



COUNTY OF FRESNO

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District Attorney

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 28, 2015

JOSE FRANCISCO ROMO ENTERS PLEAS TO 11 COUNTS OF FELONY ANIMAL CRUELTY FOR NEGLECTED HORSES

On August 27, 2015, Jose Francisco Romo entered pleas to eleven (11) felony counts of Penal Code §597(b), animal cruelty, relating to horses that were found neglected and malnourished on his property in February 2012. The defendant is being prosecuted by the newly formed "Animal Cruelty Unit."

The crimes were reported to the CCSPCA by a concerned neighbor who had begun feeding one of the malnourished horses. After responding to Mr. Romo's property, the CCSPCA seized all 11 horses. The majority of those horses have since been adopted by new owners, while the remainder are in the care of the CCSPCA.

The defendant faces a maximum of 9 years and 8 months in custody, a fine of up to \$20,000, and mandatory counseling when he is sentenced by the Honorable Judge Timothy Kams on October 27, 2015.

A felony conviction of animal cruelty includes a prohibition from owning animals for a period of 10 years, and the defendant may be ordered to reimburse the CCSPCA for the costs of impoundment, transportation, and care of the horses.

The District Attorney's Office would like to thank the dedicated members of the CCSPCA who brought an end to the neglect of these defenseless animals. The CCSPCA continues to have horses available for adoption.

The Media may contact Administrative Secretary Geri Benavides at (559) 600-4441 with any questions.

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