



DAVID J. THOMAS
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
Jefferson and Gilpin Counties

For Immediate Release – September 30, 2004

Contact: Pam Russell
Public Information
303-271-6905

RE: Essex Pleads Guilty to Aggravated Animal Cruelty

William Dean Essex, 30, appeared today in Jefferson County District court and pled guilty to one count of aggravated cruelty to animals (a class six felony). Essex was arrested by Westminster police on April 24, 2004 for the abuse and of his beagle named "Vinnie."

Sentencing has been scheduled for December 2, 2004 at 8:00 a.m. in Division 3 of the Jefferson County District Court. A class six felony carries with it a possible penalty between one year and 18 months in prison and a \$1,000 to a \$100,000 fine.

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