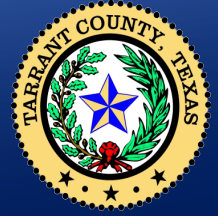


# STATEMENT SHAREN WILSON

from

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## Statement re: verdict in animal cruelty trial against Terrell Hill:

(Fort Worth) — Euless resident, Terrell Dalmar Hill was found guilty this week of Animal Cruelty—Torture for the March 2014 beating of Riley, a then-3 month old Shepherd mix puppy. In addition to hitting and kicking the puppy, Hill scalded him severely by pouring boiling hot water onto his back.

Tarrant County ACDAs, Ashlea Deener and Sarah Bruner advocated strongly for Hill's conviction, presenting testimony from Arlington Animal Hospital's Dr. D.H. Riley and vet tech, Kelly Brace about the life-saving treatment and rehabilitation the dog continues to undergo, including poster-sized photos detailing Riley's injuries.

Brace, who has since adopted the now-adult Riley, brought him into the courtroom during the trial, allowing jurors to meet the sweet-natured canine.

After returning their guilty verdict, jurors sentenced Hill to 5 years' confinement and recommended probation and a \$5,000 fine. Judge David C. Hagerman included restitution for Riley's medical bills as part of Hill's probation. Prosecutors subsequently requested 180 days in Tarrant County Jail for Hill as a condition of his probation, however that request was denied by the judge.

"We made a vigorous appeal to the jury for prison time for Mr. Hill for the cruel, callousness of his crime, and we believe he should have been incarcerated," **said prosecutor, Ashlea Deener.** "Although the jury's decision is not the punishment we hoped for, we are glad that Mr. Hill will now have a felony conviction on his record, and be forced to check in with a probation officer every month for the next decade of his life. We hope that will serve as a regular reminder to him of the harm he's caused.

"The bright side here is that Riley is doing so well, and has found a loving and compassionate home," **Deener continued.** "His kind and happy spirit is a true testament to the unconditional love of which animals are capable."

## END ##

