

# ADAMS, Catherine Jessica (2018)



**NOTE:** See additional record from 2015 on this offender [here](#).

**Alias(es), if any:**

- Cathy, Kathy, Kathie, Cat, Kat
- Stacy Mavrick

**Age at time of offence:** 23

**Name(s) of co-accused:** None

**Name(s) of victim(s):** Unknown

**Species and breed of victim(s):**

11 horses, 25 dogs, and 17 birds (53 animals in total)

**Province(s) of offence(s):** Alberta

**Town/City of offence(s):** Cereal

**Date(s) of offence(s):** September 3, 2015 (date of animal seizure)

**Nature of offence:**

- neglected (lack of adequate food, water, shelter, exercise, and/or care)

**Charges:**

- Wilfully causing unnecessary pain, suffering, or injury to an animal; Criminal Code of Canada, Section 445.1 (1) (a)
- Animal cruelty (legislation unknown)

**Date of sentence:** November 2, 2018

**Sentence details:**

- **17-YEAR BAN (Canada-wide)** on owning animals
- 90 days in jail
- 2 years of probation, subject to conditions (counselling as directed, be gainfully employed or pursuing educational opportunities)
- 100 hours of community service

**Other charges convicted of:**

- See 2015 record for this offender [here](#)
- Catherine Adams has been charged with breach of probation order and is scheduled to go to trial in Quesnel, British Columbia on May 16, 2019.

**Name of Judge:** Judge Judith Shriar

**Additional notes:**

- [Karin and Catherine Adams had 16 dogs “in distress” seized from them in Quesnel, British Columbia on July 1, 2018](#); charges are pending
- Both Karin and her daughter Catherine use aliases and are known to frequent several locations in British Columbia (including Quesnel, Smithers, Houston, and Prince George) and Alberta (including Hanna, Olds, Innisfail, and Red Deer).

**Links to news articles:**

- <https://www.bclocalnews.com/news/mother-and-daughter-accused-of-animal-abuse-crimes-in-houston-face-new-charges-in-alberta/>
- <https://www.hannaherald.com/news/local-news/judge-puts-over-adams-matter>
- <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/catherine-adams-sentencing-postponed-1.4795275>
- <https://calgarysun.com/news/crime/substantial-and-criminal-alberta-judge-sentences-woman-to-90-days-for-animal-abuse>
- <https://www.hannaherald.com/news/national/adams-receives-jail-time>

**Link to court decision transcript** (this information may often be found by searching the database at <https://www.canlii.org/en/>): Not available

**See photos and PDFs of articles on following pages.**

# ADAMS, Catherine Jessica (2018)



Conditions at the Alberta rental home of C. Adams



Catherine / Karin Adams





# Mother and daughter accused of animal abuse crimes in Houston face new charges in Alberta

A mother and daughter accused of animal abuse crimes in Houston are facing new charges in Alberta.

ALICIA BRIDGES / Sep. 8, 2015 11:00 a.m. / NEWS



Horses seized by the BC SPCA near Houston on Aug. 28

A mother and daughter accused of animal abuse crimes in Houston are facing

new charges in Alberta, where police and the local SPCA last week seized 53 animals from a rural property they were renting.

On Sept. 3, Karin Adams and her daughter Catherine were charged with animal cruelty after police allegedly found animals in distress at their

residence near the village of Cereal, which is about 300 kilometres northeast of Calgary.

Oyen RCMP had gone to the property to arrest the women for allegedly failing to comply with the court-ordered conditions of an ongoing animal abuse case against them in Houston.

Police said those conditions restricted the types of animals they could own and required them to stay in regular contact with a Ministry of Justice worker.

The RCMP launched a new investigation into animal cruelty after they allegedly found 11 horses, 25 dogs and 17 birds in distress at the residence.

With help from the Alberta SPCA, all of the animals were seized, relocated and looked at by a veterinarian.

