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**BRONX MAN INDICTED IN FATAL STABBING OF PIT BULL DOG
LEFT IN HIS CARE BY OWNER**
Defendant Charged With Animal Cruelty in Gruesome Death of “Onyx”

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark today announced that a Bronx man has been indicted on a felony Animal Cruelty charge for fatally stabbing and slitting the throat of an 18-month-old pit bull that was left in his care by the dog’s owner.

District Attorney Clark said, “The defendant allegedly stabbed the young dog more than 50 times and slit his throat, allegedly because the dog had bit him. This is an incredibly vicious crime and if the defendant is convicted he can face two years in prison. Cruelty against animals will not be tolerated.”

District Attorney Clark said the defendant, Stephen Richardson, 33, of 1237 Fulton Avenue, was arraigned today on a charge of felony Animal Cruelty before Bronx Supreme Court Justice George Villegas. Bail was set at \$10,000 and he is due back in court on May 18, 2018. If convicted, he faces up to two years in prison.

According to the investigation, on December 29, 2017, the defendant was watching “Onyx,” an 18-month-old male pit bull, in his apartment, as he had been doing for about six months. The dog’s owner stopped to check on him as she did frequently, and found him in the bathtub dead with multiple stab wounds primarily to the face and neck.

At the same time, police were responding to a 311 complaint about possible animal abuse at the building, and went to the apartment and arrested the defendant. A knife was recovered.

According to the investigation, the defendant said the dog bit him and in return he stabbed the dog in the park. Veterinarians said the dog died of a minimum of 55 sharp force wounds, including several that caused lacerations deep into the skin and tissue.

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The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Joshua Loigman of the Economic Crimes Bureau under the supervision of Richard Kearney, Deputy Chief of the Economic Crimes Bureau and William Zelenka, Chief of the Economic Crimes Bureau, and the overall supervision of Stuart Levy, Deputy Chief of the Investigations Division and Jean T. Walsh, Chief of the Investigations Division.

District Attorney Clark thanked Police Officer Anthony Alvino of the 42ND Precinct and Dr. Alison Liu of the ASPCA for their assistance.

An indictment is an accusatory instrument and not proof of a defendant's guilt.