



# Department of Justice

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## **JURY CONVICTS GUERNSEY COUNTY MAN OF ILLEGALLY TRAFFICKING LIVE DEER**

COLUMBUS – A United States District Court jury here has convicted Danny L. Parrott, 62, of Kimbolton in Guernsey County of conspiracy and violating federal laws for interstate shipments of live deer that had not been tested for disease, and related crimes.

Carter M. Stewart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio, and Special Agent Erryl Wolgemuth, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced the verdict returned Friday, October 16 at the conclusion of a trial that began October 6, 2009 before U.S. District Judge Algenon L. Marbley.

The jury convicted Parrott of two counts of conspiracy and 12 counts of violating the Lacey Act, which regulates interstate shipment of animals, in connection with the sale of 54 whitetail deer that had not been tested for diseases. The deer were sent to a hunting preserve in South Carolina in 2005.

Testimony at trial included statements that Parrott arranged to purchase the deer from Amish deer propagators in Holmes and Knox counties. Parrott was told that the deer had not been tested. Federal law requires that any deer he shipped out of state are required to be tested for tuberculosis and accompanied by proper ear tags and a veterinarian's certificate. Deer sent from Ohio to another state must be certified to be tuberculosis free. Most states also prohibit introducing deer into a state if the deer are not from a herd certified as free from Chronic Wasting Disease, nor are purchasers permitted to receive uncertified deer shipments.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service enforces the unlawful interstate trafficking of wildlife, commonly known as the Federal "Lacey Act." The Lacey Act is the oldest national wildlife law. This multi-state investigation was headed by agents with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service who worked cooperatively with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Ohio BCI&I, and the Ohio Division of Wildlife. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Delaware, Ohio field office can be reached at 740-368-0137.

Each count is punishable by up to five years imprisonment and a fine of \$250,000. Judge Marbley will set a date for sentencing.

Stewart commended the investigation by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Assistant U.S. Attorney J. Michael Marous and Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Heather Robinson, who are prosecuting the case.

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