

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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State v. Cory D Martinson

Sioux Falls, South Dakota — On October 10, 2025, Cory Martinson was sentenced by the Honorable Judge Susan Sabers to five years in prison with another five years suspended after he pleaded guilty to two counts of Animal Cruelty pursuant to SDCL § 40-1-2.4.

In July 2024, Martinson took temporary possession of 7-8 cats from an individual on Facebook Marketplace who was looking for someone to watch them. On July 12th, 2024, Martinson surrendered two of the cats to the Humane Society who were so gravely injured that they had to be euthanized. Only two of the cats were returned to the original owner unharmed. The remaining cats were never located and are presumed to have died in Martinson's care.

At the time of this offense, Martinson was on probation for a 2024 Brookings County conviction of animal cruelty. As a result of that conviction, Martinson was prohibited from possessing or residing with any animals during the term of his probation, a term he violated.

“This sentence sends a clear message: our community will not tolerate the abuse or neglect of animals. Every living creature deserves to be treated with respect, and in this case justice was served.” said State's Attorney Daniel Haggard.