

## Spring couple ordered to surrender more than 200 ill and injured cats

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Photo: Submitted Photo, Houston SPCA / Submitted Photo

Montgomery County Precinct 3 Justice of the Peace Edie Connelly ruled that the more than 200 cats seized in a Spring home on Oct. 17 be given to the Houston SPCA.



Photo: Submitted Photo, Houston SPCA / Submitted Photo

More than 200 cats found in bad living conditions were seized from a home in Spring on Wednesday, Oct. 17, 2018.

A Spring couple accused of animal cruelty were ordered to surrender ownership of more than 200 cats to the Houston SPCA on Wednesday by Montgomery County Precinct 3 Justice of the Peace Edie Connelly. Connelly also ruled that Faye and David Spencer will be held responsible for more than \$52,000 in court fees and veterinary bills accrued since the 231 cats were seized on Oct. 17.

**"I am pleased with the outcome and believe the right decision was made based on the law and evidence presented at the hearing," said Assistant County Attorney Ronald Chin, who initially asked Connelly to rule against the couple having custody of the animals.**

Connelly heard more than six hours of testimony last week from the Spencers and animal cruelty investigators from both Montgomery County Animal Control and the HSPCA on the condition the cats were found in during the seizure.

### **ANIMAL RESCUE: Hundreds of cats seized from Spring home**

Officials testifying on Oct. 24 found the house to be in a bleak condition, they alleged. Upon their arrival after repeated complaints from neighbors, they found cats suffering from upper respiratory infections, skin conditions, emaciation, fleas and diarrhea. One unresponsive cat found on the property was later euthanized.

But, the Spencers and several of their character witnesses said, officials have exaggerated their claims. "We love these cats and they love us," David Spencer said at the Oct. 24 hearing. "This is the biggest farce I've ever seen."

The couple operated Faye and Dave's Cat Sanctuary out of their Hickory Hollow Lane home and welcomed stray and rehomed cats. The property, Faye Spencer said, was a far better option for the animals than the street. "We help other people," Faye Spencer said. "We have a safe place."

The Spencers have 10 days to appeal Connelly's ruling, but to do so, Chin said, they'd have to put up twice the amount owed as bond — more than \$104,000. Leaving the court, David Spencer said they have every intention to do so.