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For Immediate Release

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**BRONX MAN WHO SLAMMED PUPPY TO FLOOR, INJURING HER LEG SO
BADLY IT NEEDED AMPUTATION, SENTENCED TO ONE YEAR IN JAIL**

Defendant Must Register as Animal Abuser

“Sally” Recovered from the Ordeal and Found a New Home

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark today announced that a Bronx man has been sentenced to a year in jail for abusing a puppy, including slamming her to the floor resulting in rendering one of her legs useless and causing it to be amputated.

District Attorney Clark said, “The defendant’s abuse of an eight-month old defenseless puppy culminated in a leg injury leading to amputation of the limb. Such inhumane actions will not be tolerated and a jail sentence sends that message.”

Howard Lawrence, Vice President, ASPCA Humane Law Enforcement, said, “The ASPCA is thankful that the sentence reflects the extreme pain and suffering Sassy - now named Sally - had to endure at the hands of her abuser. This decision illustrates the positive impact of the NYPD, Bronx District Attorney’s Office and ASPCA working side-by-side to fight animal cruelty. Thanks to this collaboration, Sally was given a second chance in a loving, safe home and a powerful message has been sent that animal abuse will not be tolerated in New York City.”

District Attorney Clark said the defendant, Roberto Martinez, 25, of 946 Leggett Avenue, was sentenced today to a year in jail by Bronx Supreme Court Justice Robert Neary. Martinez pleaded guilty to Aggravated Cruelty to an Animal, a felony, on October 13, 2017. Upon his plea, he was remanded and began serving his sentence. As part of the plea agreement, he must register as an animal abuser in the state registry and is not permitted to own an animal for five years.

According to the investigation, on or about September 10, 2016, the defendant was observed via video surveillance lifting an approximately eight-month old, mixed breed dog then-named “Sassy” by her harness to defendant’s shoulder height. Defendant then slammed Sassy to the floor, causing Sassy to land on the backside of her body. Sassy attempted to run away from the defendant, however, her right-hind leg was unresponsive. Defendant then lifted

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Sassy by the neck area of her body and pushed her upwards on the staircase before entering an apartment. The defendant's girlfriend, who owned the dog, brought her to the ASPCA, telling veterinarians the dog had fallen down stairs. Evidence of prior abuse including broken ribs was detected. The NYPD was notified and retrieved the video of the assault.

The dog's right hind limb was amputated on September 16, 2016. She recovered, was adopted by a family and renamed Sally.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Sarah Merry of the Economic Crimes Bureau, under the supervision of Richard Kearney, Deputy Chief of the Economic Crimes Bureau and William Zelenka, Chief of the Economic Crimes Bureau, and the overall supervision of Stuart Levy, Deputy Chief of the Investigations Division and Jean T. Walsh, Chief of the Investigations Division.

District Attorney Clark thanked the ASPCA, specifically Dr. Alison Liu, Forensic Veterinarian, and Dr. Robert Reisman, Supervisor, Forensic Sciences; as well as NYPD Detective John Glynn of the Animal Cruelty Investigation Squad for his work on the case.

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