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N.S. couple guilty in animal cruelty case

By BRIAN MEDEL Yarmouth Bureau
Thu. Jan 29 - 4:23 PM



Gail Benoit outside a Digby courthouse in December 2007. Ms. Benoit and Dana Bailey were found guilty on Thursday of animal cruelty. Ms. Benoit was also convicted of assaulting an SPCA constable. (BRIAN MEDEL / Yarmouth Bureau / File)

DIGBY — A Nova Scotia judge convicted Gail Benoit and Dana Bailey of animal cruelty today after a trial last November in Digby provincial court.

Judge Jean-Louis Batiot also convicted Ms. Benoit of assaulting an SPCA constable.

The couple had been tried on charges of animal cruelty stemming from the seizure of 10 pups from their home near Digby in October of 2007.

They have been accused of selling sick puppies.

Ms. Benoit seemed to have a hard time accepting her fate today when Judge Batiot announced his

decision.

"This is going to be all over the Internet," she said, interrupting the judge.

Ms. Benoit also brought a couple of letter-sized sheets of paper and waved them toward the judge.

"This has got to stop," she said, reading, "Wanted ... dead or alive," from one of the pieces of paper which appeared to be a mock "Wanted" poster with Ms. Benoit as the fugitive.

When the judge told her to talk to her lawyer about it, she turned on her heel and left with her husband.

The couple's lawyer, Michael Power of Bridgewater, was unable to attend court because of poor weather.

The couple will return to court on March 26 for sentencing.

(bmedel@herald.ca)

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