The accused have been charged with cruelty to animals, wilful neglect of animals, possession of stolen property and failing to comply with the conditions of an undertaking.

The stolen property charge relates to allegations some of the animals were stolen.

Oyen RCMP Corporal Jeff Clarke said police believe the animals were being kept for breeding purposes. He said speculation on social media the animals were used for fighting was incorrect.

Their first court appearance on those charges will be at Hanna Provincial Court, Alta. on Oct. 28. One of the conditions of their release is that they do not own any animals.

Both Karin and Catherine Adams are also scheduled to appear in Smithers Provincial Court on Nov. 18 to stand trial for two charges each of causing unnecessary pain to an animal and one charge each of causing or permitting an animal to be in distress. They pleaded not guilty to the charges in April.

The charges relate to the alleged mistreatment of animals in their care, which were seized by the B.C. SPCA from a property near Houston on Aug. 28 last year.

Horses, dogs, birds and cats were among the 53 animals removed by the animal welfare authority.

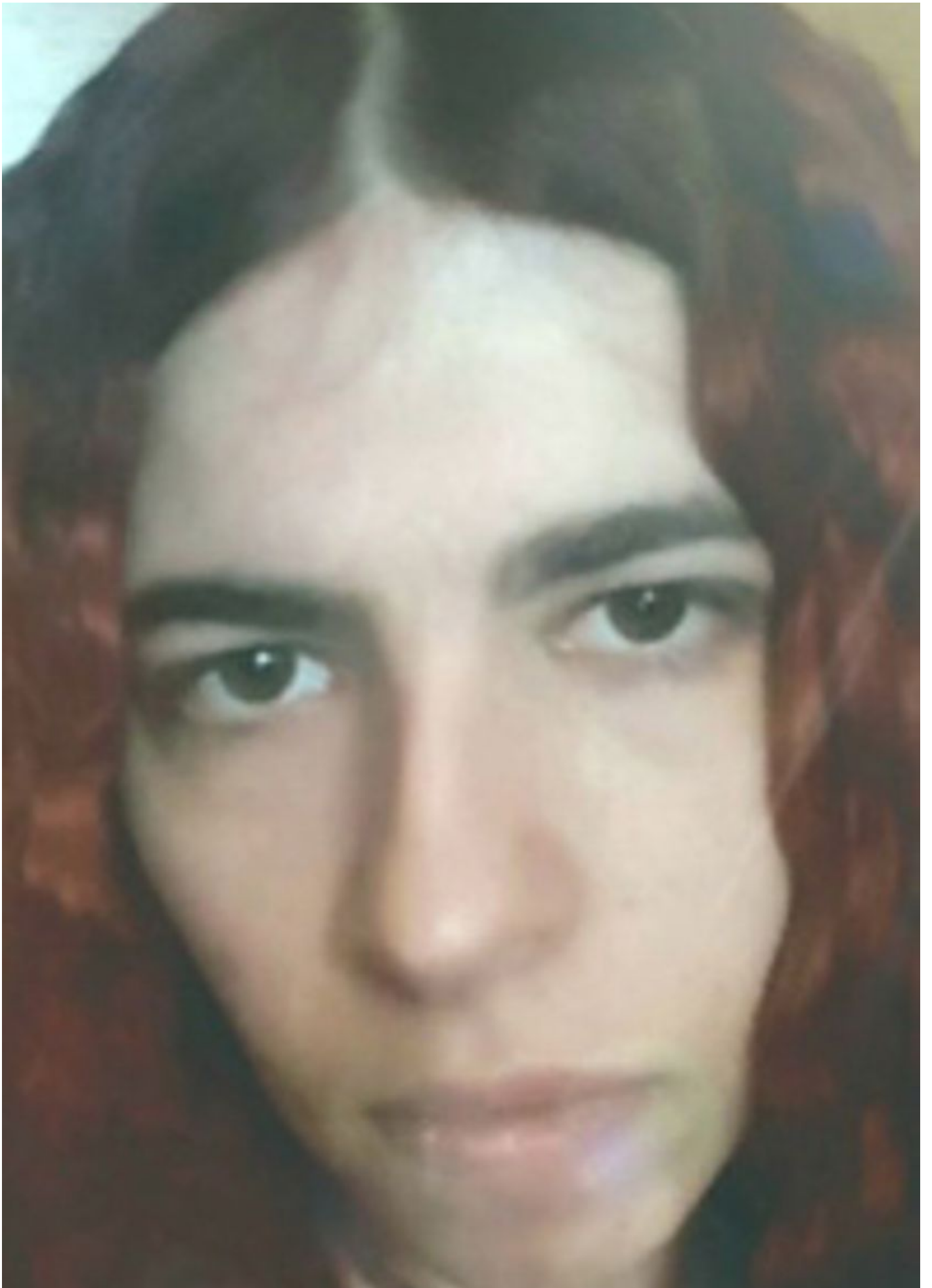
# Judge puts over Adams matter



Jacqueline Gold-Irwin

[More from Jacqueline Gold-Irwin](https://www.hannaherald.com/author/jirwin) (<https://www.hannaherald.com/author/jirwin>)

Published on: August 22, 2018 | Last Updated: August 22, 2018 8:47 PM EDT







Catherine Adams was found guilty of two counts of animal cruelty at the Hanna Provincial Courthouse in Hanna, Alta. on Feb. 28. Adams will be sentenced on Aug. 22 after the Judge ordered a presentence report.

*FACEBOOK PHOTO*

Those waiting with baited breath to hear what Judge J. Shriar would hand convicted animal abuser Catherine Adams for a sentence will have to wait until Nov. 1 after the Judge delayed sentencing yet again to ponder the intricacies of the laws surrounding the case.

While many believed the case to be cut and dry, Shriar said the question was if Adams, who was found guilty in February 2018 on two counts of animal cruelty, was a first or second time offender as she'd been sentenced for animal cruelty charges in B.C. in 2015 after being charged in Alberta just weeks prior.

