



NEWS RELEASE



City of Los Angeles Department of Animal Services
221 N. Figueroa Street, Suite 500, Los Angeles, California 90012 / www.LAAnimalServices.com

CONTACT: Public Relations Office
213.305.8289

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
March 18, 2008

Man charged for allegedly killing a dog with an ax

LOS ANGELES – Allegedly infuriated by his brother's barking dog, a 36-year-old Los Angeles man was accused today of killing the animal with an ax late last week.

The District Attorney's Office stated Rudy Fernandez (dob 07/22/71) is charged with one count of cruelty to an animal with a special allegation of personal use of a deadly and dangerous weapon. Fernandez was due to be arraigned yesterday afternoon at Los Angeles Superior Court, Division 30.

The defendant was caring for the dog, a basset hound, for his brother who is incarcerated, said Police Officer Jeff Fischer of the Los Angeles Police Department Animal Cruelty Task Force.

For roughly 30 minutes, Fernandez allegedly attempted to strangle the dog without success – first with his hands and then by pinning it to the ground with his feet and placing a wood fencepost to its neck. The defendant then allegedly used an ax to strike the dog's head, fracturing its skull and killing the animal.

Newton Division patrol officers found the bloodied dog in a trash bin when they responded to an animal cruelty investigation on March 13.

Fernandez' bail was recommended at \$40,000. He faces a maximum sentence of four years in state prison, if convicted.

To report animal abuse or neglect call 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.

We create happiness by bringing pets and people together!