



# Office of the District Attorney Stanislaus County

**Birgit Fladager**  
District Attorney

**Assistant District Attorney**  
Jeffrey M. Laugero

**Chief Deputies**  
Marlisa Ferreira  
Wendell Emerson  
Michael D. Houston  
Mark Zahner

**Bureau of Investigation**  
Chief Terry L. Seese

---

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **For Immediate Release**

Date: May 18, 2022  
Re: Nirut Gowing  
Animal cruelty conviction and prison sentence

### **For More Information Contact:**

John Goold, Public Information Liaison  
Phone: (209) 525-6909

**Modesto, California** - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Nirut Gowing, age 39, currently of Modesto was convicted on May 12, 2022 of felony cruelty to animals and sentenced to state prison. Deputy District Attorney Tracy Griffin prosecuted the case on behalf of the People.

On the evening of May 4, 2022 the victim was at Mancini Bowl when his girlfriend told him that an Asian male had killed their kitten. The victim followed Gowing while calling Modesto police to report the crime and gave a description of the suspect who was riding away on a bicycle. Responding officers detained Gowing who told them he killed the kitten with a friend's machete to avoid having the animal become attached to him. Officers located a dead orange and white kitten with a neck laceration just south of Mancini Bowl.

Gowing was arrested and charged with having violated Penal Code section 597(A), cruelty to animals, along with an enhancement for using a knife during the crime and having a prior 2015 "strike" conviction for robbery out of Sonoma County. He was also arrested on a no-bail warrant out of Merced County for violating parole after being convicted of auto theft in that county.

During a hearing held on March 12, 2022 before Judge Linda McFadden, Gowing pled no contest to the charge and admitted having the prior strike conviction for robbery. Judge McFadden then sentenced him to serve the low term of 16 months in state prison which was doubled to 32 months under California's "Three Strikes" law.

Gowing has a lengthy criminal history of arrests, convictions and prison commitments in various California counties dating back to 1998. He is currently in the Stanislaus County jail awaiting transfer to the California Department of Corrections.

###

Office: 832 12th Street, Suite 300 Modesto, CA 95354 Mailing: PO BOX 442 Modesto, CA 95353  
Telephone: (209) 525-5550 Fax: (209) 558-4027 [www.stanislaus-da.org](http://www.stanislaus-da.org)



<https://www.facebook.com/StanislausDistrictAttorney/>