



# Department of Justice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2008

## BRISTOL WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO TAX AND SOCIAL SECURITY FRAUD

**[GREENEVILLE, TENNESSEE]– PATSY A. GOBBLE, 61, of Bristol, Virginia, pled guilty today before U.S. District Judge J. Ronnie Greer, to one count of income tax evasion and one count of social security fraud. Gobble faces a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison, a maximum fine of \$500,000, and court ordered restitution when she is sentenced on June 2, 2008.**

**According to the plea agreement filed for today's hearing, in 2001 Gobble began selling English Bulldogs and various toy breed puppies while she worked at Electrolux and other corporations. In February 2002, Gobble applied for and received Social Security Disability benefits based upon a back injury that limited her ability to perform various tasks. Gobble continued engaging in her dog selling business even after she was awarded disability payments. Gobble admitted that she failed to notify Social Security Administration of her dog business income of approximately \$10,000-\$15,000 a year.**

**The plea agreement states that Gobble fraudulently failed to report this income on her federal income tax returns to hide the income from the IRS, thus lowering the taxes paid, and from the Social Security Administration so that she could continue to receive her disability benefits. Additionally, Gobble claimed the earned income tax credit which she was not entitled to receive on her tax returns for 2003 and 2004.**

**As part of her plea agreement, Gobble agreed that restitution owed to the Internal Revenue Service is approximately \$27,550.92 and restitution owed to the Social Security Administration is \$57,857.**

**This investigation was conducted by IRS Criminal Investigation, FBI, and the Social Security Administration – Office of Inspector General.**

**For additional information, please contact United States Attorney James R. "Russ" Dedrick at 865545-4167; Assistant U.S. Attorney Nancy S. Harr at 423-639-6759; or, Public Information Officer Sharry Dedman-Beard at 865-545-4167.**