

Cat Death Witness Responds to Officer Charges Dropped



By Estephany Escobar | Posted: Tue 12:42 AM, Jul 31, 2012 | Updated: Tue 12:08 PM, Jul 31, 2012

A Harrisonburg police officer has been cleared from an animal cruelty case on Monday.

Prosecutor Ken Alger dropped the case against Jonathon Snoddy during an appeal.

He said the necropsy shows the officer hit the cat only one time and not multiple times, as witness Wayne Meadows reported.

Meadows says he has mixed feelings after the ruling.

"I'm a little disappointed it didn't go through, but I'm happy that the policies have changed and that something like this is not gonna happen again," Meadows said.

In a statement, Harrisonburg Police Chief Stephen Monticelli said their guidelines for animal cases are under review.

He adds officers will be trained to handle cases like this.

Monticelli said he will keep in touch with organizations that handle these types of cases to help guide them in similar situations.

John Holloran, Snoddy's defense attorney, said he's glad the case brought a positive lesson.

"It showed that there was some way than an officer could be guided in this particular situation," he said.

Snoddy has been doing community service at the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Meadows said this is something he thinks is appropriate to the case.

"I think that helped alleviate some of the fears in regards to it," he said.

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