

Press Release

LAKE CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT



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Chief of Police Gerald Butler

For Immediate Release

June 18, 2026

Greg Burnsed, Public Information Officer

Ph. (386) 247-1148

Multiple Witnesses Lead to Animal Cruelty Arrest

On Tuesday, June 17, 2026, officers with the Lake City Police Department responded to the area of 322 S. Marion Avenue after receiving multiple 911 calls reporting the abuse of a dog and a disturbance.

Witnesses told officers they observed a man repeatedly striking a dog in the head and face with closed fists while yelling loudly in a public area. According to witness statements, the man struck the dog numerous times before throwing the animal into a trailer attached to his bicycle, where he continued punching the dog. Witnesses reported the dog was whimpering and attempting to move away but was unable to escape.

Officers identified the suspect as Ryan P. McCartney, 39, of Lake City. McCartney denied abusing the dog. During the investigation, officers obtained sworn statements from witnesses who independently described the same events. McCartney was arrested and transported to the Columbia County Detention Facility without incident. Columbia County Animal Control responded to the scene and took custody of the dog.

Chief Gerald Butler stated, "Our community expects animals to be treated with care and respect. When credible witnesses report acts of cruelty, our officers will investigate thoroughly and take appropriate enforcement action. We appreciate the citizens who promptly reported what they witnessed and assisted officers during this investigation."

Anyone with information regarding any crime is encouraged to contact the Lake City Police Department at (386) 752-4343 or report information anonymously through the LCPD TIPS line at (386) 719-2068 or Crime Stoppers of Columbia County at (386) 754-7099.

Name:	McCartney, Ryan Paul	
DOB:	11/24/1986	
Sex/Race:	Male/White	
Hair/Eyes:	Brown/Blue	
Height/Weight:	5'07"/160	
Address:	Homeless	
Charges:	Cruelty to Animals Disturbing the Peace	



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