

LOCAL NEWS

Humane Society seeking donations for injured dog

PCSO charges 2 with animal torture

BY CARLA SLAVEY
COMMONWEALTH JOURNAL

A local organization is raising money to fund a dog's medical bills, while two people have been accused of causing injuries to him.

The Pulaski County Sheriff's Office said that Caleb Martin, 23 and Cali Webster, 22, both of Science Hill, were charged with Torture of a Dog or Cat, a Class D felony.

The investigation began on February 26 when a dog was found suffering from an injury around his neck, as well as having severe malnourishment, PCSO stated.

The dog, named Samson, was taken to the Somerset-Pulaski County Humane Society, which then took him to the Somerset Animal Hospital for treatment.

According to PCSO, Samson had a four-inch laceration caused by a metal chain being embedded in his neck which had to be

surgically removed.

Both PCSO and the Humane Society said that Samson was found weighing around 35 pounds. A dog of his age and breed should weigh around 60 pounds.

Marguerite Arnold, president of the Somerset-Pulaski County Humane Society, said that Samson's case was so horrific it caused her to lose sleep.

"Samson is so sweet and wagged his tail, even with that horrible chain in his neck," Arnold said.

PCSO stated that Samson has been released from the hospital and is being looked after by a foster family.

Arnold added, "He is recovering well, (and is) so sweet and well behaved considering the horror he endured. The vet estimated the chain was put on when he was a puppy. He's 3 years old (now)."

The Humane Society said that Samson's bills were around \$460 as of Tuesday afternoon.

They are asking for help



SUBMITTED

Samson the dog is recovering after having been found malnourished and with a chain embedded in his neck.

from the public to help pay those bills, either by sending a check to P.O. Box 448, Somerset, Ky., 42502; by PayPal at info@bhumane.org; by donating through the Somerset-Pulaski County Humane Society Somerset KY Facebook page; or taking cash or a check to the Somerset Animal Hospital, located at 125 Ky. 2227.

PCSO states that Martin and Webster were taken into custody Monday and lodged in the Pulaski County Detention Center in lieu of a \$10,000 bond.

Readers are reminded that a charge is an accusation only, and that all suspects are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Dr. Corey Moore named SCC Dean of Health Sciences

CHRISTEN GIBSON
KCTCS.EDU

Somerset Community College announced Dr. Corey Moore as its new Dean of Health Sciences. Since 2023, Dr. Moore has served as the Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Program Director at SCC, demonstrating an unwavering commitment to compassionate patient care and excellence in healthcare education. His leadership promises to further elevate SCC's tradition of excellence in health sciences.

Dr. Moore's journey in physical therapy began as a high school athlete recovering from a hamstring injury. This experience introduced him to the field, but it was his mother's courageous battle with a brain tumor that truly ignited his passion for compassionate care. Witnessing the transformative difference empathy made in his mother's recovery, Dr. Moore committed himself to instilling those values in the next generation of healthcare professionals.

After gaining his undergraduate degree at Middle Tennessee State University in 2014, initially interested in the sports side of physical therapy, Dr. Moore chose to attend Western Kentucky University for his Doctor of Physical Therapy Degree to stay close to his mother. There, he met his wife, and together, their shared dedication to the field brought them to Somerset, where they found both community and purpose.

"Somerset wasn't on my radar, but when my wife and I both found jobs here, we answered the call," Dr. Moore said. "This community welcomed us, and it's been a privilege to serve."

Originally from Murfreesboro, TN, Dr. Moore now resides in Somerset with his wife and their young child. As active members of the community, they look forward to helping shape the future of healthcare in the region.

Throughout his career, Dr. Moore has served elderly and underserved populations, including providing care at Somerset Nursing and Rehab, Somerwoods Nursing and Rehab, and Wayne County Hospital. These experiences deepened his dedication to compassionate healthcare.

"I was able to give back to the same types of populations my mother was once part of—populations in need of genuine compassion. During the COVID-19 pandemic, that need was greater than ever," Moore said.

Dr. Moore began his journey at SCC in 2021 as a guest lecturer. By 2023, he had advanced to Program Director of the Physical Therapist Assistant Program.

