



FORT BRAGG POLICE DEPARTMENT

250 Cypress Street
Fort Bragg, CA 95437-5437

FABIAN E. LIZARRAGA
Chief of Police

(707) 961-2800
Fax: (707) 961-2806

PRESS RELEASE

Releasing Officer: Sergeant Brandon A. Lee
Report Number: FG1501249
Date / Time Incident: October 13, 2015, 9:30a.m.
Location of Incident: 500 Block S. Main Street
Fort Bragg, CA
Crime or Incident: 597 PC - Animal Cruelty/Warrant Arrest
Victim(s): State of CA
Suspect(s): Jacob Whelan, 29 years old, Fort Bragg, CA

CIRCUMSTANCES:

On October 13, 2015, at approximately 9:30 a.m., Officers of the Fort Bragg Police Department were dispatched to the area of Starbuck's Coffee (576 S. Main Street) for the report of a canine being dragged behind a vehicle. Officers received a description of the driver and vehicle, and quickly located them immediately north of the Starbuck's Coffee house.

Officers contacted the driver, Jacob Whelan, who appeared visibly distraught over the incident and advised officers that the entire incident was a total accident. Whelan advised he had the canine tied to his vehicle's tow hitch and had given it some food and water. Whelan said he then got into his vehicle and drove away through the Safeway parking lot, forgetting his canine was still tied to the tow hitch. Whelan was found to be driving on a suspended driver's license, and additionally had an extraditable warrant out of Santa Cruz County. Whelan's canine was inspected by officers at scene, and was only found to have some small abrasions on its feet. The canine did not sustain any serious visible injuries.

Whelan was taken into custody and his vehicle was towed from the scene. Both of Whelan's two canines were taken to the Mendocino County Animal Care Facility in Ukiah to be treated and housed.

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