

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

SALINAS MAN CONVICTED OF FELONY ANIMAL CRUELTY

April 5, 2016

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CONTACT: Matthew L'Heureux, Deputy District Attorney
(831) 755-5267**

Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that Alejandro Cerritos Lopez, age 30 of Salinas, was convicted of felony animal cruelty for failing to provide veterinary care for his seriously ill dog, which had to be euthanized.

In early 2014, Lopez owned Kingbo, an 11-month-old pit bull mix. Kingbo developed a severe case of demodex, a common skin mite that can be easily treated with medicated baths or oral medication. As Kingbo's demodex became more severe and progressed to his entire body, he developed numerous secondary bacterial infections and septic arthritis in his joints. Despite many obvious indicators that Kingbo urgently needed veterinary care, Lopez did not take Kingbo to the veterinarian at any time in 2014.

By the time Kingbo was seized by Monterey County SPCA on March 20, 2014, his entire body was covered in painful, bleeding, infected scabs which fell off of him in piles as he walked. His condition had worsened to the point where the SPCA veterinarian determined that the most humane option was to euthanize him to end his suffering. Two veterinarians who examined him testified at trial that it was the most severe case of demodex they had seen in their careers. Testimony showed that Lopez could have prevented the unnecessary suffering to Kingbo by seeking earlier veterinary care or surrendering the dog to someone who could have sought care for him.

Lopez waived his right to a trial by jury, and instead opted for a court trial. At the conclusion of the trial, Judge Carrie Panetta found Lopez guilty of felony animal cruelty. She will sentence him on May 24, 2016. Lopez faces a maximum sentence of three years in county jail.