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Jefferson and Gilpin Counties

**For Immediate Release – April 29, 2005**

**Contact:** Carl Blesch  
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**RE:** Ryan Turtura Receives Maximum Sentence in Animal Cruelty  
Case

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Ryan Turtura, DOB: 08/22/1984, today was sentenced in Jefferson County District Court to 10.5 years in the Colorado Department of Corrections, plus 3 years of mandatory parole. The sentence imposed was the maximum possible under the law.

Turtura pled guilty to three counts of Aggravated Cruelty to Animals on November 12, 2004, following an investigation into the theft of several puppies from the Colorado Humane Society shelter in February of 2004. Turtura acknowledged that he intentionally burned the puppies to death, though one survived with serious injuries and was later adopted.

Turtura was also sentenced for a single, unrelated count of Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor, in which he admitted that he gave methamphetamine to two teenaged girls.

Today's sentence for Aggravated Cruelty to Animals marks one of the first times that a defendant has received state prison time under the felony provisions of Colorado's animal cruelty statute that became effective in July of 2003.

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