



News Release

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Date: April 29, 2022

Contact: Sergeant Stephen Jaques #221

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Man Arrested for Animal Abuse in Wallingford

On April 12, 2022, Wallingford Animal Control (ACO) requested assistance from the Wallingford Police Department regarding an animal abuse case they were investigating. Members of the Wallingford Police Department worked in conjunction with members of the ACO and ultimately arrested 27-year-old Franco Bellini-Zabala of 64 Ward Street, Wallingford by arrest warrant on April 29, 2022. He was charged with violation of C.G.S. 53-247(a) - Cruelty to Animals and was released on a \$50,000.00 bond.

The Wallingford ACO was originally notified of the abuse from Hamden ACO who had previous dealings with Bellini-Zabala and the dog at his work garage located in Hamden. The dog involved is a 7 month old Husky. It was determined that the Husky had sustained multiple fractures and injuries from multiple traumatic events. During the investigation, Wallingford Police and ACO uncovered a video of the abuse, which showed a small Husky being grabbed aggressively by his snout and thrown into a car by a male matching Bellini-Zabala's description. The male could be seen holding a thicker style tape similar to duct tape. The Husky attempted to leave the vehicle and could be seen with his snout taped shut. The male then grabbed the husky and threw it back into the car. Wallingford Police assisted the ACO in obtaining a search warrant to seize the Husky on April 12th. An arrest warrant was then obtained for Bellini-Zabala, and was served on April 29, 2022. Bellini-Zabala is due in court on May 25, 2022.

It's anticipated that it may take several weeks to months for the Husky to recover from its injuries. After the Husky's recovery, he will be put up for adoption at the Wallingford Animal Shelter. Please call them at (203)294-2180 if you are interested in giving this Husky a loving home.

(See next page for booking photo and information)



Franco Bellini-Zabala

Age: 27 years

Address: 64 Ward Street #3, Wallingford CT 06492

Charges: 53-247(a) - Cruelty to Animals

Bond: \$50,000.00

Court Date: 5-25-22 at Meriden Superior Court

WPD Case number: 22-9913