



## **Assemblyman speaks out against animal abusers**

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SCHENECTADY, N.Y.-- Another case of animal cruelty in Schenectady has led Assemblyman Jim Tedisco to call for action and make punishment for all animal abusers more harsh.

According to police, Michael Perillo of 2438 Albany Street was picked up Friday after the local SPCA received a hotline tip that Perillo had been abusing his dog. This comes just after Friday's incident when another Schenectady man was called in for questioning in an animal cruelty case after two dead cats were found inside his apartment.

When investigators arrived at 2438 Albany Street, they found the dog with multiple lacerations to the face, mouth and eyes. The animal, which was covered in blood, also suffered from broken bones and has several teeth missing. Investigators believe the man may have even duct-taped the animal's mouth shut.

"This is a bridge crime, those who abuse companion pets go on to hurt human beings," said Assemblyman Jim Tedisco "I can name them, Son of Sam, Ted Bundy, Donner, all those serial murderers had a history of abusing animals."

Assemblyman Tedisco is pushing legislation that would strengthen buster's law, with three new bills (A.1567, A.1506 and A.1580).

They include mandatory psychological evaluation for abusers, a state-wide registry of abusers, and keeping abusers from ever owning or taking care of a companion pet.

Assemblyman Tedisco is also sponsoring the first state-wide animal advocacy day at the Capitol on June 1, to bring people together in support of the tougher legislation.