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NEWS RELEASE

**JURORS CONVICT MAN OF ANIMAL CRUELTY
IN 2008 DEATH OF PUPPY**

RIVERSIDE – After just more than an hour of deliberating a Riverside County jury today, Jan. 26, 2010, convicted Glynn Damon Johnson of animal cruelty for the 2008 death of his neighbor's puppy.

Johnson, 55, of Riverside used a 12-pound rock to beat a six- to eight-month-old puppy named "Karley." The injuries inflicted on the German shepherd mix were so severe that it had to be euthanized. Jurors also found true that Johnson used a deadly weapon, the rock, during the crime.

"We take the brutal beating of an animal seriously and will seek to hold those who harm animals accountable," District Attorney Rod Pacheco said. "Deputy District Attorney William Robinson handled a very sensitive case with skill and was able to achieve justice on behalf of Karley."

Johnson had previous disputes with neighbors and their dogs who he said came into his yard in the Woodcrest area outside Riverside. A neighbor told authorities he saw Johnson hit the puppy with the rock after first punching it about a dozen times. During the attack on the dog, Johnson also pulled its mouth open so wide that he broke its jaw.

Judge J. Thompson Hanks ordered Johnson to return to Dept. 55 at the Hall of Justice in Riverside on March 8, 2010, to be sentenced. Johnson faces up to four years in prison.

The case against Johnson, RIF147295, was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney William Robinson.

"What happened to Karley was a tragedy that should have never happened. It would not have happened if the defendant was not so angry at Karley's owners after years of conflict," Robinson said.

"The jury's verdict confirms that this was an extreme case of animal cruelty," he added. "I hope today's verdict will provide some sense of justice for Karley and for the Toole family."

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