

Schenectady Man Sought After Cats Found Dead in Apartment

March 19, 2011

SCHENECTADY -- A city man is being sought in connection with what authorities called a shocking case of animal neglect that claimed the lives of two cats and a left third near death.

An anonymous tip to the Schenectady, Schoharie and Saratoga Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals led investigators on Thursday night to 1519 State St., where they found an apartment filled with feces, two dead cats and a third that was eating the decaying bodies, according to an SPCA statement.

The apartment's resident, Wendall Smith, 24, is wanted for questioning, officials said. His whereabouts were unknown Saturday morning, officials said.

"This is one of the most disturbing cases of animal cruelty I've seen in a long time," said SPCA Chief Mathew B. Tully in a statement. Police have said no charges have been filed.

The emaciated, dehydrated animals had been denied food and water for an extended period, Tully said. Two died; the third, dubbed Bud by investigators, received emergency treatment at the scene and from a local veterinarian and is expected to survive, an SPCA spokeswoman said.