

Jackie Lacey
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NEWS RELEASE

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Oct. 20, 2015

Hawthorne Man Pleads to Domestic Violence, Animal Cruelty Charges

A Hawthorne man entered a no contest plea today for hitting his girlfriend and killing her 9-year-old Yorkshire terrier with a metal rack, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Deputy District Attorney Frank Dunnick said Brian Scott Burlingame, 57, pleaded open to the court to one felony count each of cruelty to an animal and injuring a cohabitant.

An open plea is one where there was not a negotiated settlement with the prosecutor.

The defendant also admitted to personal use of a deadly weapon, a metal rack, in case YA092591.

Burlingame is scheduled to be sentenced on Dec. 15 in Department 8 of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Torrance Branch. He faces a possible maximum sentence of five years and eight months in state prison.

On June 14, the defendant threw a metal rack at his girlfriend while she was holding her dog Bodie, the prosecutor said. The woman was injured and the Yorkshire terrier was killed, the prosecutor added.

The case was investigated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, South Los Angeles Station.

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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. Last year, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#) prosecuted more than 71,000 felony defendants and nearly 112,000 misdemeanor defendants.