



**Rick Staly, Sheriff**  
**FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

*"An honor to serve, a duty to protect."*

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Palm Coast Man Arrested for Felony Animal Cruelty**

BUNNELL, Fla. —On May 29, deputies from the Flagler County Sheriff's Office arrested Howard Blair, 55, of Palm Coast, on a warrant for aggravated animal cruelty, which resulted in the death of a 15-month-old American Bulldog/Labrador Retriever mix named Nutmeg.

On January 25, deputies responded to a residence in Palm Coast to investigate an animal complaint. Upon arrival, deputies discovered that Nutmeg, one of five dogs living inside the home, had passed away the night before.

While investigating the animal's death, deputies learned that Blair had strangled Nutmeg to death after she bit one of the other dogs during feeding. Blair then wrapped Nutmeg in a blanket, placed her in a plastic bin, and buried her in the backyard.

On May 27, based on evidence obtained during the investigation, detectives obtained a warrant for Blair's arrest. On May 29, deputies located and arrested Blair for aggravated animal cruelty. He was transported to the Sheriff Perry Hall Inmate Detention Facility, where he was released on a \$2,500 bond.

"I commend our deputies for thoroughly investigating this case," said Sheriff Rick Staly. "If you hurt or kill an innocent animal, we will find you and put you in the Green Roof Inn where you belong."

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*Howard Blair (Sheriff Perry Hall Inmate Detention Facility mugshot)*

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