

Office of the State Attorney  
Fourth Judicial Circuit of Florida  
www.sao4th.com



MELISSA W. NELSON  
STATE ATTORNEY

311 West Monroe Street  
Jacksonville, FL 32202-4242  
TEL: (904) 255-2500

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: David Chapman

Phone: (904) 255-3004

Cell: (904) 524-6626

[ChapmanD@coj.net](mailto:ChapmanD@coj.net)

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### **MILES PLEADS GUILTY TO AGGRAVATED ANIMAL ABUSE**

State Attorney Melissa Nelson announces that Blake Miles pleaded guilty to two counts of Aggravated Animal Abuse. The Honorable Jeb Branham sentenced Miles to 12 months in Duval County Jail and ordered restitution to the victim to cover the veterinary bills.

In Nov. 2022, members of the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office were called to the Springfield neighborhood to investigate animal abuse. During one specific incident on Nov. 12, 2022, Miles coaxed a cat from the front porch of a house, snatched it, and smothered it with a tarp. Miles ran from the scene, but a witness took video of the incident from his car across the street. The cat was found a month later with a poorly healed broken leg. During another incident, Miles attempted to drown a cat at a rooming house he was staying at in Springfield.

The case was investigated by the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office and was prosecuted by Assistant State Attorney Cyrus Zomorodian.