

ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE of BOSTON



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Suspect in Alleged Cruelty Case to Make Court Appearance

Dog allegedly suffered gruesome and ultimately fatal injuries

In mid-June, 2020, a six-year-old female mixed-breed dog that allegedly suffered a horrific cycle of abuse was abandoned at a local animal hospital—she did not survive due to the severity of her injuries.

An extensive investigation by Animal Rescue League of Boston Law Enforcement Officers identified 27-year-old Shaquille Walker of Worcester as the alleged suspect. Walker will be arraigned on Monday February 8, 2021, in Worcester District Court (Docket #2062CR005118) on one count of Animal Cruelty (MGL c. 272 ss 77), a felony charge punishable by up to 7 years in prison and a \$5,000 fine.

The arraignment will be held at approximately 9 a.m.

Case Background:

On June 11, 2020 at approximately 6:30 p.m., an unidentified male and female dropped the dog off at the Henry and Lois Foster Hospital for Small Animals at Cummings Veterinary Medical Center at Tufts University. The couple stated that she was found on the side of the road and had likely been hit by a car, then left the scene before staff could get any additional information.

The vehicle was described as a blue Honda, operated by the female in her mid-to-late 20s with dark hair pulled back in a bun.

The male passenger was described as, in his mid-to-late 20's, approximately six-feet tall and weighing 250 pounds, with dark curly hair, and facial hair. Witnesses also stated that the male was covered in blood.

ARL Law Enforcement officers were ultimately able to identify the suspect, who was later served with a summons to appear on the subsequent animal cruelty charge.

The dog, who has been nicknamed "Fiona," suffered a multitude of injuries, which, according to examination records, included bite and puncture wounds to her face, neck, both forearms, and inside the right ear.

She underwent emergency surgery and was treated for three days, but her health declined rapidly and she was humanely euthanized due to the extent of her injuries.

A necropsy was performed following her death, and further clarified the extent of the cruelty, abuse, and suffering that she endured. Some of the findings from the final necropsy report included:

- Both ears being cropped (not recently)
- Teeth were ground down almost completely
- Multiple puncture wounds measuring 0.2cm-0.5cm long were seen throughout her body
- Wounds consistent with "incised wounds" – a term used to describe penetrating wounds caused by sharp-edged objects – shape of the wounds on her body were consistent, indicating they were caused by the same object
- Localization of the stab wounds in the head, front limbs and neck areas indicated the dog had limited ability to move during the attack.
- Chronic skin lesions not directly associated with recent attack included calluses in the hind limbs, which are commonly seen in dogs that lie down on hard surfaces for long periods of time and cannot move around freely
- The report concludes the circumstances leading to her death were unequivocally related to recent attack

FOR PHOTOS OF FIONA, PLEASE CLICK DROPBOX LINK BELOW:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/qmqw63c3cv9nzv3/AACCePf_CTXDEsY3qIrf7n6ra?dl=0

ABOUT THE ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF BOSTON:

The Animal Rescue League of Boston (ARL) is an unwavering champion for animals in need, committed to keeping them safe and healthy in habitats and homes. Founded in 1899, ARL provides high-quality veterinary care, adoption, and rescue services; while also confronting the root causes of animal cruelty and neglect through innovative community programs, police investigations, and public advocacy. In 2020, ARL served nearly 17,000 animals throughout Massachusetts. ARL is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. The Animal Rescue League of Boston

does not receive government grants or public funding (with the exception of limited COVID-19 relief funding) and relies on the generosity of our supporters to help animals in need. For more information please visit us online at; and be sure to follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

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