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CITY ATTORNEY SECURES CONVICTION OF NORTH HOLLYWOOD MAN WHO POISONED HIS NEIGHBOR'S DOG

LOS ANGELES – Los Angeles City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo today announced his office's Animal Protection Unit has secured a jail sentence and counseling for a North Hollywood man who attempted to poison his neighbor's dog.

Lawrence Rothfork, 54, pled no contest to one count of animal cruelty and one count of animal poisoning. Judge Michael Latin sentenced Rothfork to 36 months probation and 180 days in jail or 60 days of Caltrans work. Rothfork was also ordered to pay a \$3,555 fine and to attend an animal cruelty counseling program.

In late November and early December 2006, a North Hollywood woman noticed her brown and white boxer vomiting and experiencing paralysis in its hind legs. On Dec. 8 she reported seeing Rothfork, who had earlier complained about her dog's barking, throwing meatballs containing a blue substance onto her property. Later that month, the dog's owner twice discovered pieces of hot dogs with white or blue tablets in them on her property.

A toxicology report found traces of rat poison, aspirin and lovastatin - a drug designed to reduce cholesterol - in the meatballs and hotdog pieces. A veterinary expert later confirmed to police that substances found in the meat would be harmful to an animal of that size if ingested.

A subsequent search of Rothfork's home on Jan. 30 by law enforcement authorities led to the confiscation of samples of rat poison, lovastatin, aspirin, pepper spray, and numerous pistols. Rothfork was subsequently arrested and the results of the investigation were forwarded to City Attorney Delgadillo's Animal Protection Unit for successful prosecution by Deputy City Attorney Don Cocek.

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