



**CITRUS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**  
*A Nationally Accredited Law Enforcement Agency*

**SHERIFF**  
**MIKE PRENDERGAST**



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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For more information, contact: **Nancy Weaver, Community Relations**  
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### **Beverly Hills man arrested in animal cruelty case**

A 58-year-old Beverly Hills man was arrested this week on charges of practicing veterinary medicine without a license and causing cruel death, pain, and suffering. Anthony Avella was arrested for trying to remove pork bones from his dachshund's intestinal track with a handmade tool made from hanger wires. After Mr. Avella's attempts to remove the pork bones from the dog's intestines were unsuccessful, he brought his dachshund to a local veterinarian and insisted the doctor remove the bones. The veterinarian noticed the extreme stress of the dog and recommended Mr. Avella take his animal to an advanced animal facility for further treatment. Deputies and Animal Control responded to Mr. Avella's house to check on the condition of the dachshund and the dog had not been treated. Mr. Avella was arrested and the dachshund was seized by Animal Control due to its condition and the fact it needed immediate advanced animal facility services.