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EDITORS PICK

Kittens left for dead

By EMILY SHAPIRO emily.shapiro@register-news.com May 11, 2016

WAYNE CITY —A Bluford man could face up to three years in prison for allegedly placing 17 kittens into a trash bag.

Sixteen of the 17 kittens survived. The remaining kittens are thriving and putting on weight.

“They’re doing wonderful,” said Amanda Cline, Wayne County Animal Control manager and warden.

Curtiss C. Bean, 59 is charged with a Class 4 felony of one count of aggravated cruelty to animals in that he allegedly intentionally committed an act which caused the death of a cat, according to court documents.

The second charge is a Class A misdemeanor which alleges Bean acted intentionally and cruelly by placing 17 cats in a sealed plastic bag.

Court documents state Bean allegedly placed the kittens in a plastic bag at his home in Jefferson County and dumped them in a dumpster in Wayne County on Sunday.

If Bean is found guilty on the charges, he could face up to \$25,000 in fines and 30 months. conditional discharge and 30 months of probation.

Jefferson County Animal Warden Martin Boykin accompanied Cline and Jefferson County Sheriff’s deputies to arrest Bean, who is being held at the Jefferson County Justice Center on \$20,000 bond.

Bean may also face charges in Wayne County. Jefferson County Sheriff Travis Allen explained Bean was taken into custody, interviewed and charged Monday.

The impetus for the investigation came from the trash bag, as Cline explained the kittens were found in the bag with mail that had the name and address of a Bluford resident, which led investigators to Bean.

Cline said the surviving kittens are from two litters and are five- to six-weeks-old and three- to four-weeks-old, respectively.

Under Illinois law, the kittens must be at least eight-weeks-old before they can be adopted.

Eight kittens are being fostered by the woman who found them and the others are at the Wayne County Humane Society.

Fostering includes bathing and feeding them soft food and milk. Cline said when the kittens are old enough they will be placed for adoption.

"The lady that found them has homes lined up for her litter," Cline added.

Those interested in adopting the remaining eight kittens can contact the Wayne County Humane Society at 847-4012.

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