



News Release

Steven B. Wolfson, District Attorney

Christopher Lalli, Assistant District Attorney

Mary Ann Miller, County Counsel

Teresa Lowry, Assistant District Attorney

District Attorney's Office • (702) 671-2700 • FAX (702) 868-2415 • www.ClarkCountyNV.gov

Contact: Tess Driver
Clark County District Attorney's Office

Phone: (702) 671-2700
Fax: (702) 868-2415
E-mail: DAInfo@CCDANV.com

For Immediate Release

Friday, Nov. 1, 2013

DA Charges Man with Cruelty to Animals for Allegedly Beating Dog

Clark County District Attorney Steve Wolfson announced today that a Las Vegas man has been charged with felony cruelty to animals for allegedly beating a dog over several months.

Roy Cozart, 30, is accused of beating his dog with a rock and the handle of a hammer, and also throwing the dog against a wall. The abuse is alleged to have happened on three different occasions between July 15 and Oct. 13.

"Animal abuse is a serious offense that will not be tolerated," District Attorney Wolfson said. "We take all allegations of abuse very seriously and pursue criminal charges, when appropriate."

The dog was removed from Cozart's home on Oct. 15 to be evaluated by a veterinarian. The examination revealed evidence of abuse including swelling on the dog's head and broken ribs.

The alleged abuse was reported to the Clark County Animal Control division in August and October by neighbors. Animal Control officers investigated the reports and spoke with Cozart and his wife. The dog, a black and white pit bull, appeared active and playful when inspected by Animal Control officers. However, Animal Control officials determined the reports of repeated abuse warranted seizing the dog so it could be examined by a veterinarian.

This is the first case of suspected abuse in which the County has seized a dog so it could be examined by a veterinarian.

Cruelty to animals is a Category C Felony punishable by 1 to 5 years in prison plus a \$10,000 fine.

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