

Animal neglect charges move forward in abandoned dog case

Aaron Scott Renwick, 25, of South Bend Township will face trial in the Armstrong County Courthouse on charges of animal neglect for Cooper, the 3-year-old Lab mix allegedly abandoned in Plumcreek Township in November

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A South Bend Township man will face trial in the Armstrong County Courthouse on charges of animal neglect for Cooper, the 3-year-old Lab mix allegedly abandoned in Plumcreek Township in November, according to a press release issued jointly Wednesday by Armstrong County District Attorney Katie Charlton and county Humane Police Officer Chris Jirak O'Donnell.

On Tuesday, Aaron Scott Renwick, 25, waived his right to a preliminary hearing at the office of Rural Valley Borough Magisterial District Judge Kevin McCausland.

Renwick is charged with one count of cruelty to animal: abandons; one count of neglect of animal: necessary veterinary care; and one count of tethering an unattended dog.

His arraignment date at the Armstrong County Courthouse is not yet available.

On Nov. 17, 2022, an Armstrong County humane police officer received a report of a dog on the side of Wright Road in Plumcreek Township.

A witness, who later saw the story in the Leader Times, provided information on the case including the dog's name, which is Cooper.

Attempts were made to trap the evasive canine from Nov. 17 through Dec. 23, when he followed a small dog named Snowball into a home and was captured. Cooper was transported to Orphans of the Storm in Rayburn Township where he has received care.

Cooper has a home waiting and is expected to be adopted soon.