

BARWELL, Kristopher David



Alias(es), if any: None known

Age at time of offence: 20

Name(s) of co-accused: None

Name(s) of victim(s): Zeus (adopted and subsequently renamed Kaden)

Species and breed of victim(s): Dog; Border Collie

Province(s) of offence(s): Alberta

Town/City of offence(s): Edmonton

Date(s) of offence(s): August 11, 2012 (abuse was taking place prior to that date, over the summer)

Nature of offence:

- torture
- beaten
- shot
- stabbed
- cut
- burned
- crushed
- drowned
- neglected (lack of adequate food, water, shelter, exercise, care)

Charges: Causing unnecessary pain, suffering, or injury to an animal; Criminal Code of Canada, Section 445.1(1)(a)

Date(s) of sentence(s): October 24, 2013

Sentence details:

- **15 YEAR BAN ON OWNING ANIMALS (Canada-wide)**
- 14 months in jail
- 2 years of probation

Other charges convicted of: unknown

Name of Judge: Judge Harry Bridges

Additional notes:

- Kaden's injuries were described as including two embedded bullets in his body, deep puncture wounds to his head and ear, several burn marks around his neck, more than one fracture in his pelvis, both hips were broken, chipped teeth, friction burns on neck, left hip and left leg, and maggots around his head and neck; he also had a severe blood infection, infected ears and eyes, and was severely malnourished and dehydrated
- Both of Kaden's hips were replaced

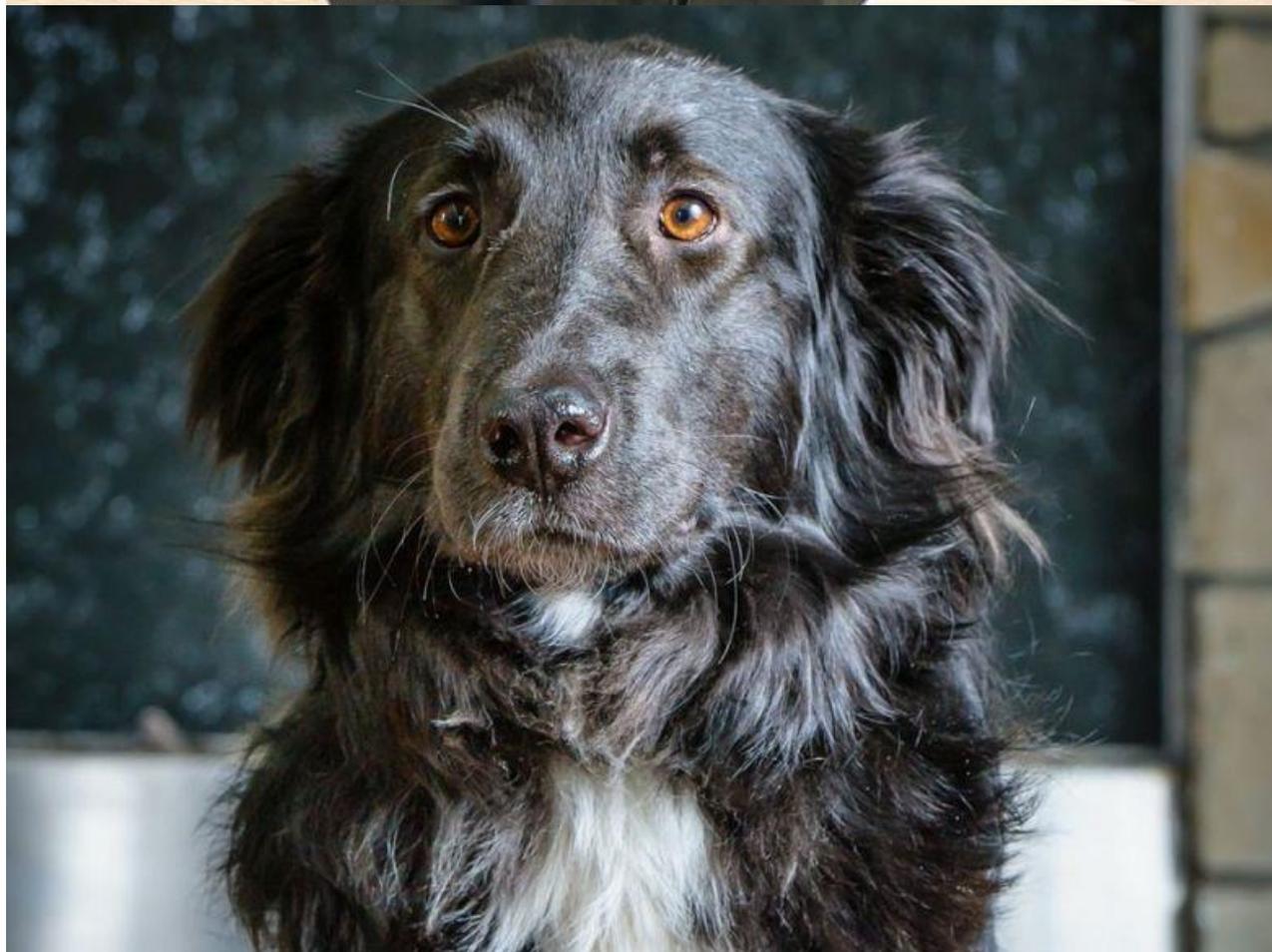
Links to news articles:

