

Jackie Lacey
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NEWS RELEASE

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Man Pleads to Animal Abuse in Puppy Dragging Case

A 28-year-old Los Angeles man who was captured on a cell phone video dragging his bloody puppy down the street on a leash pleaded no contest today to felony animal abuse and was immediately sentenced to 16 months in state prison, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Deputy District Attorney Kenneth Chiu said Dossey James also was barred from owning or having contact with any animals for 10 years by Superior Court Judge Paul Suzuki.

James pleaded to two felony counts of animal cruelty just as his preliminary hearing was about to begin. The defendant pleaded open to the court, meaning there was no negotiated plea offer from prosecutors.

James admitted dragging his four-month-old pit bull puppy along the street on a leash after the puppy stopped walking. At one point, he picked up the puppy and threw it to the ground, then continued dragging it. Several witnesses saw the Jan. 3 incident, including one witness who captured it on a cell phone video and called Los Angeles police, Chiu said.

James, who was on probation for a burglary conviction when he was arrested Jan. 3, also admitted a similar animal cruelty incident that occurred on Dec. 19, 2013.

LAPD's Animal Cruelty Task Force investigated the case. The puppy was turned over to the city's Animal Services Department and is recovering from its injuries.

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About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Annually, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#) prosecutes more than 60,000 felonies and 140,000 misdemeanor crimes.