

Jackie Lacey

District Attorney
<http://da.lacounty.gov>



NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact:

Sarah Ardalani
Public Information Officer
213-257-2000
SArdalani@da.lacounty.gov
Twitter: @LADAOoffice

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West Covina Man Charged with Animal Cruelty for Killing Chihuahua

A 35-year-old man accused of fatally striking his roommate's dog was arraigned yesterday, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

On March 9, Mark Rivera Rodriguez (dob 4/11/81) of West Covina pleaded not guilty to one felony count of cruelty to an animal in case KA114771. The defendant's bail was set at \$20,000.

Prosecutors said that prior to the dog's death, Rodriguez reportedly threatened to kill Alvin, his roommate's Chihuahua.

On March 7, the defendant was allegedly hanging from a tree in the backyard of the West Covina home when he jumped down and landed on Alvin's head, prosecutors said.

The dog's owner immediately took Alvin to the veterinarian, where he was pronounced dead, prosecutors added.

Later that day, Rodriguez was arrested in connection with the dog's killing.

The defendant is scheduled to return to court on March 27 for a pre-preliminary hearing in Department 4 of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, West Covina Branch.

If convicted as charged, Rodriguez faces a maximum possible sentence of three years in county jail.

The case is being investigated by the West Covina 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.