When asked if she was currently facing any other charges Adams admitted that she had an outstanding charge in Quesnel, B.C. regarding a breach of her current release conditions which prohibit her from being around animals.

Shriar asked for clarification on if the dogs were in her care and control when she was living in Quesnel, to which Adams replied no, the 16 dogs in question were her grandmothers.

Adams Charter Application regarding several details of the case was denied by Judge Shriar, who noted that while her point regarding the lack of being able to access the dogs to gather their own evidence might hold some weight in appeals court, a charter application must be made before evidence is heard during a trial, and not after.

"Everything you've raised (in the charter application) is an appeal issue," Shriar explained to Adams.

Adams voiced several complaints regarding the presentence report,

noting that she did not say that she got into the most trouble when she was with her mother. She added that she did not drop out of school in Grade 6 because of being bullied, but rather than she did not care to return to the education system.

Additionally, she noted, she had not self-diagnosed herself with depression and PTSD but rather a court ordered clinical psychologist had suggested it might be part of the issue.

Adams said the presentence report claim that she was opposed to medical treatment was also inaccurate as she simply was not in favour of medication.

Finally, in regards to the point in the report that said she was not attempting to find gainful employment Adams said the root cause was the conditions imposed by her various court matters.

She told Judge Shriar that because she was not to be in the care or control of animals, it was difficult to know where the line was drawn. If, for example, she worked at a restaurant with a fish tank and was asked to feed the fish, would that put her in breach of her 20-year-Canada-wide ban?

If she were to be employed as a house cleaner and cleaned an area designated for pets, would that put her in breach?

Crown Attorney R. Pedersen noted that he felt the points raised by Adams did not impact the overall assessment made in the presentence report.

"I haven't seen many presentence reports that are as negative as this one," he noted of the report.

