

# The Columbus Dispatch

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## Ohio man accused of skinning dog, showing video on social media

By Lori Steineck / The Canton Repository / GateHouse Media Ohio

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CANTON, OH -- A former Canton man has been arrested in Trumbull County, accused of skinning his pit bull alive and uploading the video to social media.

Scott A. Winter, 46, of Warren, was arrested Wednesday and booked into the Stark County Jail on a felony charge of prohibitions concerning companion animals, said Canton Police Chief Jack Angelo.

Investigators allege Winter skinned his own dog alive, recording the incident on video as the dog died in a house in the 300 block of Crestmont Avenue NE. Angelo said he did not know the time frame, but the house burned down recently.

Details of the fire were not available Thursday morning.

WKBN TV in Youngstown reported on July 17 that police there had received numerous calls reporting an animal cruelty video on Facebook. The story on the TV station's website quotes police citing a picture of a dog hanging by a rope and a man skinning it.

Stark County court records show a warrant for Winter's arrest was issued July 26. Angelo said Canton police picked him up in Trumbull County about 3:15 p.m. Wednesday.

He remained in the jail, held in lieu of \$50,000 bond pending a Friday morning hearing in Canton Municipal Court.

Winter was previously convicted in November 2016 of four counts of misdemeanor animal cruelty, but he failed to complete supervised community service, court records show. He was also convicted in April 2017 of five counts each of failure to register dogs and failure to have them vaccinated against rabies. Living on Lesh Road NE at the time, he was fined but he never paid, court records show.

The court records also show that Winter went to prison in 1992 for breaking and entering and theft, and that he was convicted in 2009 of aggravated assault and breaking and entering. He was sentenced to three years of intensive supervisory probation and 200 hours of community service.