



NEWS RELEASE



City of Los Angeles Department of Animal Services
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Dog Saved From Drowning LA Animal Cruelty Task Force Investigating

Los Angeles: On October 1, 2007, at approximately 2:00 PM, Casey Purser, who had recently bailed out of jail on unrelated charges hours before, returned to his residence and was reunited with his two dogs, a Shih Tzu "Toby" and a Pit Bull puppy "Evesue." Purser's dog Toby defecated on the carpet. The suspect became irate with Toby and began drowning him in the bathtub. A neighbor, looking for the suspect, witnessed the drowning and was able to rescue Toby from the suspect. The neighbor found Toby unconscious and not breathing. While on the way to the veterinary hospital the neighbor performed mouth to mouth resuscitation on Toby saving the dogs life. The veterinary hospital resuscitated Toby with oxygen and was able to stabilize his condition.

Van Nuys Division Officers responded to the veterinary hospital and arrested Purser when he arrived at the hospital to pay for the medical expenses. Purser had left Evesue in the car at the veterinary hospital and officers were able to take custody of Evesue as well. The officers arrested Purser for 597(a) of the California Penal Code, Animal Cruelty. **The City of Los Angeles' Animal Cruelty Task Force** was contacted and responded to the location. The Animal Cruelty Task Force is currently investigating the crime and is pursuing felony charges of animal cruelty against Purser. If convicted, Purser could face up to three years in prison.

The Animal Cruelty Task Force is made up of Los Angeles Police Officers and Detectives, Animal Care/Control Officers from Los Angeles Animal Services and Deputy City Attorney's from the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office. They investigate human cruelty against animals.

Reports of animal cruelty can be reported to the Animal Cruelty 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.