- [Jail term for convicted dog abuser](#)
- [Puppy beating leads to 14 months in jail](#)
- [Edmonton man receives 14 month jail sentence for 'torturing' his dog](#)
- [Link to sentencing hearing transcript](#), Animal Justice website

Link to written court decision: Not available

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Edmonton man receives 14 month jail sentence for 'torturing' his dog

Stewart Shaw, CTV Edmonton

Published Thursday, October 24, 2013 2:20PM MDT

Last Updated Thursday, October 24, 2013 6:53PM MDT

An Edmonton man has been sentenced to 14 months for abusing his dog in a manner the judge described as "sickening."

Kristopher David Barwell, who pleaded guilty to causing injury, wounding or maiming an animal, was given a 14 month jail term for abusing his dog.

Barwell will be subject to 2 years' probation following jail, and will be banned from owning a pet for 15 years.

While the Defence was pushing for a conditional sentence to keep him out of jail, the Crown called what Barwell did to his dog Zeus "essentially torture."

PHOTOS

"This is a horrendous crime, it's not just about the injuries or the pain this says something about society and about one of our vulnerable parts of our communities that can't speak for themselves," said Crown Prosecutor Christian Lim.

"We stand by our decision that deterrence and denunciation needs to be paramount," added Lim calling the case the worst case of animal abuse he had ever seen in Edmonton.



Kristopher David Barwell, 20, arrives at the Edmonton Law Courts on Wednesday, May 1.

As Judge Harry Bridges addressed post-arguments, he said that a conditional sentence was inappropriate. "The circumstances of the abuse of this dog are sickening," said Judge Bridges.

Barwell's lawyer said his behavior was caused in part by mental health problems at the time as well as alcohol and drug abuse.

In court to testify to the events that occurred in the summer of 2012, Stephen and Yvonne Scott said they witnessed two horrific incidents, where one of their neighbours brutally beat a young puppy in his backyard. The Scotts stated they first tried to deal with the young man and his family but then saw what the animal was going through and called the authorities.

In a statement made to court during the trial in May 2013, Yvonne Scott described the incident as horrifying.

"I can't imagine what any animal or person could do to deserve to be treated that way," Yvonne Scott said. "The impact of the beating that I saw, I'm sure would have broken my bones, and I'm over 100 pounds larger than the puppy was at the time."

What Scott and some other witnesses saw was Zeus, Barwell's Border collie, being beaten so badly it would eventually end up in the care of the Edmonton Humane Society.

When veterinarians there first saw the dog, it was thought he might not survive – both of his hips were broken and he couldn't stand. He had wounds all over his body that were infested with maggots, and two bullets were found in his thigh and his tail.

After extensive treatment that included two artificial hips, the dog now known as Kaden, was given a new lease on life and a new family.

