



**GREGORY D. TOTTEN**  
**District Attorney**

**NEWS RELEASE**

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**Thousand Oaks Man Charged in Illegal Possession of Exotic Reptiles**

*VENTURA, California* – District Attorney Gregory D. Totten announced today that Todd Kates (DOB 7/29/61), of Thousand Oaks, was charged with 14 felony counts of cruelty to an animal and 26 misdemeanor Fish and Game Code and California Code of Regulations counts related to the care and housing of the animals.

On July 6, 2017, a search warrant was executed at Kates' residence. During the search conducted by Los Angeles Animal Control and the Ventura County Sheriff's Office, numerous exotic animals were found on the property in poor health and unsanitary conditions. Kates also lacked the proper permits for the animals.

Kates faces a maximum penalty of 11 years 8 months in felony jail.

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The Ventura County District Attorney's Office is the public prosecutor for the county's 850,000 residents. The office employs approximately 280 employees including attorneys, investigators, victim advocates, and other professional support staff who strive to seek justice, ensure public safety, and protect the rights of crime victims.

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