

Guilty verdict in animal cruelty case retry

(KNZA)--The re-trial of a Jackson County man on animal cruelty charges ends with a guilty verdict.

The Holton Recorder reports a Jackson County District Judge found Frank Johnson, of rural Hoyt, guilty of two counts of animal cruelty following a two-day bench trial last week.

Sentencing was set for May 22 on the charges contained in an amended complaint.

The re-trial was granted after Johnson appealed a conviction on the same charges following a February trial.

He was found guilty at that time on 45 counts of cruelty to animals and placed on two years probation. As part of his probation, Johnson was ordered not to possess any livestock, horses in particular, during the probation period.

After receiving complaints from neighbors, Jackson County Sheriff's deputies seized 12 horses from Johnson's property in the summer of 2018 and another 33 horses later that fall.

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