

New trials set in Jackson Co animal cruelty case

**(MSC News)--Two new bench trials has been set in a Jackson County animal cruelty case.**

**The Holton Recorder reports a judge last week set a two-day bench trial, beginning April 9, for Frank Johnson after he appealed his conviction last month on 45 animal cruelty charges.**

**The newspaper reports the judge also scheduled a bench trial for May 22 in a civil case in which Johnson and a Montana resident listed as the co-owner of the horses involved in the case are contesting the possible forfeiture of the animals.**

**Johnson was found guilty last month on the animal cruelty charges following a bench trial and placed on two years supervised probation. He was also ordered not to possess any livestock, particularly horses, during the probation period.**

**The trial consolidated two criminal cases against Johnson, one involving 12 animal cruelty charges filed in August of last year, and the other filed in December involving the 33 remaining charges.**

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