

MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

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Guilty plea from man who robbed home and injured dog Dog eventually had to be put to sleep

(February 17, 2010, Akron) ... Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that Lewis Napoleon, 23, of Akron, pled guilty today to Burglary, a felony of the second degree, Failure to Comply, a felony of the third degree, and Cruelty to Animals, a misdemeanor.

Judge Mary Margaret Rowlands' sentenced Napoleon to a total of 10 years in prison. The eight year maximum for Burglary, two years for Failure to Comply, were ordered to run consecutive to each other. Napoleon was also sentenced to 90 days in jail for the cruelty to animals charge.

On February 9, 2009 Napoleon and his brother, Melvin Prince, broke into an elderly couple's home on Morse Road. Once inside, the two were greeted by the victims' barking five pound, eight-year-old Shih Tzu, Suzi. In an attempt to quiet the dog, they kicked the dog against the living room wall.

The two then ransacked the victims' house stealing a desktop computer, two shotguns, cash, jewelry, prescription drugs, a checkbook, several collectible German beer steins and liquor bottles. They then stole the victims' pickup truck. Suzi later had to be put to sleep because of the extent of her injuries.

Initially, no arrests were made but later Napoleon was arrested for failure to comply. In a subsequent search of the defendant's home, they found personal items belonging to the victim.

Prince, 18, who was a juvenile when the crimes occurred, was sentenced to four years in prison for his role in the burglary. He pled guilty on November 24, 2009 and was sentenced on December 29, 2009.