



## NEWS RELEASE

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

**Incident:** Felony Animal Abuse

**Location:** 3300 Block of Telegraph Rd. (Bus Depot)

**Date/Time Occurred:** 12/24/19 @ 1225 hours

**Officer(s) Involved:** Ventura PD Patrol, Ventura County Animal Services

**Suspect(s):** Ezekiel Heterwegscheider, DOB: 10/21/93, Vagrant

**Report #:** 19-91459

**Narrative:**

On the above date and time, the Ventura Police Department Command Center received a 911 call from a Gold Coast Transit bus driver reporting a male subject beating a dog with a lock near the Bus Depot in the 3300 block of Telegraph Rd. It was also reported several passersby confronted the subject, later identified as Ezekiel Heterwegscheider, who then left the area on foot. Officers responded and located Heterwegscheider at a gas station near the intersection of Telegraph Rd. and Mills Rd.

During the investigation officers found several witnesses who saw Heterwegscheider attacking and hitting his dog, a mixed breed puppy, with a large master lock that was attached to a rope. He left with the dog when confronted by others waiting at the bus depot.

Heterwegscheider was arrested for felony animal cruelty. Officers with Ventura County Animal Services responded and took custody of the dog. The dog will be evaluated for injuries.

*The complete press release, including suspect description, can be viewed online at [www.venturapd.org](http://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**  
**[WWW.VENTURAPD.ORG](http://WWW.VENTURAPD.ORG) - [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/VENTURAPD](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/VENTURAPD)**