



Office of the District Attorney Stanislaus County

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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: November 4, 2022
Re: Roneil Anand Prasad
Conviction for Animal Cruelty

For More Information Contact:

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Roneil Anand Prasad, age 39, of Modesto was convicted on Friday, October 21, 2022 of animal cruelty and contempt of court after a 3-day jury trial. Deputy District Attorney Tracy Griffin prosecuted the case for the People.

On March 19, 2022, Modesto Police Department officers responded to a report of a deceased dog in a cardboard box. Officers contacted the reporting party who said she believed her boyfriend, Roneil Anand Prasad, had killed their dog, a miniature schnauzer named Roscoe. Roscoe's body was found inside a cardboard box by the front door, wrapped in aluminum foil and a bath towel. Officers found Prasad asleep on the living room couch. Blood stains were visible on his pants, shoes and sweatshirt. There were traces of blood splatter throughout the apartment and patio area.

A post-mortem examination of Roscoe's body indicated the dog sustained a large brain hemorrhage, hemorrhages to the left and right abdomen, a large contusion to the left shoulder and a laceration to the hind right leg. The cause of death was determined to be blunt force trauma.

At the time, Prasad was on probation for a May 2020 domestic violence conviction in Napa County. As a result of that conviction, there was a criminal protective order restraining Prasad from damaging property belonging to, or disturbing the peace of, the reporting party. Officers arrested Prasad for violating that criminal protective order and for felony animal cruelty.

A jury trial began on October 18, 2022. After two days of testimony and evidence, the jury returned verdicts convicting Prasad of felony animal cruelty and finding true three circumstances in aggravation: 1) that the victim (Roscoe) was particularly vulnerable; 2) the crime involved great violence with a high degree of cruelty, viciousness or callousness; and 3) that Prasad was on probation at the time of the offence. The jury also convicted Prasad of misdemeanor contempt of court for violating the criminal protective order.

Sentencing is currently set for November 18, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. in Department 3 before Judge Linda McFadden. Prasad faces a maximum possible punishment of three years in county jail.

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