



**CLARK COUNTY
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NEWS RELEASE

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CLARK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FILES FELONY CHARGE IN CAT DROWNING CASE

The Clark County District Attorney's Office has filed a felony criminal charge against Joshua Booth in connection with the drowning death of a cat named Rita.

Booth has been charged with one count of willfully or maliciously torture, maim or mutilate an animal kept for companionship or pleasure causing death, a Category B Felony under Nevada law. A preliminary hearing date has been set for June 23, 2026 before the Honorable Judge Diana Sullivan.

The charge stems from an investigation after Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department officers responded to a neighboring woman's home. She provided surveillance video that allegedly showed her cat, Rita, being thrown from Booth's garage into the street while soaking wet. Detectives later searched the garage and found a garden hose, a tub full of water as well as another cat that was wet and appeared distressed.

Animal abuse cases are not taken lightly. Reba's Law, which went into effect at the start of this year, enhanced and strengthened a convicted person's punishment to a category B felony which carries a prison sentence of one to six years and a possible fine of up to \$10,000.

"My office takes animal abuse cases extremely seriously," said Clark County District Attorney Steve Wolfson. "Acts of cruelty against defenseless animals are disturbing and will not be tolerated in our community. We will continue working closely with our law enforcement partners to hold offenders accountable and bring justice for all victims."

While the District Attorney's Office values and appreciates community input and engagement, we want to remind the community that the case is pending and working its way through the judicial process. All defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty in a court of law.

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