

# Onondaga County Sheriff's Office News

## Eugene J. Conway

Sheriff

---



**For Release:** Immediate 09-13-18

**Contact:** Sergeant Jon Seeber (315) 435-3033

---

## Syracuse Man Becomes First Wanted Person for Failing to Register with Onondaga County's Animal Abuser Registry

**Onondaga County, New York** – The Onondaga County Sheriff's Office reports that a Syracuse man convicted of animal cruelty has become the first wanted person for failing to register with the county's animal abuser registry. **Brian Person** (46) is wanted for failing to register after he was convicted in October of 2017 of two counts of torturing and injuring a puppy. Person was sentenced to eight months incarceration at the Jamesville Correctional Facility and upon his release, he failed to register as required by the local law.

In June of 2017, Onondaga County Legislatures passed a local law establishing an Animal Abuser Registry and prohibiting animal ownership by offenders in Onondaga County. This law, which requires any offender (18) years of age or older, who resides within Onondaga County and who has been convicted of an animal abuse crime after August 1st, 2017, must register with the Onondaga County Sheriff's Office.

In late August of 2017, the Sheriff's Office placed its first convicted abuser on its registry. **Richard M. Gerharz** (55) of 178 Colby Avenue, Syracuse was placed on the registry after being convicted of torturing an animal and failure to provide proper sustenance. Since then, the following nine names of convicted offenders have been placed on the registry, **Andrew D. Coy Jr.** (25) of 220 Hier Avenue, Syracuse, **Jane M. Richards** (66) of 6715 Buckley Road, N. Syracuse, **Cheryl L. Bowens** (48) 208 Barrett Street, Syracuse, **Joanne Ruggireo** (49) of 1100 W. Colvin Street, Syracuse, **Scott Cooper** (41) of 320 Putnam Street, Syracuse, **Howard Bethea** (37) of 804 North Alvord Street, Syracuse, **Rennie Rall** (36) of 138 Grumbach Avenue Apt #2 Syracuse, **Anthony McCauliffe** (20) 357 Elm Street, Syracuse and **Michele Piper** (42) 1802 Butternut Street, Syracuse.

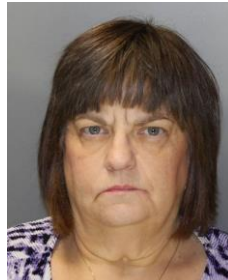
All the names of convicted offenders will appear on the registry for a period of fifteen years following his or her release from incarceration or from the date of the judgement of conviction. The Animal Abuser Registry, including a copy of the local law, can be found by visiting the Sheriff's Office website at [sheriff.ongov.net](http://sheriff.ongov.net).



Richard Gerharz



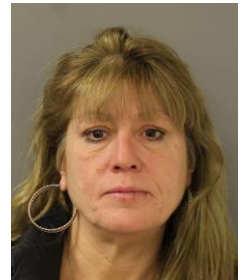
Andrew Coy



Jane Richards



Cheryl Bowens



Joanne Ruggireo



Scott Cooper



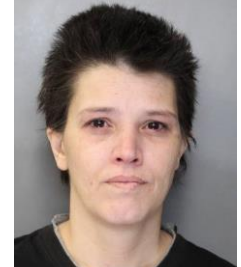
Howard Bethea



Rennie Rall



Anthony McCauliffe



Michele Piper