

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bay Area couple charged with felony animal cruelty in burning death of dog

BURLINGAME, CALIF. – (August 29, 2016) – An animal cruelty case investigated by [Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA](#) (PHS/SPCA) has resulted in felony charges for a Bay Area couple in the burning death of their two-year old dog, “Sprocket.” An expert forensic veterinarian determined that the pattern and severity of injuries was due to non-accidental, intentional burning of Sprocket. The burn pattern was consistent with the dog being lowered or placed in a scalding liquid.

On May 1, 2016, defendant Shelby Lujan brought her two-year-old dog “Sprocket” to an emergency veterinary clinic, more than a week after she said he was injured. Sprocket was suffering from third-degree burns on 40 percent of his body. The emergency clinic did everything possible to save Sprocket, but unfortunately, he succumbed to his injuries and died a few hours later.

“The details of this case are horrific,” said Ken White, president of Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA. “After the scalding, the poor dog endured days of horrendous suffering. We hope our investigation will provide the evidence needed to bring Sprocket justice, and ensure that his owners are unable to hurt any other animals.”

Shelby Lujan and her boyfriend Paul Souter claim that a cup of boiling water was accidentally spilled into Sprocket’s crate, but they did not take him to the vet until more than a week later.

The case has been referred to the San Mateo County District Attorney’s Office and a hearing date has been set. Shelby Lujan has been released on bail. Paul Souter is in custody.

PHS/SPCA is a private, independent, non-profit animal welfare organization for San Mateo. Its Humane Investigations Department, which is funded entirely by donations from caring individuals, led the investigation.

About Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA

Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA is a private, open-door, not-for-profit animal welfare organization. Primary programs include animal adoptions; animal rescue and sheltering, including specialty care for domestic animals with medical and/or behavioral challenges; wildlife rehabilitation; animal cruelty investigation; community outreach and education; low-cost spay/neuter; and obedience classes. This vital work is made possible by volunteers and donations. PHS/SPCA receives no funding from national animal welfare organizations. Visit www.phs-spca.org to learn about all PHS/SPCA’s programs and services, ways to help the animals and special events.

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