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For Immediate Release:

### **Mutilated Dog Found at a Simi Valley Park**

[Simi Valley, Calif] – On Monday morning, September 07, 2015, Ventura County Animal Services (VCAS) responded to a call from the Simi Valley Police Department (SVPD), in response to a skinned dog found in front of Foothill Park, on Ardenwood Avenue, in East Simi Valley.

The dog, a neutered white and black Parsons Russel Terrier mix, was found in the northwestern area of the park, just feet away from the pedestrian sidewalk. The dog's blue collar was found approximately 30 yards from the body. The identification tags on the collar led officers to the pet's family. The owners were, understandably, distraught over the horrific loss of their loved one. The dog was last seen alive at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday evening at the home on Charing Street in Simi Valley.

A necropsy was executed by County Veterinarian, Dr. Heather Skogerson, and it was determined that the animal died of severe blunt force trauma and his body was badly mutilated post mortem (after death).

Investigation of the park yielded no further evidence; no additional fragments of fur or elements of the crime visible in the vicinity. VCAS and SVPD are looking for witnesses to step forward.

“This is a deliberate and heinous act of animal violence and one of the worst cases I have seen. We need the community's assistance in catching this perpetrator as there is no doubt in my mind that they will do this again to another animal,” said Tara Diller, Director of Ventura County Animal Services. “This is not only a horrific crime against a loving family pet, but this is a crime against our society as a whole. The link between animal abuse, child abuse, domestic violence and elder abuse is real.”

Your help is needed in apprehending the responsible person(s) and bringing them to justice. If you heard or saw any suspicious activity at Foothill Park on Sunday night into Monday morning, please call **Officer Bryan Bray immediately at (805) 383-4717.**

VCAS will *not* stand for this; Not In Our County; Not On Our Watch!

Please report ANY suspected animal abuse to the number above.