

Leavenworth man convicted of animal cruelty after killing his cat

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LEAVENWORTH, Kan. --- A 39-year-old Leavenworth man was convicted Friday of animal cruelty after admitting to killing his cat.

The charge stemmed from a December 2023 incident in which Craig A. Hendricks claimed he had killed his cat on December 12. During the investigation, Hendricks told an animal control officer that he killed his cat by placing the cat's head in a doorway and deliberately slamming the door shut, saying he did this because the cat was trying to kill him.

The deceased cat was later recovered after Hendricks handed the officer a box he had stored in his freezer – inside that box was the cat.

This case was delayed after concerns were raised about Hendricks' mental competency to stand trial. In criminal proceedings, competency refers to a defendant's mental fitness to participate in legal proceedings. A person is considered competent if they can understand the nature and purpose of the court proceedings and can assist in their own defense.

Hendricks pled no contest to the charge of Animal Cruelty on May 9, 2025.

Leavenworth County Attorney Todd Thompson said, "Protecting the welfare of animals will remain a priority for our office. True justice extends beyond our citizens to include the voiceless. Those who commit crimes against our animals should be held accountable. A society fails when it is complicit in these acts."

Hendricks is scheduled for sentencing on June 18.