

# State seeks dog ban for bestiality suspect

BY MATT ELOFSON  
melofson@dothaneagle.com

State prosecutors are seeking to ban a Geneva man from having any contact with "Buster" the Shih Tzu and any other animal or dog park while his bestiality charge is pending.

Court records show prosecutors with the Geneva County District Attorney's Office have filed a request to modify the conditions of release from custody for 39-year-old John Edward Medley.

Records show prosecutors have asked the court to ban Medley from any contact with the alleged victim, "Buster," or any other animal, from frequenting any pet stores or visiting any area dog parks while the case remains pending.

The request to modify Medley's bail was filed late last week, and has yet to be ruled on by Geneva County District Court Judge Stephen Smith.

"The state is very concerned about the well being of Buster and wants to ensure that he is in a safe, loving and nurturing environment," Assistant Geneva County District Attorney Cathey Berardi said in the request for modified bail conditions.

Records show prosecutors asked for the

new bail conditions after they learned Medley had returned to the home where Buster lives.



Medley

Geneva police originally arrested Medley earlier this month on an animal cruelty charge. But deputies with the Geneva County Sheriff's Office served him with a misdemeanor warrant last week charging him

with bestiality.

Law enforcement initially charged Medley with having sex with Buster, his wife's dog, after he believed she was paying the dog more attention than him.

But District Attorney Kirke Adams later learned the offense actually only involved sexual contact with the dog, which he said still fit the Alabama bestiality law.

Adams said Medley faces up to a year in jail if convicted of the class A misdemeanor charge of bestiality.

Records show Medley has hired attorney Davis Harrison to represent him in court. Harrison has submitted a plea of not guilty to the court for his client.

The bestiality case has been set for trial in front of Judge Smith at the Geneva County Courthouse on July 24.