Pedersen noted that while the case had a number of aggravating factors, like the reports repeated note of Adams lack of remorse and other charges before and after the trial, he did not see any mitigating factors. He noted that the Crown would be seeking jail time, and added that while the charges for this case had been laid before Adams was sentenced in her 2015 B.C. matters he felt there was cause to consider her a second time offender given that there were two consecutive incidents, both of which she had been found guilty for.

Adams argued that jail time would not help rehabilitate her, but rather a sentence that had a strong educational component, such as community service hours with the SPCA for example, might help her see what she'd been doing wrong and help her make amends to the community.

Judge Shriar noted that given that Adams had maintained she was well

versed in animal care and that the SPCA standards were too stringent, as well as the fact that she felt she had done nothing wrong made the concept of making amends moot.

"You don't feel you did anything wrong," Shriar noted.

Adams said she felt that she had failed the animals, especially the two that died after being taken from her care, which she was quick to note was not her fault, but rather due to the fact that they escaped the SPCA.

"I'm not saying that everything was perfect," she noted.

"I made a bad decision when I left the male husky tied up," she said, noting that she didn't think at the time the dog could jump over the fence.

She admitted she didn't know why she hadn't taken the time to clean the shed, however noted again that she believed at the time the dogs had been properly secured in another area of the building and in no danger.

"There are some things I wish I'd done differently," Adams said.

"But not all of what I did was wrong either."

She said that said, putting her in jail would not serve to help her see the errors of her ways, but helping to educate her in proper animal care might.

Judge Shriar asked if Adams was implying that if she'd killed someone not to put her in jail.

Adams noted that if someone truly had no remorse, like the report claimed she did, than jail or conditions would not prevent them from doing it again.

"It shows the public if you behave that way you go to jail," Judge Shriar replied dryly.

"To stop the cycle you need to teach them how," Adams shot back.

Adams also said Judge Shriar should take into account the public scrutiny that this case, as well as the one in B.C. from 2015 and the 2018 incident had placed her under.

She noted that the impact of the public opinion would last all her life, noting that some media outlets had even been using her name for incidents that she was not involved in, noting that they had said she was involved in an incident in Innisfail, Alta. that she had no part in.

Judge Shriar asked if Adams was saying that she had no connection to the situation.

"It wasn't your grandmothers dogs?" she asked tongue-in-cheek.

Adams replied no, it was not her grandmother who had been at the

hotel with the dogs but her mother, adding that she herself had not been at that hotel, but media outlets had placed her there none-the-less. Judge Shriar said while she knew there was public interest in the sentencing, she wanted to ensure she properly factored in the sentencing in B.C. to determine, from a legal standpoint, if Adams was a first or second-time offender based on the letter of the law.

"This is not a situation where you will get a discharge," Judge Shriar explained.

"The idea that a conditional sentence would make amends for something you're not even sorry for," she noted, defied logic.

Shriar, who was visibly upset during parts of Adams comments during the day, said she felt it would be better if she had time to calm down before sentencing Adams.

With those to factors in mind she elected to postpone the sentencing until Nov. 2 at 1 p.m. at the Drumheller Provincial Courthouse.

jirwin@postmedia.com



## TRENDING IN CANADA

## Judge says she's too emotional and postpones sentencing for repeat animal abuser



Catherine Adams' sentencing has been postponed to November

Sarah Rieger · CBC News ·

Posted: Aug 22, 2018 4:37 PM MT | Last Updated: August 23, 2018



Catherine Adams, left, was convicted of animal cruelty in February after dozens of malnourished horses, dogs and birds were discovered on her property in central Alberta in 2015. (Facebook/BC SPCA)

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Convicted animal abuser Catherine Adams' sentencing was postponed Wednesday afternoon, after the judge said she was too emotional to sentence someone who showed an "astonishing lack of reasoning ability" and was "not taking this process seriously."

Adams was found guilty in February of charges of willfully causing pain, suffering or injury to an animal, and animal cruelty.

