charges stem from the October 29th discovery of dozens of dead dogs at an Ebro Greyhound Park kennel.

36 year old Ronald Williams walked into the Washington County Courtroom Monday without any legal representation.

And he didn't seem too concerned about the 42 counts of animal cruelty he is currently facing.

"32 counts of felony cruelty to animals and in case number 414, ten counts of felony cruelty to animals," says Assistant State Attorney Erin Oliver.

Authorities arrested Williams on October 29th after they found 32 dead greyhounds in the Ebro Greyhound Park kennel that was assigned to him.

Necropsies found the animals died from starvation and dehydration.

The case has sparked outrage from animal rights groups who are demanding Williams receive the maximum punishment.

Monday morning Williams told Circuit Judge Allen Register he could not afford an attorney.

"Do you have a bank account?"

"No sir," he replied.

"Do you own any stocks, bonds or any type of investment?"

"No sir."

But before he was arrested, Williams was making a decent paycheck.

"Prior to being arrested, what was your weekly or bi-weekly income?"

"Um...it depends...somewhere around a thousand, fifteen hundred a week."

Judge Register then appointed a public defender and accepted his 'not guilty' plea.

His next court date will be a pre-trial hearing on February 11th.

The Walton County Sheriff's Office is conducting its own investigation into whether Williams is connected to the death of eight Greyhounds found under the Highway 20 bridge.



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Posted by: Anonymous on Dec 10, 2010 at 01:16 PM

Anononyous- where exactly did you find that the other trainers made accusations that he mistreated his animals? And no i am not condoning him one bit i am simply saying there is more to the story than he killed a bunch of dogs. Nobody knows what really happen and there is way more to the story than just what the media and people portray. He deserves to be punished but they are letting people go on probation for molestation of children under the age of 12, those are the monsters we should worry about. these dogs had life but they were not someones son or daughter or mom or dad, etc. he is in a small town where everybody talks and everyone is kin to each other, the sysytem is not fair these days. This happens everyday in the dog world, just not in the extreme but death is death. No dog deserves to die- by euthinazion or not. So the other dog people are not completely innocent either. i am not saying that everyo ne puts down hounds but many owners, breeders, trainers, etc in the business do.

Posted by: Elaine Location: UK on Dec 10, 2010 at 03:14 AM

Its a disgrace, maybe he should be subjected to the same cruelty as the hounds, then see how he feels ... Greyhound racing should be regulated an all greyhounds should be on a register then we can track them far too many " go missing " or are left too die !!!!!

Posted by: Janice Location: Colorado GH Country on Dec 9, 2010 at 11:43 PM

I am sick to my stomach that anyone could find a way to justify the way these animals died. Their lives were already hell and to be humanely euthanized would have been better than what they received. However, niether of those options was even remotely necessary and the aggravated circumstances of duct taping necks and allowing starvation and dehydration are unconscionable. This guy is a psychopath, if not by diagnosis, at least by definition. ANYONE who can condone his actions is in the same category as he and should be watched very carefully. I hope someone knows some of the people making these comments of understanding and are able to make sure that they are carefully watched. They will be next, they will claim "not guilty" and they will see nothing wrong with their actions. This is an outrage and an example of unquestionable cruelty and abuse. No one I know would allow treatment, such as that which is endured by these racers, to any animal that they even know, no less own.

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