

# Jackie Lacey

District Attorney  
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NEWS RELEASE

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## **Felon Sentenced to Prison for Assaulting Assistance Dog in Long Beach**

A 24-year-old man was sentenced today to three years and eight months in state prison for hurling a boy's assistance dog from a balcony, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

At today's court appearance, Jose Yvani Herrera (dob 9/28/92) pleaded no contest to a felony count of cruelty to an animal in case NA106376. Additionally, the defendant admitted that he was previously convicted of second-degree robbery in 2015.

During sentencing, Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Judith L. Meyer also announced in court that Herrera cannot own, possess, reside with, or care for any animal for 10 years.

Deputy District Attorney Paul Guthrie, who prosecuted the case, said Herrera was living with his ex-girlfriend in a home she shared with her 41-year-old mother and 10-year-old special needs brother.

On May 7, police responded to a call for help in the 200 block of Artesia Boulevard in Long Beach, the prosecutor said.

When authorities arrived, the 41-year-old woman told law enforcement that Herrera picked up her son's assistance dog, a 1-year-old Chihuahua named Pearl, and hurled the animal from a balcony, according to the prosecutor.

Officers observed Pearl, who had significant injuries to her eye, and arrested Herrera in connection with the incident, the prosecutor added.

As a result of the violent assault, the dog required special medical care that the family could not provide. For that reason, Pearl was secured by Long Beach Animal Care Services where she is currently recovering from her injuries, the prosecutor said.

The case was investigated by the Long Beach Police Department.

## **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 protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.