



Geneva man **Jonathan Edward Medley**, 39, has been charged with bestiality after allegedly having sexual contact with his wife's dog, a Shih Tzu.

County takes over case of bestiality

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The Geneva County District Attorney's Office has taken over the bestiality case recently filed against a 39-year-old Geneva man.

District Attorney Kirke Adams said Geneva County Sheriff's deputies obtained a warrant for misdemeanor bestiality late Wednesday and served it on Jonathan Edward Medley.

He said the similar charge filed in the city of Geneva will be dismissed.

Adams said he met with Geneva police and the prosecutor's office for the City of Geneva in an effort to work on prosecuting it together.

"One reason that we wanted to handle the case is because we were already receiving phone calls, and because people assumed we were handling the case even though it was being handled in Geneva municipal court," Adams said. "The investigators did a good job putting this case together. There is a lot of misinformation about the true facts of this case."

Police initially released information to the media saying officers had charged Medley with having sex with a dog. However, Adams said investigators later found they had probable cause to believe Medley had some sexual contact with the dog, which still led to the filing of a bestiality charge.

Bestiality

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Adams said Alabama legislators approved a bestiality statute making it a class A misdemeanor offense, which he said includes sexual contact with an animal.

"We understand the public is outraged by this conduct, and are very upset that a misdemeanor offense is all that has been charged," Adams said. "But what he has allegedly done only fits the misdemeanor."

Adams said the closest felony offense possible would've been the felony animal cruelty charge, but he said the cruelty offense needed to involve torture and physical injury.

Adams said the dog in the Medley case was taken to a local veterinarian, who said the dog received a clean bill of health and was only treated for an allergy rash. He said law enforcement found no evidence of torturous activity.

Adams said the other facts of the offense remain the same.

Geneva Police Capt. Ricky Morgan said Medley's wife first reported the offense to the Geneva Police Department late last week. Morgan told the Dothan Eagle the offense stemmed from Medley being upset with his wife because she paid more attention to the dog than him.

"She actually thought he was having affair with another woman and hid a recording device," Morgan

said. "She learned he was in fact molesting the dog."

Morgan said the victim of the crime was a male Shih Tzu called Buster who belongs to his wife.

Adams said Medley faces up to a year in jail if convicted of the class A misdemeanor charge of bestiality. He said Medley will be scheduled for a bench trial in Geneva County District Court, and if convicted will be able to appeal the decision to circuit court.

Adams also said the Geneva County Sheriff's Office has received multiple calls about the case, including questions about whether someone convicted of bestiality would be required to register as a sex offender. He said no one convicted of bestiality is required to register as a sex offender in Alabama.

"I told law enforcement if we took the case we would prosecute it to the fullest extent of the law with their help. But there's only so much we can do based on the limitations of the current law," Adams said. "Bestiality cases are extremely rare. I'm not saying they don't happen, but very, very rarely are they reported to law enforcement. I have not had a case in 11 years as a DA of any such charge."

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