



Abused dog gets second chance

March 25, 2011

By Cait McVey

Meet Oliver the Great Dane. It's hard to imagine anyone harming this gentle giant. But that's what police say happened. The SPCA say his owner beat him, even taped his mouth shut with duct tape. By the time he was brought to the Mohawk and Hudson River Humane, it didn't look good.

"He didn't want us to touch him, he didn't want us near him. His face was so swollen, he couldn't even open one of his eyes," says Nancy Haynes, with the Humane Society.

That was a week ago. Despite the seriousness of his injuries, Oliver is now on the mend thanks to around-the-clock care.

"He's made a lot of progress in the last a couple days," Haynes says. "We've just been going very slow with him. He loves treats so that's a plus for him."

Oliver's owner, Michael Perillo, has been charged with animal cruelty, a misdemeanor. Authorities are hoping the District Attorney's Office will come down even harder.

"I believe what he did here was egregious. To repeatedly punch your animal in the mouth is not appropriate," says Chief Matthew Tully, with the Schoharie and Saratoga County SPCA. "I believe if that's not a felony, it should be a felony."

Oliver continues his physical treatments but, the scars are much deeper.

"He became very timid. He's still standoffish when he meets new people," says Brad Shear, with the Humane Society. "And there's going to be some time for him to not only recover physically but to gain trust in people again."

It's going to be a long road but, with all of the love he's getting now, Oliver is expected to make a full recovery.

"I hope he finds a good family," says Haynes. "I hope he finds his forever home."

If you would like to help Oliver out, send your donations to his Guardian Angel Fund.

The Guardian Angel Fund
Schenectady, Schoharie and Saratoga County SPCA
PO Box 9516
Niskayuna, NY 12309

Contributors should specify they are giving to "Oliver." The SPCA is splitting all donations with the Mohawk and Hudson River Humane Society.