



NEWS RELEASE

City of Los Angeles Department of Animal Services
221 N. Figueroa Street, Suite 500, Los Angeles, California 90012 / www.LAAnimalServices.com

CONTACT: Public Relations Office
(213) 305.4103

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
February 22, 2007

Cat Hoarder Busted For Cruelty

Los Angeles – On October 4, 2006, Los Angeles Animal Services filed cruelty charges against Linda Lane of Canoga Park. Ms. Lane subjected more than a dozen sick cats to deplorable living conditions. Ms. Lane put 18 cats in her car, drove them into Brown's Canyon, and abandoned them and her car there to avoid being charged with animal cruelty.

LA Animal Services subsequently filed charges under PC597(b) (animal cruelty), 53.50 LAMC (too many cats) and 53.15.2 C and B (illegal breeding of cats).

On Tuesday, February 20, 2007, Ms. Lane pled guilty to all charges. Her sentence includes: 36 months probation, 100 hours community service, \$120 in court fees, 24 hours of 597(g) behavioral counseling, 24/7 right of Animal Services to inspect without a warrant or probable cause. In addition, Ms. Lane was forbidden by the court from feeding or placing food out for any cats or strays. Ms. Lane will be allowed to keep one cat, that must be spayed or neutered and a photo of the cat must be provided to LA Animal Services. Ms. Lane has until March 28th to comply with these conditions.

"A key reason we pursued this case is the poor living conditions," said department General Manager Ed Boks. "We want all cats to have homes, but they have to be homes where the animals are well cared-for. Ms. Lane was failing across the board."

All 18 cats impounded by Animal Services required extensive care as they were suffering from severe upper respiratory infection and skin lesions, four of these cats were also feral. Four cats ultimately recovered and were adopted. Fourteen cats were humanely euthanized due to irremediable suffering or lack of improvement from treatments.

This case sets a new standard for hoarding and cruelty cases in that this is the first time an owner has been restricted from feeding strays. Ms. Lane was advised that any violation in her probation could result in incarceration.

**For more information or assistance call LA Animal Services at
1-888-452LA-PET1/1-888-452-7381
(TTY Hearing impaired: 877-875-8205) or visit the website at www.LAAnimalServices.com.**

We create happiness by bringing pets and people together!