



Teen Faces Jail Time For Reported Animal Abuse

Charges for animal cruelty stem from animal-throwing footage on MySpace.

By Soraya Gutierrez

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A man charged with three counts of animal cruelty and three charges of animal abuse turned himself in Thursday morning to the Superior Court of California, North Justice Center in Fullerton, Calif. If convicted for the charges of animal cruelty and animal abuse, the 19-year-old man faces up to three years in jail, said Farrah Emami, spokeswoman for the Orange County district attorney's office.

The case involves a 2007 video where the man, a part-time college student, allegedly tossed a pug and two rabbits 15 to 30 feet in the air and let the animals hit the floor. Emami said an animal-rights group learned of the video within the past couple of months and alerted the Anaheim Police Department.

"This case, like all of our other cases, is being taken seriously," she said. "We filed charges based on the fact that we believe a crime was committed."

The man was scheduled to appear before a judge Thursday afternoon for charges of animal cruelty and animal abuse. He has taken the video off his MySpace page.

"Here at the DA's office we vigorously prosecute all of our cases," Emami said. "Animals are defenseless, that's why we prosecute these and we take them seriously."