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NEWS RELEASE

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Man Charged with Illegally Trapping Coyote

A 40-year-old man has been charged with illegally trapping a coyote who was euthanized as a result of her injuries this past July, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced today.

Deputy District Attorney Holly Harpham said Richard David Wallem (dob 6/10/80) of Long Beach faces one felony count of cruelty to an animal and a misdemeanor count of using a trap with saw-toothed or spiked jaws.

On July 3, a neighbor in Valley Village notified authorities that she saw a young female coyote trapped in a steel leg trap. Investigators from the Los Angeles City Department of Animal Services were called out to release the animal from the trap and transport her to a veterinarian.

Wallem was allegedly hired by families in the Valley Village neighborhood to humanely trap coyotes in the area. However, the traps alleged to have been used by the defendant are illegal steel-jawed leg traps, the prosecutor said.

Case LA093513 was filed for warrant on October 7 and arraignment is yet to be scheduled.

If convicted as charged, Wallem faces a possible maximum sentence of three years and six months in county jail.

The case remains under investigation by the Los Angeles City Department of Animal Services.

[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.