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PRESS RELEASE

Chester County District Attorney Announces Charges in Dog Killings

Chester County District Attorney Tom Hogan announced the filing of charges against Gabriel Pilotti for shooting and killing two dogs belonging to his neighbors. The defendant has been charged with cruelty to animals and recklessly endangering another person.

The defendant is 72 years old. He is a resident of West Vincent Township, Chester County.

District Attorney Hogan stated, "There was no justification for the killing of these two dogs. The defendant has been charged and will be dealt with appropriately. Our sympathies go out to the family and children who lost their beloved pets."

The allegations from the criminal complaint¹ are as follows:

On February 12, 2013, police responded to the defendant's property in West Vincent Township, Chester County. Two Bernese Mountain dogs had been shot and killed. At that time, the initial story was that the defendant shot and killed two

¹ A criminal defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty in court.

dogs that were pursuing his sheep in a penned in area of his property. The defendant killed the two dogs with a single shot shotgun. The dogs were the family pets of the defendant's neighbors.

The West Vincent Police subsequently conferred with the Chester County District Attorney's Office and conducted a follow-up investigation.

Through that follow-up investigation, the West Vincent Police determined that the dogs were not pursuing the defendant's sheep at the time he shot and killed the dogs. The defendant shot the first dog in the head. The defendant then reloaded the shotgun and shot the second dog as it was fleeing away from the defendant and the sheep. There is a house in the line of fire directly behind where one of the dogs was shot.

District Attorney Hogan added, "The West Vincent Police did an excellent job in relentlessly pursuing this case until they revealed the truth."

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Approved for release:

Thomas P. Hogan