

PRESS RELEASE

(UTICA , NY)

William Richerson, of Fountain Street, Clinton, pled guilty in Oneida County Court Tuesday to felony aggravated cruelty to an animal and criminal possession of a weapon in the third degree.

Judge Barry M. Donalty will sentence Richerson on July 17th.

Richerson fired two shots into the head of the family's Jack Russell terrier named Sam on April 5 in the family's basement, prosecutors say. When Richerson's wife called the police to respond, they were led to a gun cabinet which contained several firearms, including a .45-caliber semi-automatic pistol and a .380-caliber Colt semi-automatic pistol. Richerson did not have a license for those firearms.

Although the felony aggravated cruelty to an animal can be punished by [local](#) jail time, as per the Agriculture and Markets law, the violent felony firearms charge carries a state prison sentence. Richerson's attorney was the Public Defender and Assistant District Attorney Kara Wilson prosecuted the case.