Nine malnourished horses, 25 dogs and 17 birds were seized from her and her mother Karin's property in Hanna, northeast of Calgary, in 2015.

- [Hanna woman convicted on animal cruelty charges involving horses, dogs and birds](#)

Charges against her mother were dismissed.

The Crown's submission for sentencing had pushed for jail time and a lifetime ban on owning animals, arguing that Adams' previous animal abuse convictions and lack of remorse were aggravating factors.

But Adams made the case that she should receive only community service, a suggestion Judge Judith Shriar scoffed at.

"This is not a situation where you get a discharge," Shriar said in Hanna provincial court.

## **Banned from owning animals**

Catherine and her mother were first convicted in 2014 and banned from owning animals for 20 years after officials seized 18 horses, 18 dogs, 15 birds,



two cats and 104 fish from a property near Houston, B.C.

The horses were so malnourished, they were eating wood in an attempt to survive, while the dogs had matted fur, dental issues and lacerations.

- **B.C. woman jailed over animal cruelty**

They were ordered to pay \$5,500 in restitution to the B.C. SPCA. Catherine was sentenced to six months conditional house arrest and three years probation, and Karin was sentenced to 15 days in jail.

On July 17, RCMP arrested Karin and rescued eight dogs from her motel room in Innisfail, Alta. Mounties said they had responded to reports that a woman was posing as a law enforcement officer and was trying to take a dog from its owner.





Catherine Adams leaves Hanna provincial court in August. (Lucie Edwardson/CBC)

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Less than two weeks earlier, on July 4, SPCA officers in B.C. had seized 16 dogs in distress that Catherine and Karin were keeping on a property in Quesnel.

The dogs were being kept in crates too small for their size in a poorly ventilated area, with little or no access to water and with feces and urine-soaked matting, the SPCA said.

## 'I'm being sent death threats,' says Adams

On Wednesday, Adams claimed that the publicity from the cases she has been involved in was something that needed to be taken into consideration during sentencing.

"I'm being stalked, I'm being harassed, I'm being sent death threats," she said.

- **MORE ALBERTA NEWS | [Most wanted deadbeat dad in U.S. gets 24 months in jail after arrest near Calgary](#)**

She said that after Karin was arrested in Innisfail, one news outlet published her photo instead of her mother's.

"Media attention from this will haunt me and hinder me probably for the rest of my life."

An animal cruelty legislation activist said she was pleasantly surprised to hear the judge say she was too emotional to sentence Adams.

"I think it's really, this is the first time I've ever heard of a judge saying she was too emotional to sentence someone, and in my opinion, it's great when you actually get judges who care and have compassion and show some concern for the animals," said Charlene Myers, the founder of Animal Cruelty Legislation Advocates Canada.

Myers said she hopes Adams will be banned for life from owning animals.

"Hopefully with this case the fact that she has a past will lead to a harsher sentence than what she received in the case in B.C.," she said.

Adams will be sentenced in Drumheller provincial court on Nov. 2.

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***With files from Lucie Edwardson.***

# Adams receives jail time

The Judge added that Adams half-hearted admission that some of the animals could have been suffering, and that the situation had been overwhelming for her, came at the tail end of a series of denials that she had done anything wrong, which to her watered down the sincerity of the admission.



Jacqueline Gold-Irwin

[More from Jacqueline Gold-Irwin](https://www.hannaherald.com/author/jirwin) (<https://www.hannaherald.com/author/jirwin>)

Published on: November 2, 2018 | Last Updated: November 2, 2018 6:28 PM EDT

GALLERY:

## ***ADAMS SENTENCED TO 90-DAYS IN JAIL***

Conditions at the rural Alberta rental of Catherine Adams where animals were housed in unsafe conditions with inadequate food, water and shelter. Adams was sentenced to 90-days in jail, 2 years probation, 100 hours of community service and a 17-year Canada-wide ban on owning or being in the care or control of animals.

