



COUNTY OF FRESNO

Lisa A. Smittcamp
District Attorney

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 15, 2015

REFUGIO ALVAREZ CHARGED WITH FELONY ANIMAL CRUELTY

The Fresno County District Attorney's Office has filed charges against Refugio Alvarez relating to an animal cruelty incident that occurred on July 3rd.

Refugio Alvarez has been charged with one felony count of cruelty to an animal [Penal Code section 597(b)]. Mr. Alvarez is 40 years of age, and resides in Fresno.

The incident was brought to the attention of law enforcement when good Samaritans used cell phones to capture photos of Mr. Alvarez's dog hanging in the bed of his truck at a local Pet Smart, and then posted them to social media. Employees of the Pet Smart also assisted in reporting the incident to the police. When examined by a veterinarian, the dog was found to be severely anemic and covered in thousands of ticks.

Mr. Hernandez is scheduled for Arraignment in Department 31 of the Fresno County Superior Court on Friday, July 17th.

The defendant faces a maximum potential sentence of 3 years in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation if convicted.

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OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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