

19-year-old cited in neglect of adult dog, death of puppy on Austin porch

Written by Marty Randall

Tuesday, 27 August 2013 00:00 -

The 19-year-old owner of an adult dog and a puppy has been cited for violation of a local ordinance which attempts to protect animals from abuse and neglect.

John Larry Stephen White, South Fifth Street, Austin, was charged on August 2 with abandonment or neglect of vertebrate animals, a Class A misdemeanor, in Scott Superior Court.

White is accused of neglecting his pets, a mixed breed male brindle pitbull and a puppy. When Animal Control Officer Denny Robbins visited the home with Capt. Paul Clute of the Austin Police Department at 7:30 a.m. on July 30, Robbins reported in a probable cause affidavit that he found a "...very thin..." pitbull tied to a tree with no food, water or shelter. The dead puppy was found on a porch. The men removed the emaciated pitbull and it was transported to St. Clair Veterinary Clinic for evaluation and treatment.

Robbins said no one answered the door of the residence on July 30.

An evaluation of the adult dog indicated that it weighed 32.4 pounds and had a body score of 2 on a scale of 10, the larger number being a perfect animal. It also suffered from sores on its ears and neck. The veterinarian who did the examination stated that the dog was "...severely neglected and its malnourished state and anemia would lead to death shortly if not corrected," advised the court document.

Robbins stated that he returned to the residence at 10:30 a.m. that same morning and talked with White's parents. They said they were not aware that the adult dog had been removed.

The dog is now at the Scott County Animal Shelter and appears to be recovering, it was learned.

White posted a \$1,000 cash bond on August 5, the same day as his initial court hearing in Scott Superior Court.

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A jury trial date of October 1 has been scheduled for the matter, and a public defender has been appointed to help White with his defense.