

**PRESS RELEASE
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Reward Offered for Information in Animal Cruelty Case in Columbus, Ohio

(August 31, 2015) — The Capital Area Humane Society is offering a reward of up to \$5,000 for information leading to the identification, arrest and conviction of the man responsible for a heinous crime against a cat.

The Case:

On August 27, 2015, at approximately 11am, a young black male was seen in the Southpark apartment complex on Greenfield Avenue riding a bicycle and dragging a cat by a leash. The suspect reportedly swung the cat over his head in a “windmill” motion and slammed the cat into the ground. The suspect later carried the cat to a dumpster where a Good Samaritan intercepted the cat—still alive. The cat suffered life-threatening injuries and was humanely euthanized upon exam.

The suspect has been seen riding his bike in the apartment complex since the incident and is believed to live in the Southpark Apartments. The suspect is described as approximately 5’10”, young black male approximately 16-20 years-old, black hair with 2-3” dread locks, seen wearing camouflage pants with a black zip-up hoodie. Video of a portion of the incident is available for distribution.

Animal Cruelty:

The Capital Area Humane Society is a charitably funded nonprofit organization and the lead law enforcement agency investigating animal cruelty, abuse and neglect within Franklin County. Humane Agents make roughly 6,000 visits investigating animal cruelty each year—of those, 84% are within the City of Columbus. The connection between animal cruelty and human violence is well documented. Studies show a correlation between animal cruelty and all manner of other crimes, from narcotics and firearms violations to battery and sexual assault.

Rachel D.K. Finney, the Capital Area Humane Society’s executive director said: “This is a chance for our community to raise its voice against animal cruelty—to say ‘we are not okay with violence of any kind; not okay with this cruel treatment of a defenseless animal.’ We can’t know what this person will do next, but with our community’s help, we can stop it.”

The Investigators: Anyone with information should contact the Capital Area Humane Society animal cruelty investigations at (614) 777-7387 ext. 250. All calls are confidential.

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