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Weather

Sports

Programming

Community

Production

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Castaway Animal Rescue Effort/KY3 NEWS

Surgeons had to remove two nails from Trucker's head.

Man faces misdemeanor charges for two nails in dog's head

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Animal lovers say the charge isn't harsh enough.

By: Michelle Sherwood, KY3 News

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HUMANSVILLE, Mo. – The Polk County prosecuting attorney charged a man this week for hitting a dog in the head with a hammer and shooting nails into his head. John Haynes of Humansville is charged with misdemeanor animal abuse.

The dog survived the unusual attack and is up for adoption. Animal rights advocates say the charge doesn't fit the crime.

Trucker is at the Castaway Animal Rescue Effort shelter on West Sunshine Street in Springfield. The staff calls him Trucker because they say he's just keeps on truckin'.

"He's so much more playful and his personality started shining about a week ago and you could tell he was really



Trucker is blind in one eye and mostly deaf.

feeling better,” said Melissa Sartin, director of C.A.R.E.

Sartin says Trucker's triumphs are being trumped by the mere misdemeanor charges that Haynes faces. Prosecuting Attorney John Porter wouldn't do a formal interview but he said Haynes' actions did not rise to the level of a felony because, according to all the evidence that Porter has, Haynes did not knowingly try to torture or mutilate the dog.

According to court documents, Humansville police believe Haynes used the nail gun only to ensure the dog was indeed dead. Police believe he thought he already killed the dog by repeatedly hitting it in the head with a hammer.

"I don't understand how that could not be malicious act,” said Sartin. "I think the dog deserves better. It's a slap on the wrist."

Sartin says it will be another month before Trucker will be ready for adoption, which is not an easy process. There's a phone interview, a home interview and Sartin says Trucker will make the final decision.