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17-10

Crown Files Appeal of Sentences in Animal Abuse Case

Victoria - The BC Prosecution Service announced today that it has filed an appeal with the British Columbia Supreme Court asking that the court increase the sentences assessed in *R. v. Keefer, Vandyk and Visser* 2017 BCPC 142. The appeal has been filed under Supreme Court number 63894-4. The case involved charges under the British Columbia *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act* (PCAA) and the *Wildlife Act* (WA) against employees and the directors of a dairy operation owned by Chilliwack Cattle Sales Ltd.

The Prosecution Service has reviewed the ruling and, in accordance with its policy on summary conviction appeals ([APP 1.1](#)), the Service is satisfied that (1) the judgement reveals errors of law; (2) a reasonable argument can be made that the sentence would not necessarily have been the same if the error had not been made; and (3) the public interest requires an appeal.

The alleged errors of law relate to what constituted mitigating and aggravating factors; and whether it was correct to equate the duration of the unlawful acts with the moral blameworthiness of the offenders. Ultimately, it will be up to the court to determine whether appellate intervention is available and warranted.

A hearing date for the appeal has not yet been set. As this matter is now before the court, the Service will not comment further on the specifics of the case.

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