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## **Neighbor Dispute Over Dog Leads to Animal Cruelty Arrest**

Los Angeles - The Animal Cruelty Task Force (ACTF) served a search warrant in the 6100 block of Riverton Avenue on January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2007 that led to the arrest of Lawrence "Larry" Rothfork, a 54 year old white male.

Rothfork had been involved in an on-going neighbor dispute regarding the neighbor's dog, a Boxer, and its alleged barking over the past several years. During December of 2006, the neighbor observed her dog, Indo, to be very lethargic and experiencing paralysis to her left hind leg. The condition persisted for two days.

During the same time period, the neighbor observed Rothfork throw something over her fence and into her side yard where Indo was resting. The neighbor retrieved the items and discovered that Rothfork had thrown meatballs containing a blue substance. The meatballs were taken to the East Valley Animal Shelter. ACTF personnel responded to the shelter to retrieve the evidence and had it analyzed by the California Animal Health & Food Safety Laboratory. The items retrieved were determined to contain rat poison, aspirin and Lovastatin, a cholesterol reducing prescription for humans.

Subsequently, two weeks later the neighbor observed Rothfork throw hot dogs containing an unknown substance over the fence into her yard. Based on the information, the ACTF prepared a search warrant.

On Tuesday, January 30, 2007, the ACTF served a search warrant at Rothfork's residence and recovered rat poison, aspirin and Lovastatin. Also recovered in the residence were 5 handguns, including one semi automatic handgun. They are being held for further investigation.

Rothfork was arrested for Animal Cruelty and his bail was set at 20,000 dollars.

The Animal Cruelty Task Force is a joint partnership between the Department of Animal Services, Los Angeles Police Department and the City Attorney's Office. The goal is to fight animal cruelty and neglect in the City of Los Angeles.

Questions may be directed to Detective Susan Brumagin of the Animal Cruelty Task Force at (213) 847-1417.

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