For Immediate Release, May 10, 2018

WICHITA, KAN. – A man accused of starving a dog has been sentenced in Sedgwick County District Court. Vincent Currie Jr., 28 of Wichita, pled guilty to interference with law enforcement and cruelty to animals, both misdemeanors. On Tuesday Judge Christopher Magana sentenced Currie to 12 months of probation with an underlying sentence of 12 months in jail. If Currie violates his probation, he may have to serve his jail time.

On October 10, 2017 Currie told Wichita Police he found a pit bull wrapped in a blanket in an alley behind his house in the 1800 block of N. Arkansas. The dog's bones were visible. A veterinarian said the dog suffered from multiple weeks of neglect and was severely dehydrated. The animal also had an intestinal blockage which required surgery.

After several days of news coverage and social media requests to find the owner, a friend of Currie called police to say the pit bull belonged to Currie. The friend told police Currie had told her two months earlier that he couldn't afford to care for the animal.

A week after calling police about the dog in the alley, Currie admitted he made up the story. The pit bull is now being cared for by a Wichita family.

Judge Magana ruled that during his one-year probation, Currie will not be allowed to own an animal.

Note that under Kansas Statutes Annotated 21-6412(a)(1), Cruelty to Animals is a felony only when the suspect is accused of "knowingly and maliciously killing, injuring, maiming, torturing, burning or mutilating any animal," or under (a)(6), for "knowingly and maliciously administering any poison to any domestic animal." Under (a)(3) of the statute, " . . . knowingly failing to provide food . . ." is a misdemeanor.

District Attorney Marc Bennett
18th Judicial District of Kansas