With files from David Ewasuk

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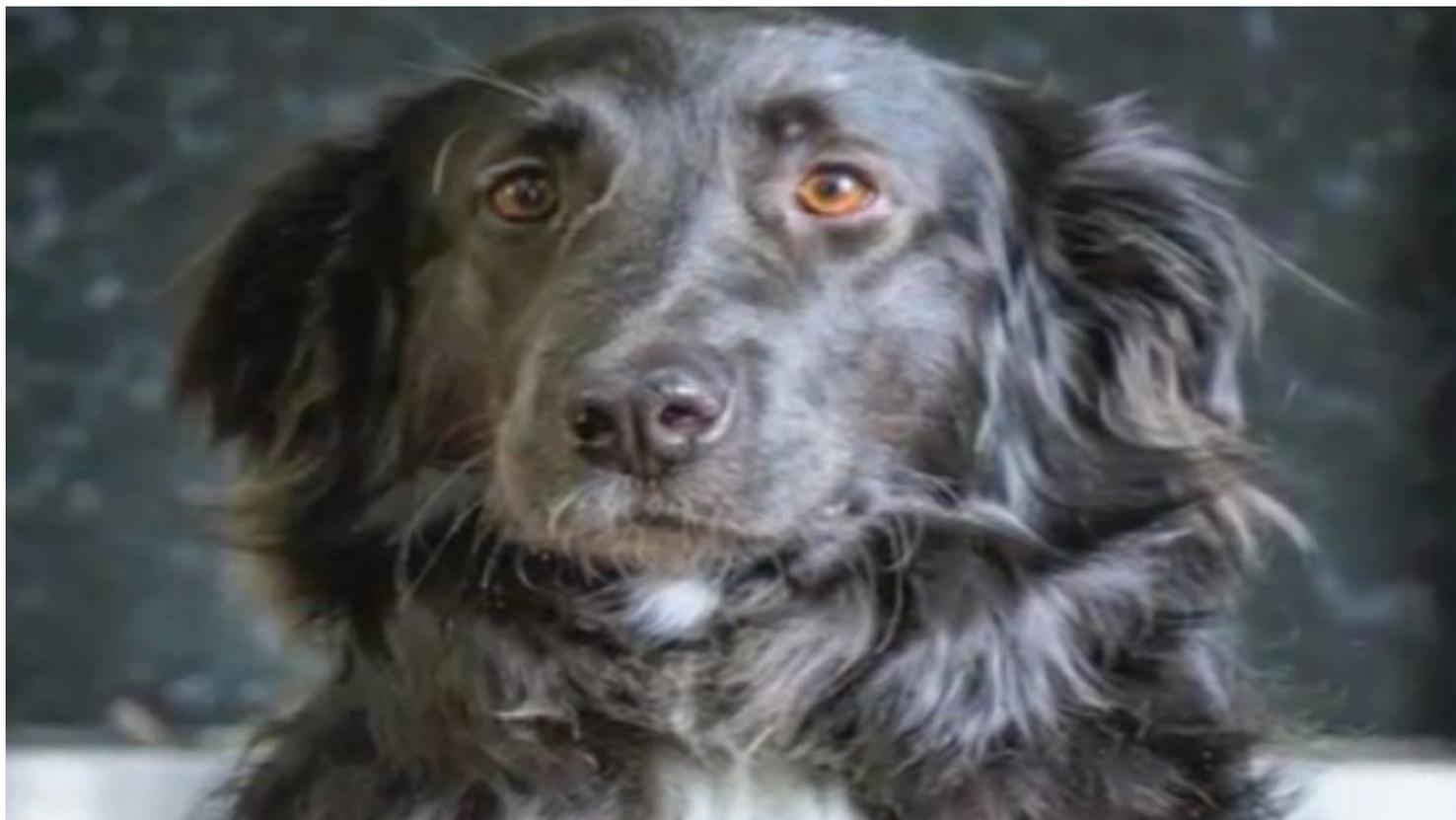
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Puppy beating leads to 14 months in jail



CBC News · Posted: Oct 24, 2013 2:55 PM MT | Last Updated: October 24, 2013



Zeus, then a 4-month-old puppy, was beaten by his owner Kristopher Barwell in the summer of 2012. Barwell was sentenced Thursday to 14 months in jail (Edmonton Humane Society)

An Edmonton man was sentenced Thursday to 14 months in jail for abusing his own puppy.

Kristopher Barwell, 21, admitted to causing unnecessary pain and suffering to his four-month-old border collie, Zeus, in what the judge called a sickening case of abuse.

Barwell admitted he beat, punched and knelt on the dog. In addition to time in jail, Barwell is forbidden from owning a pet for at least 15 years.

Neighbour Yvonne Scott reported Barwell to police after witnessing the abuse, including the night where Barwell pulled the puppy out of the bushes, knelt on it and then punched the dog repeatedly with a closed fist.

"Awful. Awful, awful. A tiny little 20-pound dog. Innocent," Scott said outside court on Thursday. "Just cowering. Awful."

Edmonton Humane Society spokeswoman Shawna Randolph said she was pleased with the judge's decision.

"We wanted jail time, we wanted justice, we wanted payment for the abuse, for the torture that this dog endured," she said.

"He was so incredibly broken, so horribly abused when he came to us and we wanted this to be a deterrent."

Severely injured, dehydrated and malnourished

The puppy was rescued on Aug. 11 when Barwell's mother found it unresponsive on the floor of her home. Zeus was then taken to the Edmonton Humane Society.

The veterinarian found severe puncture wounds on the top of the dog's head and ear, burn marks around its neck from a rope or leash, chipped teeth which impeded its ability to eat, a lesion on its lip, and fractures in both rear legs that hadn't properly healed.

Zeus also had a severe blood infection, infected ears and pus oozing out of his eyes. Live maggots were found in wounds on the puppy's head and neck. The dog was malnourished and severely dehydrated.

The veterinarian wasn't sure that Zeus would survive given the extent of his injuries, but he did. Now named Kaden, which means warrior, the dog can walk and run and has been adopted into a new home.

A visibly shaken Yvonne Scott said that the real victim in the case is the dog. However, she and her husband have since moved away from the neighbourhood because of what happened.

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