



OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
TODD SPITZER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE

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**Orange County Judge Reduces Felony Animal Cruelty Charge to
Misdemeanor for Man Caught on Video Kicking and Punching His Labradoodle,
Allows Defendant to Avoid Jail Time**

SANTA ANA, Calif. – An Orange County judge reduced a felony charge of animal cruelty to a misdemeanor today for a man captured on video kicking and hitting a Labradoodle named “Steeler,” and allowed the defendant to avoid jail time.

Albert Frank Abad, Jr., 34, accepted a court offer from Orange County Superior Court Judge Justin Glenn-Leistikow to plead guilty to one misdemeanor count of animal cruelty and be placed on one year of formal probation and ordered not to own any animals. Prosecutors had sought jail time for the attack.

On or about Sept. 15, 2022, a man later identified as Abad was captured on doorbell video kicking and hitting the Labradoodle, then dragging the dog down the hallway of an Anaheim apartment hallway. About a week after the video of the attack was released on social media, Abad surrendered Steeler to a Los Angeles animal hospital. He subsequently turned himself in to the Anaheim Police Department where he was booked on an arrest warrant.

Steeler was transferred to Orange County Animal Care and has since been placed with an out-of-state, nonprofit animal rescue organization.

“The love of a dog is unconditional and to betray that trust is truly disgusting,” said Orange County District Attorney Todd Spitzer. “Judges have the ability under the law to reduce certain felonies to misdemeanors, but

it is shocking that Judge Glenn-Leistikow would exercise that discretion to give a break to someone who clearly has no issue engaging in cruelty to a vulnerable animal. No animal should be subjected to brutality at the hand of their owner and the Orange County District Attorney's Office remains committed to holding animal abusers accountable to the fullest extent of the law."

Deputy District Attorney Danica Drotman of the Consumer and Environmental Protection Unit prosecuted the case.

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