

## St. Louis Man Charged With Animal Abuse After Fatally Striking Kitten

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### **St. Louis Man Charged With Animal Abuse After Fatally Striking Kitten** **News**

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Posted on : 2014/2/7 9:22:11

St. Louis (AP) - Prosecutors have charged a man with animal abuse after he admitted to striking his 5-month-old kitten several times, causing fatal injuries.



Police said Andres Wiltz, 23, of 3320 Locust Street, brought the kitten to a veterinarian on Dec. 9. It was pale, cold and straining to breath.

Authorities said the veterinarian determined the kitten had chest and kidney bruising, a large tear in its right lung and a broken pelvis and ribs. The kitten had to be euthanized.

Police said Wiltz admitted that the kitten became unresponsive after he struck it with an open palm multiple times to discipline it.

The felony charge was issued Wednesday in St. Louis Circuit Court.

The Humane Society of Missouri Animal Cruelty Task Force, which investigated the case with St. Louis police, in a statement Wednesday said that Wiltz agreed to surrender two other cats he owned. It said the kitten who was killed was a 5-month-old named Vader.

“We are very concerned that the care and safety of other pets would be entrusted to a person facing charges of felony animal abuse,” said Kathy Warnick, president of the organization. “We will continue to work closely with the St. Louis City Police Department and St. Louis City Circuit Attorney to ensure the person responsible for the horrific injuries and tragic death of this defenseless kitten is brought to justice.”

She said they encourage pet owners to only use positive reinforcement when training or disciplining an animal, or if necessary, to use a spray bottle or a loud noise as a deterrent for bad behavior.

“It is never acceptable to strike an animal or inflict any bodily harm,” she said.