



NEWS RELEASE

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY Sheriff-Coroner

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Jim Hart
Sheriff-Coroner

Narcotic Sales and Bird Fighting Arrest

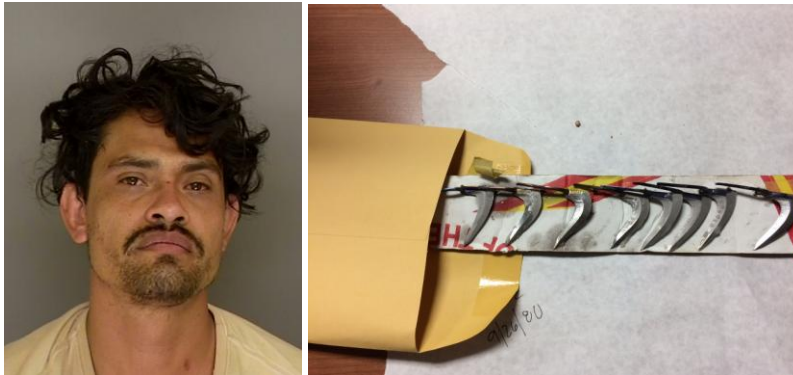
DATE / TIME: 8/25/2017 at 6:59 PM **CASE #:** 17-07233

LOCATION: 100 Block of Buena Vista Drive, Watsonville, California

TYPE OF CRIME:

11978 H&S	Possession of Narcotics for sale	Felony
597(I) PC	Possess Bird Fighting Equipment	Misd.
11364 H&S	Possession of Drug Paraphernalia	Misd.

SUSPECT ARRESTED:
Ruben Lopez 36 years old, Watsonville resident



Last Friday, Deputies assigned to the Sheriff's Office Gang Enforcement Team went to a home in the 100 block of Buena Vista Drive to do a probation search on Ruben Lopez. Mr. Lopez is on probation with terms allowing his search for specified contraband.

During the probation search, Deputies located methamphetamine, drug paraphernalia and evidence of rooster/bird fighting. Lopez had 22 chickens and roosters that were living on the property that were malnourished. Additionally, Lopez had rooster fighting knife blades and leather straps used to attach the blades to roosters' legs while fighting. Mr. Lopez was arrested and booked into the Santa Cruz County Jail for the charges listed above. Santa Cruz County Animal control responded and took custody of the 22 chickens.

Authored by: Lieutenant Greg Lansdowne /August 28, 2017

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