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Man banned from owning animals

AN Antrim man has been fined £350 and banned from keeping any animal for the next 12 months.

Adrian Hines (42) of Raceview, Muckamore, appeared at Antrim Magistrates Court charged with offences relating to an incident on March 14 this year.

The court was told that the USPCA had called at the defendant's home following a report concerning a dog that was being kept there.

The found the dog, a German Shepherd, in a malnourished state with fur hanging off it. The court was told that the dog appeared to have been starved as the ribs were clearly visible through the skin.

The defendant handed the dog over the USPCA and gave over the rights to ownership.

Hines' solicitor told the court that the dog had been a family pet which had had a skin condition last year

which had been treated by a vet.

"The condition was rectified with the treatment from the vet but it returned earlier this year," the solicitor said.

He added: "He foolishly thought he could treat the animal himself and bought the same treatment but this did not help.

"He admits he should have then sought treatment."

The solicitor also provided the court with pictures of the dog when it was healthy, adding the dog had been well look after and that there was plenty of dog food in the house.

"He just allowed things to get out of hand," the solicitor added.

The court was told the dog was now doing well and had recovered with the hope it would soon be rehomed.

Hines was fined £350 and banned from owning or keeping any animal for 12 months.