



OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

COUNTY OF SHASTA

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District Attorney

**SHASTA COUNTY JURY CONVICTS MAN OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
AS WELL AS ANIMAL CRUELTY FOR KILLING EX'S DOG**

August 28, 2015
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Deputy District Attorney: Brandon Storment
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Today, Ryan Eddy Watenpaugh was convicted by a jury of 2 counts of felony-level domestic violence; 2 counts of felony false imprisonment; felony stalking; animal cruelty; and possession of a proscribed assault weapon. As a result of the verdict, Mr. Watenpaugh faces up to 7 years in state prison. He was immediately remanded in court following announcement of the jury's verdicts. He will be formally sentenced by the Honorable Gregory Gaul in Department 7 on October 16, 2015 at 9 a.m.

The verdicts follow the conclusion of a multi-week trial that started on July 7, 2015 and saw the Confidential Victim testify for many days.

At trial, the Confidential Victim testified that she met the Defendant in early 2013 and moved in with him shortly thereafter. Following the loss of their home, the Defendant became depressed and began drinking alcohol on a daily basis. While intoxicated, the Defendant became angry and violent and on two occasions assaulted her and prevented her from leaving the home. Following the second incident, the Defendant took the Confidential Victim's dog. He later killed it and left the dog's paws on the front porch along with a note directing the Confidential Victim to burn in Hell. Following that, the Confidential Victim contacted the Redding Police Department and the Defendant was arrested.

The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Brandon Storment and investigated by Investigator Levi Solada of the Redding Police Department. This victim was supported by Victim Advocate Angie Mellis.