

## **Man arrested and charged with cruelty to an animal**

Written by George Browning  
Tuesday, 14 January 2014 00:00 -

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Billy "James" Wagers was arrested and charged with cruelty to an animal, a Class D Felony, on Jan. 4.

The charges are the result of an alleged domestic dispute between Wagers and his live-in girlfriend.

According to the probable cause affidavit, Wagers and Ruth Tankersley had been arguing over financial matters.

Wagers became angry and allegedly picked a cat up out of Tankersley's lap and threw it across the floor.

Upon his arrival Salem Police officer Eric Mills asked Tankersley to put the cat on the ground to see if it could walk.

The affidavit said the cat did not walk and just laid on it's back.

Mills and Tankersley took the cat to a local veterinarian and later died.

The PC affidavit states that Tankersley told Mills that Wagers said he hoped that all cats died along with Tankersley.

In an interview with Mills Wagers admitted to throwing the cat, but denied that it resulted in the cat's death.

Once incarcerated he was administered a portable breath test, which read his breath alcohol

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