

Man accused of busting kitty's jaw

Police officially accused a 37-year-old man Wednesday of being cruel to a kitten that an acquaintance had asked him to care for.

Police in Higashi-Murayama, Tokyo, turned the case over to the Tokyo District Public Prosecutor's Office for possible charges against the man, an unemployed resident of Ki-yose, Tokyo. He is suspected of violating a law dealing with protection and care of animals.

According to the police, the man thrashed the 2-month-old kitten in the face with a slipper, breaking its jaw.

A neighborhood woman had left the kitten in the man's care for a few days on April 14. He allegedly struck the animal when it soiled the floor.

It will take two months for the cat's jaw to heal, police said. The kitten's owner reported the case, arguing that the abuse was excessive.

It is rare for animal abuse incidents to draw criminal charges, police said.

7/17/94 Japan Times