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EVERETT, JAMAICA PLAIN

Animal cruelty charges may be brought against owner of dog found with 'severely embedded' collar

Posted by Matt Rocheleau February 22, 2013 11:30 AM

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A photo showing the red wire as well as the dog's name tag, which had to be surgically removed.

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By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

Animal cruelty charges may be brought against the previous owner of a dog that had to have a “severely embedded” collar surgically removed from his neck, officials said.

Coco, a 4-year-old poodle, had a 6-foot long red, metal wire wrapped around his body when he was surrendered late last month to the MSPCA Angell animal adoption center in Jamaica Plain by a woman from Everett who said she found the dog in her yard, according to the adoption center.

Veterinarians said they used wire cutters to remove the wire and then performed emergency surgery to remove the dog’s collar and tags.

“There’s no telling how long the wire had been wrapped around Coco’s body - it may have been on him for months,” Dr. Danielle Thomas, an emergency veterinarian who tended to Coco, said in a statement. “Underneath and around the wire was his collar and tags - both embedded in the skin so deeply that they were wrapped around the bones of his neck.”

The case is being described as one of the worse embedded collars the MSPCA has ever seen.

“I was shocked by Coco’s condition upon his surrender,” adoption center manager Alyssa Muro said in a statement.

The animal organization said its law enforcement department has launched an investigation to determine what happened to the dog and whether animal cruelty charges can be brought against the dog’s previous owner.

“We’ll have more to say once we evaluate all of the evidence in the case,” MSPCA law enforcement Officer Martha Parkhurst said in a statement.

An outcome to the investigation is expected in the next several weeks, officials said.

After several days of recovery after the surgery, Coco became available for adoption. Staff at the center said they are looking for a home without children

and with poodle-specific experience.

For more information about adopting him, e-mail adoption@mspca.org.

E-mail Matt Rocheleau at mjrochele@gmail.com.

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(MSPCA Angell)

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