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Jury Returns Guilty Verdict Against Man for Animal Cruelty
People v. Vincent Daniel Martinez: Kern County Superior Court Case BF189682A

(Bakersfield) - Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced an animal cruelty conviction. On December 7, 2023, in a case prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney William Mord, a Kern County jury found Vincent Martinez guilty of two counts of cruelty to animals and two counts of vandalism. The jury also found the additional allegation true that Martinez personally used a deadly weapon. The Court found the additional allegation true that Martinez had been previously found guilty of a strike.

On April 9, 2022, at approximately 8:00 p.m., the victim heard her dogs barking outside of her residence in East Bakersfield. The victim went outside and saw Bella, her 3-year-old dog, and Rosco, her 8-month-old dog, inside her fenced yard, barking at her neighbor, Martinez. Martinez was standing next to her gate and rattling her fence. Martinez told the victim, "You need to shut your dogs up, or I'm going to do it for you." Frightened, the victim went back inside her residence until she heard her dogs whimpering approximately two minutes later. The victim opened her door and saw that Bella had been stabbed in the neck and Rosco had been disemboweled. The victim called 911.

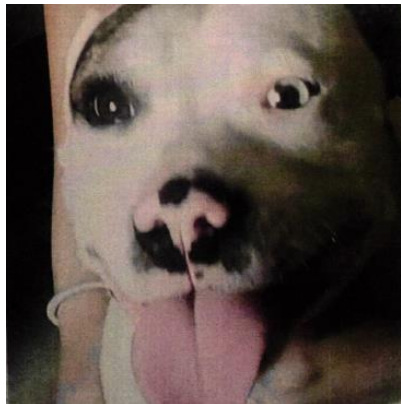
Kern County Sheriff's Deputies responded and located Martinez within minutes. Martinez had a fixed blade knife on him. Both sides of the knife had blood on it. There was no evidence Bella or Rosco ever left their fenced yard.

Deputies requested Kern County Animal Control respond to the scene. The victim held Rosco in her arms, Rosco's tail wagging, when Rosco had to be euthanized due to the extent of his injuries. Bella survived but sustained life-long complications.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented on the conviction, stating; "The law holds a special place – prison – for career criminals who kill and mutilate defenseless dogs. Today's conviction ensures that Martinez faces the consequences of his inhumane actions, and serves to protect countless other animals from abuse at his hands."

Sentencing is set for January 24, 2024, before the Honorable Michael Bush in Department 1 of the Kern County Superior Court. Martinez faces up to 8 years, 8 months in prison.

Bella:



Rosco:



Vincent Martinez:

