

OFFICE OF THE  
**DISTRICT ATTORNEY**  
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

**JOYCE E. DUDLEY**  
District Attorney



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**\* \* \* \* \* P R E S S R E L E A S E \* \* \* \* \***

District Attorney Joyce E Dudley announced today that on March 25, 2020, a 18-year-old woman living in Lompoc was allegedly shot and killed by her boyfriend in an alleged Domestic Violence murder.

The victim had recently moved to Lompoc from Texas and had two husky puppies and a cat. The victim's death and subsequent arrests left the animals abandoned at the crime scene.

The Lompoc Police Department and Lompoc Animal Control rescued the animals and transported them to the Santa Ynez Valley Humane Society/DAWG Shelter.

The victim's family, devastated by the loss of their daughter, wanted possession of her animals to savor as a tangible connection to her. However, her family lived in Texas, and they could not travel to California due to the COVID travel restrictions. It was at that point the family turned to the Lompoc Police Department and Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Victim Advocate for help.

The District Attorney's office then coordinated a plan to return the animals to the victim's family through a joint collaborative effort of several animal welfare partners: **Santa Ynez Valley Humane Society/DAWG**, who organized safe transport, temporary shelter and veterinary care for the dogs; **CARE4Paws Safe Haven**, who facilitated care for the cat through **ASAP (Animal Shelter Assistance Program)**.

As a result of this joint effort, the three pets were reunited with the victim's family on April 16th.

The pets were transported halfway to Arizona by Mia Harrington, a local dog care professional who provides local pet services.

The dogs and cat are now well and living with their new family.

The parents of the victim are very grateful to have their daughter's animals, especially now as they begin their grieving process.

For more information about Services available to Pets and Pet Owners visit:

**CARE4Paws Safe Haven** program is a Santa Barbara countywide program that assists victims of family violence and their companion animals. C.A.R.E.4Paws helps facilitate safe, anonymous refuge for animals so an owner can leave an abusive partner without fearing for the safety and well-being of a family pet.

<https://www.care4paws.org/safehaven>

**ASAP (Animal Shelter Assistance Program)** provided temporary shelter and care for the cat. The mission of ASAP is to save the lives of cats in Santa Barbara County by providing shelter, veterinary care, behavioral support, adoption and foster services, education and community outreach. <https://www.asapcats.org/>

**The Santa Ynez Valley Humane Society/DAWG** provides shelter, adoption, boarding, low fee vet clinic, foster program. <http://www.syvhumanie.org>

**If you, a loved one or a neighbor is in danger of being abused, please contact the District Attorney's Office Victim Assistance Program at (805) 568-2400; a victim advocate is available to talk to you 24/7.**

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