



# NEWS RELEASE

## HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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### **Police Charge Man with Felony Animal Abuse**

Howard County Police charged an Ellicott City man with felony animal cruelty charges after an investigation into the abuse of a cat. Steven Richard Schatz, 38, of the 9700 block of Longview Dr., was charged with abuse of an animal, aggravated cruelty to an animal and unnatural/perverted practices.

Animal control officers were contacted in April after an animal hospital reported that a cat in its care appeared to have been abused. The animal control officers and police detectives launched an investigation into the cat's injuries. After a detailed investigation, which included interviews, evidence collection and the service of a search warrant, investigators charged Schatz. The cat's owner, who lived with Schatz at the time of the abuse, euthanized the cat as a result of its severe physical injuries.

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