

Man sentenced to 2 years in prison for animal cruelty

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LANCASTER — A 55-year-old man on probation in Florida pleaded guilty Wednesday to felony animal cruelty and was sentenced to two years in state prison.

Ivan George Callais Jr. was arrested in May at his job at the Antelope Valley Mall after he was linked to an Antelope Acres ranch from which authorities in January removed some 500 dogs and farm animals they said were neglected or ill.

Animals have been taken away from Callais at least twice previously and he has had previous run-ins with the law, records show.

Los Angeles County Department of Animal Care and Control officials said they had been monitoring Callais' ranch at Avenue D and 70th Street West for several months before officers visited the property and found 380 dogs and 120 farm



CALLAIS

animals, including sheep, geese, ducks, pigs, a horse, an emu and a llama.

A September 2000 report indicated Los Angeles city animal regulation officers impounded 60 dogs at Callais' Encino home. Neighbors called police after dozens of dogs escaped and were roaming the streets.

County Animal Control officials in 2004 found more than 100 dogs, cats and farm animals at a Gorman-area property where they had been kept by Callais. He had been arrested two weeks earlier on a warrant out of Florida and extradited to that state, reports showed.

Several animal rescue groups moved in Jan. 13 to start removing animals after Callais relinquished

ownership to the nonprofit A Wish For Animals. The group has since worked with other nonprofit animal rescue groups to place the animals and find care for them.

The Gentle Barn in Santa Clarita took in 125 dogs, 32 cats and several farm animals. Frank Allen of Animal Acres, an Acton-based rescue organization, took in 115 farm animals from Callais' ranch. They hadn't been fed or given water for three days when they were found, he said.

Callais is on a 5-year supervised administrative probation for a grand theft conviction, which is scheduled to end in June, according to Florida Department of Corrections records.

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