

*Jackie Lacey*  
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NEWS RELEASE

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## **Long Beach Man Pleads Not Guilty to Animal Cruelty Charges**

A 23-year-old man accused of killing several cats pleaded not guilty today to animal cruelty charges, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Steven Ullery (dob 5/22/90), of Long Beach, was arraigned on four felony counts of animal cruelty in case NAO98033 before Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Laura Laesecke.

During the court appearance, the judge also granted a protective order that prevents Ullery from being around cats that live at his residence. Additionally, he cannot own or care for any other animals.

Deputy District Attorney Alexander Bott, who is assigned to the case, said at the time of the crime Ullery was living with his wife, who owned several cats. Between March and August 2013, five of the cats died, Bott said.

Two of the deceased cats were adopted from the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Los Angeles ("spcaLA") in July 2013. When these cats died in August 2013, Ullery and his wife brought the bodies back to the spcaLA requesting a refund.

spcaLA began an investigation and learned that in March and May 2013, Ullery and his wife presented three additional dead cats to the Uptown Animal Hospital. One of these cats died from blunt force trauma to the face. Another was choked to death, according to the prosecutor.

Long Beach Police arrested Ullery on Jan. 23 in connection with the animal deaths. The defendant was later released on \$60,000 bail.

His next court appearance is scheduled for March 10 for a preliminary hearing setting. If convicted as charged, Ullery faces a maximum sentence of five years in county jail.

The case was investigated by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Los Angeles.

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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.