

## Cerro Gordo County: Animal Welfare Criminal Offenses (2013-2015)



### **George Thomas Harrington**—Mason City (Cerro Gordo) IA

Incident date: 06/03/15

**Scenario:** Harrington allegedly attempted to kill his dog “Boom Boom” by hitting her in the head with a hammer in his driveway. Law enforcement was called to the scene several hours later and found the dog still alive. The dog was taken to a nearby veterinarian and was humanely euthanized.

Charged with: Animal Torture 717B.3A (aggravated misdemeanor)

PENDING TRIAL

Trial date set: 09/22/15



### **William Nathan Hill**—Mason City (Cerro Gordo) IA

Incident date: 03/21/15

**Scenario:** Hill confessed to placing his 10 year old cat inside a duffel bag and throwing the duffel bag into the Winnebago River. Witnesses saw this take place and rescued the cat.

Charged with: Animal Torture 717B.3A (aggravated misdemeanor)

Pled Guilty: 05/26/15

• Animal Torture 717B.3A—1 count

Charge amended to: Animal Abandonment 717B.8



### **Dacota Alan Witham**—Mason City (Cerro Gordo) IA

Incident date: 08/09/14—Case# AGCR023383

**Scenario:** Police called to address on an assault. Witham allegedly killed a dog found in the garage in an inhumane manner. Dog was found dead inside an empty dog food bag with multiple stab wounds.

Charged with: Animal Torture 717B.3A (aggravated misdemeanor)

Pled Guilty: 09/17/14

• Animal Torture 717B.3A—1 count

Charge amended to: Animal Neglect Causing Death or Injury 717B.3 (serious misdemeanor)

Penalty

• Probation: 2 years • Fine: \$315 (suspended) • Jail Sentence: 1 year (suspended)



### **Peter Joseph Olson**—Mason City (Cerro Gordo) IA

Incident date: 03/19/14—Case# SMSM033977

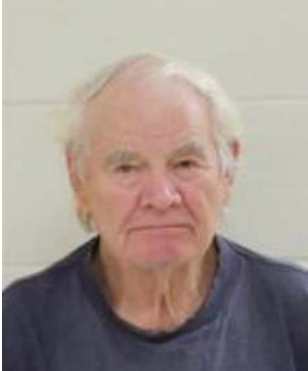
**Scenario:** Olson allegedly killed his dog by placing a plastic bag over its head to asphyxiate it. Olson allegedly believed his dog was ill and did this to avoid having to pay veterinary bills. The dog's body had been disposed of and was later found in a nearby dumpster.

Charged with: Animal Neglect 717B.3(3) (simple misdemeanor)

Guilty Plea: 05/13/14

Penalty

• Fine: \$100



### **Ralph A. Stricker**—Mason City (Cerro Gordo) IA

Incident date: 02/04/13—Case #SMSM032284

**Scenario:** Stricker allegedly neglected his horse to the point the horse had to be euthanized. Animal lay lame in field for several days. (Between 2007-2013 Stricker was charged 14 times with animal cruelty, animal neglect, or livestock neglect in Cerro Gordo County.)

Charged with: Livestock Neglect 717.2 (serious misdemeanor)

Guilty: 04/10/13

Penalty

• Permanent removal of all husbandry animals

• Probation: 1 year

• Jail Sentence: 30 days (suspended)