

1 -- that there be no outbursts of any kind while
2 I render my verdict in the case.

3 I do want to thank both lawyers for doing
4 an excellent job in the case and for keeping the
5 case moving along at a fairly efficient clip.
6 We got the case done in pretty good time, so I
7 thank both lawyers for that, doing an excellent
8 job.

9

10

COURT'S VERDICT

11

12 BY THE COURT:

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All right, General Laws, Chapter 272,
14 Section 77, criminalizes animal cruelty.

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The Commonwealth has alleged that the
17 defendant failed to provide a sanitary environment
18 for the dogs in her care, and thus, violated the
statute.

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As we all know, the Commonwealth bears the
21 burden of proving their charge beyond a reasonable
doubt, the highest legal standard under our laws.

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While there has been some evidence that
24 Greyhound Friends could have improved the
sanitary conditions at the shelter, there was
25 also much credible evidence that the shelter

1 was generally a safe and healthy environment
2 for the dogs.

3 This was a rescue shelter, and evidence
4 showed that many of the dogs that arrived there
5 had already experienced much mistreatment and
6 trauma in various other environments from which
7 they came.

8 It is clear to me that the defendant loved
9 and cared for the dogs, and is to be commended
10 for making the rescue of these dogs her life's
11 work.

12 Although she may have taken her eye off
13 the ball, so to speak, in terms of the physical
14 upkeep of the kennel, this was indeed a regulatory
15 issue that called for a regulatory solution.

16 The evidence falls far short of establishing
17 that she violated a criminal statute and committed
18 a felony. Thus, I find her not guilty.

19 Thank you.

20 MR. CAPPETTA: Thank you, Your Honor.

21 THE CLERK: Okay, then, for the record,
22 on 17CR436, that's a jury-waived bench trial,
23 on Count One, cruelty to a custodial animal,
24 the defendant has been found not guilty.

25 THE COURT: Thank you.