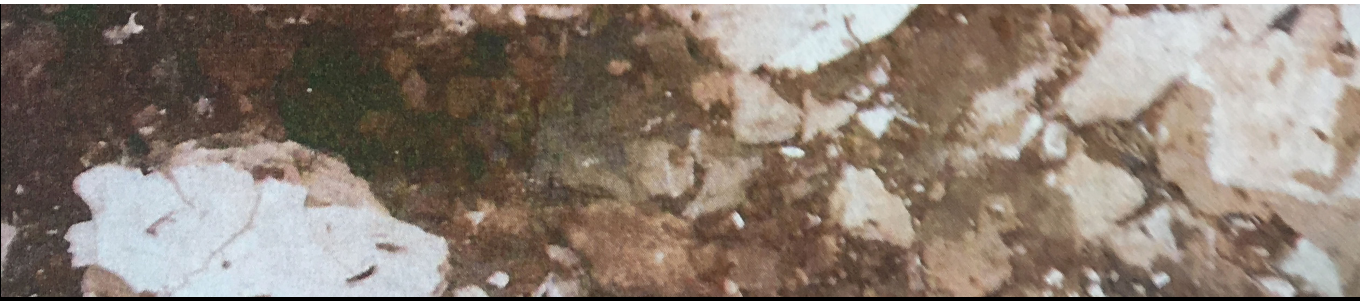


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Conditions at the rural Alberta rental of Catherine Adams where animals were housed in unsafe conditions

Catherine Adams was sentenced to 90-days in jail after Judge. J. Shriar found her guilty of animal cruelty and wilfully causing pain, suffering or injury to an animal.

Judge J. Shriar noted that Adams, 25, "does not believe what she did was wrong."

Judge J. Shriar added that Adams pre-sentence report had noted that Adams said she was fully capable of complying with the terms of her probation, but that at the time the report was being conducted Adams was, at that time, living in a home that had 16 dogs in residence at a Quesnel, B.C. home.

The Judge added that Adams half-hearted admission that some of the animals could have been suffering, and that the situation had been overwhelming for her, came at the tail end of a series of denials that she had done anything wrong, which to her watered down the sincerity of the admission.

She noted that some of the cases presented to her by the Crown and Adams in regards to sentencing did not apply, however one case involving a rural owner who had not given proper care to their animals was more similar, and the cases cited by the lawyers in that case also had some similarities.

Judge Shriar noted that the sentences in those cases ranged from conditional sentences to six-months incarceration.

The Judge added that while traditionally strong family support would tend to be a mitigating factor, in this case as many of Adams legal woes had taken place when with her mother, and the fact that the grandmother seemed to be enabling Adams made it an aggravating one.

Judge J. Shriar noted that it was an aggravating factor that Adams had been on release for similar offences when the charges occurred, and that it showed an ongoing behaviour, rather than a one-time incident. Additionally she said that Adams continued to deny wrongdoing up until

the last minute and showed a “lack of insight into the seriousness of her crimes.”

The Judge added that she felt that Adams had shown both by her actions, and by her own admission in court, that she felt conditions of probation were rarely effective.

“It erodes confidence that she’s ready to take advantage of the opportunities for her to rehabilitate,” Judge J. Shriar said.

Shriar sentenced Adams to 90 days on each count, to run concurrently, as well as two years probation to include counselling as directed and to be gainfully employed or pursuing educational opportunities, as well as 100 hours of community service.

The Judge also, at the urging of Crown Attorney R. Pedersen, imposed a 17-year ban of Adams owning, or being in the care or control of dogs to be Canada-wide, as Pedersen noted there was some confusion over the original 20-year-ban that had been imposed in B.C. in 2015.

The Alberta Sheriffs Department immediately took Adams into custody to be transported to the Calgary Remand Centre.

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## TRENDING IN CANADA

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**Hundreds evacua  
Brazil dam collap:  
second dam brea**

Three years  
ago, another