

# Cat recovering after arrow pierces head

Humane association offering reward to find person who shot arrow

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Brownie, a 4-year-old tabby, returned to his owner last week with an arrow stuck in his head, his fur matted with dried blood.

The cat had been shot. Sarah Hayes with the Monroe County Humane Association announced today that the organization is offering up \$500 to anyone with information that leads to the conviction of the person or persons responsible.

"It's just horrible, and whoever did this, they need to be charged," Hayes, the association's CEO, said.

Hayes has seen animals in terrible condition and pain, but "This one's new," she said.

The arrow had likely been shot into Brownie's head a few days before he came trotting back to his owner last Monday, as the wounds were already infected, said Monroe County animal control officer Rebecca Brown.

The incident probably happened on the far southeast side of Bloomington, off East Stipp Road, Brown said. And Brown believes this instance of animal cruelty was deliberate.

"Anybody hunting wouldn't have been that low to the ground," she said.

The person who did it can be charged with animal cruelty, a class B misdemeanor, Brown said.

Brownie had surgery at Bloomington's Town and Country Vet Hospital the day after he was found. Veterinarian Casey Shake said the arrow had entered just above Brownie's right eye and went through the cat's skin, tissue and some muscles. X-rays showed the arrow just skimmed Brownie's skull, Shake said. It exited in front of Brownie's left ear.

Someone, not the cat's owner, had cut the pointed end of the arrow before Brownie was brought to the vet. The arrow had loosened, Shake said.

"It could slide back and forth. It slid right out."

Shake anesthetized the cat and pulled the arrow out — and while he was at it, he neutered Brownie, for free.

"I figured that would take his mind off his headache," he joked.

Shake then left the wounds open to drain, and treated them to ward off infection.

"The next day that cat was amazing," he said. Brownie was purring, ready to eat and drink, and wanted love. Shake said Brownie is expected to have no brain damage or vision loss.

"That cat should make a complete recovery," he said. "I have never seen anything quite like that. It was definitely bizarre."

Brownie is recovering and will be reunited with his owner in a few days, Brown said.

The cat's owner is in the hospital, recovering from a procedure on Monday, said a caretaker who assists the man. He should be home by Friday.

The Monroe County Humane Association paid for Brownie's surgery with money from the group's Olivia Animal Protection and Rescue Fund, Hayes said. The fund was set up in memory of Olivia, one of several cats set on fire in 1997 by a group of teens. Olivia's vet bills cost her owners thousands of dollars, and the cat died despite efforts to save her.

HTO 1997: Recall the story of Olivia the cat

Hayes said this is the second time in three or four years the association has offered a reward for information leading to an animal cruelty conviction. "As long as the funds are available to do that, we obviously want to do that any time we can. We definitely want to charge somebody who does something horrible like this."

A \$300 reward was offered for information on Clover the goat, who in 2006 was dumped at the end of a dead-end county road to either starve or be killed by coyotes or dogs.

The crippled goat was found with a missing left rear leg and with its front legs frozen in a bent position.

Clover died and no one ever came forward with information about the animal's mistreatment and abandonment.

Hayes hopes this time is different.

"A lot of people had to have noticed a cat with a full-sized arrow through its head."

No one seems to be sure just what the arrow is made of, although sheriff's deputies guess it is a graphite arrow.

Can you help?

Anyone with information about Brownie's wounds is asked to call Monroe County animal control officer Rebecca Brown at 349-2585. The Monroe County Humane Association is offering a \$500 reward to anyone with information that leads to the conviction of the person or persons responsible.

**Brownie the cat is treated for an arrow through its head. The cat is recovering and should be returned to its owner. Rebecca Brown | Monroe County Sheriffs Department**

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