



NEWS RELEASE

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13-year-old Boy Charged with Felony Dog Fighting

Los Angeles, CA -- A 13-year-old boy has felony dog fighting charges pending in what Los Angeles Animal Services describes as "a serious example of animal cruelty."

The boy was arrested Monday as he tried to run away with an injured pit bull on a chain after patrol officers from the Southeast Police Station came upon a dog fight in an alley near 133th Street and Grape Street in Watts.

About a dozen spectators got away, and two dogs were rescued and treated for severe bite injuries by Department of Animal Services officers. Both dogs are expected to recover.

"What makes it more tragic was that children were the organizers and spectators at this dog fight," said Los Angeles Animal Cruelty Task Force Detective Susan Brumagin. "The scariest part is that animal cruelty by children often morphs into human cruelty as adults."

The boy, whose name was not released because of his age, remains in custody at the Los Padrinos Juvenile Detention Facility.

This would be the first felony filing by the LA Animal Cruelty Task Force for dog fighting. The Task Force is a joint operation involving the Department of Animal Services, LAPD, and City Attorney's Office.

Blood sports, like dog fighting and cock fighting, are illegal in California. Persons with information about blood sports or mistreated animals are encouraged to call the task force at (213) 847-1417.

For more information or assistance call LA Animal Services at
1-888-452LA-PET1/1-888-452-7381
(TTY Hearing impaired: 877-875-8205) or visit the website at www.LAAnimalServices.com.

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