



Humboldt County Sheriff's Office

826 Fourth Street, Eureka, CA 95501

Date: 4-23-2013

From: Lt. Steve Knight
(707) 268-3630

Subject: ARREST- Horse shot with arrow

Case: 201301802 Update

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

On 04-23-13, approximately 12:00 noon the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office Livestock Deputy arrested Joshua Matthew Slater, 31 years old, a transient, for felony animal cruelty. The deputy had been actively working on this investigation since the day it occurred. The deputy was assisted by witnesses who told the deputy about an adult male living in a motor home near the scene where the horse was killed. The witness's gave the deputy a description of the male and said they had seen him carrying a crossbow. They also provided the deputy with a possible name of Joshua Slater. The deputy searched the area for the motor home the day of the crime, but it was gone.

After recovering the arrow and bolt that was used to kill "Cash" the horse, the deputy contacted area sporting good stores. The deputy learned that one of the stores sold arrows to a male that matched the description of the one witness's provided to the livestock deputy that had been living in the motorhome. . The deputy was able to confirm with the sporting goods store that the male who bought the arrows was Joshua Matthew Slater.

On 04-22-2013, the livestock deputy and a Sheriff's Detective located Slater and interviewed him about the death of the horse. Slater admitted to being in the area at the time of "Cash" being shot with an arrow, and shooting arrows from a compound bow while he was poaching deer. Slater agreed to show the deputy where he was shooting the arrows.

On 04-23-2013, approximately 9:00 a.m. the livestock deputy and members of the Humboldt County District Attorneys Office drove Slater back out to the scene where he agreed to show them where he was shooting the compound bow. Based upon his statements and re-enactment he was arrested for felony animal cruelty. He was booked into the Humboldt County Correctional Facility on one county of felony animal cruelty a felony. His bail is set at \$25,000.00.

Previous

On 04-11-2013, approximately 9:00 a.m. the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office was notified of a horse that had been shot with an arrow. A livestock deputy responded to meet with the horse's owner and a veterinarian who was on scene treating the horse. The horses owner told the deputy her horse named "Cash" is a three year old male Appendix horse, which is a Thoroughbred/Quarter horse mix. The owner last checked on Cash on 04-10-2013, approximately 4:30 p.m. and he was fine. Cash was in a pasture at the end of McDermott Street, Alton near the Eel River. When the owner showed up this morning at approximately 7:45 a.m. to check on him she discovered he had been shot with an arrow and was bleeding heavily. The arrow had struck his left flank hip area. A veterinarian was immediately notified and responded from North Coast Veterinary Hospital. Cash was taken to the Veterinarian Hospital for further treatment; however the prognosis is not good at this time. The suspect responsible for this is unknown at this time. The case is being investigated as felony cruelty to an animal.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office at 707-445-7251 or the Sheriff's Tip Line 707-268-2539.

Mike Downey Sheriff

JOSHUA MATTHEW SLATER

