



NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Watch Commander, (805) 339-4416
Release Prepared by: Commander Tom Higgins
VENTURA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Incident: Vandalism Arrest

Location: 4840 Telephone Rd. (PetSmart)

Date/Time Occurred: 07/11/17 @ 0940 hrs.

Officer(s) Involved: Ventura PD Patrol

Suspect(s): Matthew Blair-Oliver, 28 years, Vagrant

Report #: 17-9061

Narrative:

On the above date, at approximately 0940 hours, the Ventura Police Department Command Center received a call from an employee at PetSmart, 4840 Telephone Rd., reporting a subject disturbing inside the store and banging on the fish tanks. By the time officers arrived on scene, the subject, later identified as Matthew Blair-Oliver, had already reached into the fish tanks and grabbed several fish, killing 3 of them. Additional fish were harmed.

Blair-Oliver was detained and later arrested for misdemeanor vandalism.

It was determined because these particular fish are not considered an endangered species it did not qualify for cruelty to an animal, therefore were the property of PetSmart and killing them constituted vandalism.

The complete press release, including suspect description, can be viewed online at www.venturapd.org

If you have any information about this crime, you can make an anonymous call to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.

If your information leads to an arrest, you could receive a cash reward of up to \$1,000.

VENTURA POLICE DEPARTMENT • 1425 DOWELL DR. • VENTURA, CA 93003 • 805-339-4400
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