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Sheriff's Office announces charges in animal cruelty case.

Birmingham, AL 11/20/2012 - The investigation was conducted with the assistance of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) and the University of Florida's Animal Forensics Laboratory. On June 17 of this year Deputies were called to the 4600 block of Caldwell Mill Road in southern Jefferson County to investigate a report of animal cruelty. Rufus, an American Staffordshire Terrier, had been killed by having his throat sliced. The custody of the pet had become a point of contention in an ongoing divorce proceeding. Each party wanted custody of the dog. James Stewart Robinson, one of the owners, made repeated claims that his estranged wife had killed the dog to prevent him from gaining custody. Beyond these claims he was unwilling to assist with the investigation. With the assistance of the Greater Birmingham Humane Society, the remains of the dog were exhumed and sent to the University of Florida Animal Forensics Laboratory. The results of the forensic analysis along with electronic data recovered in the form of emails, text messages and voice mails indicated that James Stewart Robinson had killed the dog. The nature of the electronic communication is part of the investigation and cannot be disclosed at this time.

On November 16, 2012 an Animal Cruelty Investigator with the Sheriff's Office obtained a felony warrant for the arrest of James Stewart Robinson for Cruelty to a Dog. The bond is set at \$40,000. Investigators have attempted to contact both Robinson and his attorney of record to make arrangements for him to surrender on this charge with no results. Robinson's father has been contacted and has told investigators that he will make his son aware of the warrant. 45 year old James Stewart Robinson remains at large.

The successful resolution of this case would not have been possible without the work and effort of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) Southeast Regional Director, Adam Leath and the University of Florida's Animal Forensics Laboratory. The Sheriff's Office recognizes their diligence and dedication and is extremely grateful.

About Jefferson County Sheriff's Office

The Jefferson County, Alabama Sheriff's Office is headed up by Sheriff Mike Hale. Sheriff Hale is committed to keeping communities and neighborhoods safe in Jefferson County.

For additional information or a sample copy, contact:

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