



HAWTHORNE POLICE DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE

Issued May 25, 2010

HPD DR #10-8213

Suitable For Public Dissemination

Cruelty to Animals

On Monday, May 24, at about 4:35 PM, Hawthorne police officers responded to a house in the 4000 block of 141st Street, to investigate a report of cruelty to animals. A witness reported seeing the suspect physically beat a black dog by punching and kicking it, picking it up, and slamming her onto the concrete floor of a patio. The caller stated the dog had even been hung from a pole by the collar for a short period of time.

The first officer on scene looked into the backyard in question, and saw the suspect/arrestee, carrying a potted marijuana plant and the dog, walk into a rear house on the property (a converted garage). When additional officers arrived, the suspect was called to the front door of the location, and detained. Officers noticed a second potted marijuana plant inside the converted garage.

Arrested on suspicion of animal cruelty and cultivation of marijuana:

Ricardo Plascenia, 19 year old resident of Hawthorne.

A Hawthorne animal control officer was summoned to the home, and took the dog to a local veterinarian's office for treatment. Once medically cleared, the dog will be taken to the Los Angeles County animal shelter in Carson.