Teaching was always Dr. Moore's



Dr. Corey Moore

calling. He brought his compassion-centered approach directly into the classroom at SCC, shaping future healthcare professionals with empathy at the core.

"In clinical practice, I could help a dozen patients each day. At SCC, I teach 15 students who will go on to touch countless lives throughout their careers. The ripple effect of teaching means compassionate care can reach far beyond what I could achieve alone," Dr. Moore shared.

Dr. Corey Moore's leadership at SCC has been truly transformative. Under his guidance, all PTA Program graduating classes from 2023 to 2025 achieved a remarkable 100% Ultimate Pass Rating, with the Class of 2025 attaining a perfect first attempt pass rate. This exceptional achievement placed SCC among the very top PTA programs in the nation.

Personally, Dr. Moore won the Margy Blankenship Award for Excellence in Health Sciences Leadership at SCC in May of 2025.

SCC Provost Dr. Ron Meade praised Dr. Moore, "Dr. Moore has been an exemplary faculty member, and we expect great things from him in this new role. He is committed to developing regional and national models of excellence amongst all our healthcare programs."

Dr. Moore cites a quote from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. that encapsulates his vision for healthcare:

"Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education."

As Dean, Dr. Moore intends to expand his vision throughout all 15 Health Science Career Pathways at SCC. He is dedicated to ensuring that every student recognizes the importance of treating patients with respect and humanity.

"Truly excellent healthcare providers possess strong character," Moore said. "Those who excel are the ones who lead with compassion. Excellence begins with intelligence, but it is realized and achieved through character."

SCC opens Summer & Fall 2026 registration

CHRISTEN GIBSON
KCTCS.EDU

Somerset Community College announces that enrollment for the Summer & Fall 2026 semesters will be open March 1, offering expanded pathways to help meet Kentucky's urgent workforce needs. SCC's programs are designed to provide Kentuckians—whether recent high school graduates or adult learners, with affordable, flexible routes to high-demand, rewarding careers.

Kentucky's labor market faces significant challenges and opportunities. According to the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, the state needs 130,000 additional workers by 2027 to meet employer demand (KY Chamber Workforce Center, 2024). In November 2025, Kentucky reported 101,000 job openings, with a 4.7% job-openings rate, higher than the national average of 4.3% (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, November 2025).

SCC President Dr. Carey Castle emphasized, "We are committed to preparing Kentuckians for the careers our communities need

most. Whether you want to earn a transfer degree, a job-ready credential, or upskill for a new opportunity, SCC is here to help you succeed."

SCC's career-focused programs are aligned with local employer needs, particularly in manufacturing, construction, healthcare, and logistics. Graduates from Kentucky community colleges see a median annual wage increase of over \$9,000 compared to those with only a high school diploma (Kentucky Center for Statistics, 2025 Outcomes Report).

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, SCC enrollment has seen a significant rise. In Fall 2020, enrollment stood at 4,840 students, but by Fall 2025, this number had grown to 7,098—a remarkable 46.7% increase over five years.

To address barriers like cost and scheduling, SCC offers the lowest tuition in the state, significantly lower than most four-year institutions, and flexible options including online, evening, and accelerated courses. Financial aid and Work Ready Kentucky



Scholarships are available for eligible students pursuing high-demand fields.

The eligible sectors for the Work Ready Kentucky scholarship are Construction, Education, Healthcare, Manufacturing and Logistics, Professional, Scientific and Technical Services.

Reserve your spot in your desired program or class by enrolling NOW! Do not wait until the last minute. SCC has advisors to help you every step of the way. Fill out a free application at somerset.kctcs.edu and step into your rewarding career.

Applications for Fall 2026 are now being accepted online at somerset.kctcs.edu. For more information, visit the SCC website or contact the Admissions Office at (606) 679-8501.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The Housing Authority of Somerset is currently accepting bids for office cleaning. Please contact the office at 606.679.1332 and speak with Hilary or Austyn to schedule a time to view the office.
Deadline to submit a bid is March 19th at 4:00pm.

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