



DAVID J. THOMAS
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
Jefferson and Gilpin Counties

For Immediate Release – November 12, 2004

Contact: Pam Russell
Public Information
303-271-6905

RE: Ryan Turtura Pleads Guilty

Ryan Dean Turtura, DOB: 8-22-84, of Littleton, appeared today in the Jefferson County District Court and pled guilty to three counts of aggravated cruelty to animals (each a class 6 felony) and one count of contributing to the delinquency of a minor (a class 4 felony). Turtura was arrested in March 2004 for having broken into the Colorado Humane Society facility in Englewood, stealing five puppies and a sky kennel, and then setting fire to three of the puppies and the kennel. Two of the animals died and the third, Ashley, has recovered, been placed and is doing well.

The contributing to the delinquency count comes from a separate incident in which Turtura provided methamphetamine to two juvenile females, one 14 and one 15. This case was filed by the District Attorney's Office in June 2004 and was combined with this case in the interest of justice for today's proceedings.

Turtura will be evaluated for both his fire setting behavior and animal cruelty prior to sentencing, which is scheduled for January 25, 2005 at 8:30 a.m. in Division 1 of the Jefferson County District Court. He has remained in custody on \$25,000 bond, but a hearing has been set for November 16 at 8:30 a.m. at which his attorney will argue for a reduction in his bond. Turtura could potentially face up to 10.5 years in prison.

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