

Texas A&M Veterinarian Is Indicted On A Animal Cruelty Charge

Bill Oliver, WTAW, October 2021

A Brazos County grand jury indicts a Texas A&M veterinarian and professor in the vet school on a charge of livestock cruelty.

The direct indictment provides the only information about the allegations against Doctor Ashlee Watts.

She is accused in December of 2019 of “intentionally and knowingly torture” a horse by “excessively contacting” the animal with a device that delivered an electric shock.

The vet is also accused of knowing her conduct was not a generally and otherwise lawful form of conduct.

The indictment was filed last Thursday. As of last Friday, a university spokesperson said Watts was still working though she was not seeing patients.

Watts is out of jail after being booked on Monday then posting a \$10,000 dollar bond.

According to online court records, an arraignment/pretrial hearing has been scheduled for November 18.

THE STATE OF TEXAS	Control # 21-004954 DIRECT INDICTMENT
VS.	TRN #
	Warrant#
ASHLEE WATTS	Offense Code 72990045
	Cause No. <u>21-03716-LEE-301</u>
	Charge: CRUELTY TO LIVESTOCK ANIMALS
	PHYSICAL ABUSE
	Agency: Unlisted CP20-121
IN THE NAME AND BY AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:	
The Grand Jury of Brazos County, State of Texas, duly organized at the July 2021 Term, of the 85th District Court of said County, in said Court, at said term, do present that in the County of Brazos and State of Texas one	
ASHLEE WATTS	
hereinafter referred to as the Defendant, heretofore on or about 19th day of December, 2019, did	
then and there intentionally and knowingly torture a livestock animal, to-wit: a horse named Allie by excessively contacting her with a device designed to deliver an electric shock upon contact, and the defendant's conduct was not a generally accepted and otherwise lawful form of conduct occurring solely for the purpose of or in support of fishing, hunting, or trapping; or wildlife management, wildlife or predation control, or shooting preserve practices as regulated by state and federal law; or animal husbandry or agriculture practice involving livestock animals.	