



TRIUMPH OVER TORTURE

A UTD graduate student was sentenced to six years in prison for animal cruelty. One cat died; the other lives on.

FATIMAH AZEEM | Editor-in-Chief
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UTD graduate student Shubhankar Kawle was sentenced to six and a half years in prison on Aug. 31 for torturing two house cats, one of whom had to be euthanized due to severe injuries; the other had a limb amputated and made a full recovery.

Kawle was charged with cruelty to non-livestock animals, which is a third-degree felony in the state of Texas when it involves torture, serious bodily injury or death. Kawle was taken into immediate custody upon the conclusion of his trial on Aug. 31 at the Hunt County Courthouse, 354th District Court. Clerk documents from Hunt County Courthouse show that Kawle appealed for a retrial on Sept. 11. Kawle is seeking a community supervision sentence instead of imprisonment, which means that if successful, he would live outside prison but be monitored by county probation departments. However, as Kawle is in the U.S. on an F1 student VISA, he may be deported to India once he is finished serving time.

Kawle came under suspicion after Katheryn Montgomery, whom Kawle had briefly dated, discovered signs of abuse against her two cats Mango and Nimbus in October 2021. The pair met in August on a dating app after Montgomery's divorce and began seeing each other. Montgomery would give Kawle rides from his residence in Richardson to her house in Quinlan, where he would occasionally watch over her cats while she was away.

"He was always very kind and sweet. When he first came over, he was actually scared of the cats," Montgomery said. "He said that he had never been around cats before ... he was so timid ... He didn't show any violent tendencies or anything."

“MANGO'S AMAZING. HE IS THE MOST AMAZING CAT I'VE EVER SEEN. HE WAS BORN IN THIS HOUSE AND HE'S ALWAYS MY BEST FRIEND. JUST LISTEN TO YOUR ANIMALS. THEY'LL TELL YOU IF THE PERSON'S GOOD OR BAD. I FORGOT THERE WERE MONSTERS IN THE WORLD.”

—KATHERYN MONTGOMERY MANGO & NIMBUS'S OWNER

In 2021 Montgomery began to notice unusual injuries on Mango and Nimbus. In September, Mango was left alone in a room with Kawle, where, unbeknownst to Montgomery, he abused the cat, leaving Mango with severe enough injuries that his front leg had to be amputated. Afterwards, Montgomery discovered that Kawle had clipped both cats' nails — a painful procedure typically done by a professional — too short likely because they were scratching him.

"[Kawle] told me at the time that Mango was outside and fell out of a broken window," Montgomery said. "But I had fixed the window and put plastic over it. So it didn't make sense that he would fall out ... The cats were best friends, but during that time they started to not like

SEE CAT, PAGE 11



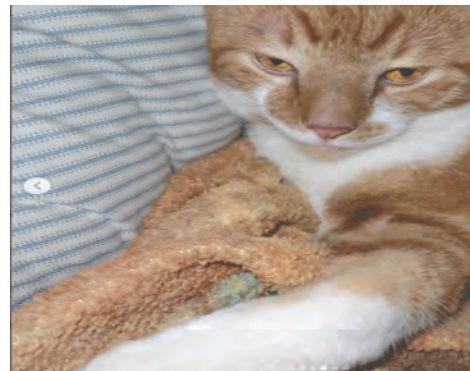
Mango, pictured to the right, is one of two cats that UTD student Shubhankar Kawle tortured. Mango survived Kawle's abuse but had to have his front leg amputated. The photo the right was taken right after Mango's surgery.

KATHERYN MONTGOMERY | COURTESY

MANGO RECOVERY TIMELINE



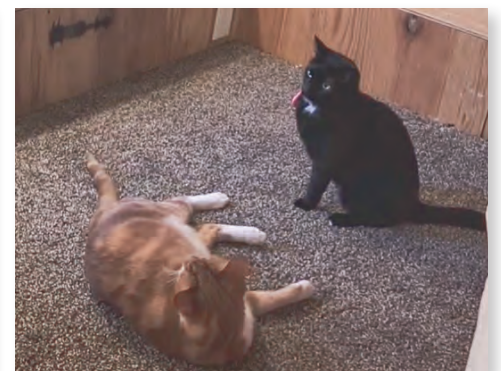
Mango and Nimbus in August 2021. Nimbus was euthanized in October 2023 after sustaining severe injuries from Kawle's abuse.



Montgomery discovered Mango with a broken paw in September 2021, believing he had fallen out of her second story window.



Mango in September 2021 returning home from surgery. Mango's injuries were serious enough that his leg was amputated, although he has made a full recovery.



Mango and Gracie in February 2022. Gracie is an amputee who Montgomery adopted from a shelter in October 2021.

McDermott library ramps up security



Those entering the library must tap their Comet Card to open the security doors. Outside visitors must check in at the desk.

SAROSH ISMAIL
Mercury Staff

UTD's McDermott Library implemented a new card reading system on Aug. 28, requiring students and staff to scan their Comet Cards when entering and exiting to improve building security.

At the end of spring 2023, the library required those entering to show their Comet Cards between the hours of 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. In fall 2023, a 24/7 card scanner with doors was added to match other schools in the UT system, like UT Arlington. Library officials also helped to address the reduced video quality of cameras at night and pre-

vent issues with vandalism and theft.

"Last year we had over 100 books vandalized," Dean of McDermott Library Ellen Safley said. "We also want to prevent theft ... [and] this year has been an improvement from May with the card system."

The system requires students to scan their Comet Card upon entering and exiting. Cognitive science sophomore Vidhi Pujara said there was a good reason to have added security.

"It definitely makes me feel better that active patrolling is occurring while I'm studying there to ensure that I am safe," Pujara said. "It feels tedious having to constantly

pull out my card, but I think everyone just has to get used to it."

Before implementing security in August, the library ensured that the added doors between the turnstiles would not interfere with emergency response. Fire drills were run to ensure students could safely exit the building, and the entrance was tested to ensure paramedics could move in essential equipment like stretchers.

Along with the card system, the library now has an app called Ex Libris Library Mobile that students can download. Safley

SEE LIBRARY, PAGE 11