



South Carolina

STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Henry D. McMaster, Governor

Mark A. Keel, Chief

P.O. Box 21398
Columbia, South Carolina
29221-1398

WWW.SLED.SC.GOV

(803) 737-9000

FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE March 27, 2026

Renée Wunderlich
Director of Public Information

SLED HELPS RESCUE 22 DOGS, CHARGES SALUDA COUNTY MAN WITH ANIMAL FIGHTING AND ILL TREATMENT OF ANIMALS

The South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) charged Devante Ryheem Scott, 31, with Animal Fighting or Baiting and Ill Treatment of Animals on Tuesday, March 24, 2026.

Details can be found in the attached warrants.

Scott was booked into the Saluda County Detention Center.

The case will be prosecuted by the 11th Circuit Solicitor's Office.

SLED was assisted by the Saluda County Sheriff's Office and a local animal rescue organization.

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SLED news releases are published on SLED's website: www.sled.sc.gov
For media inquiries, please email SLED's Public Information Office: pio@sled.sc.gov

ARREST WARRANT

2026A4110100044

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Saluda

THE STATE
against

202508126

Devante Ryheem Scott

Address:

Saluda, SC 29138-8231

Phone: _____ SSN: _____
 Sex: M Race: B Height: 5 7 Weight: 200
 DL State: SC DL #: _____
 DOB: 994 Agency ORI #: SCLED0000
 Prosecuting Agency: State Law Enforcement Division
 Prosecuting Officer: Jonathan L Nelson - S00528
 Offense: Animals / Animal Fighting or Baiting Act, penalty

Offense Code: 0540Code/Ordinance Sec: 16-27-0030This warrant is **CERTIFIED FOR SERVICE** in the☐ County/ ☐ Municipality of

The accused
 is to be arrested and brought before me to be
 dealt with according to the law.

(L.S.)

Signature of Judge

Date:

RETURN

A copy of this arrest warrant was delivered to
 defendant Devante Scott

on 3/24/26 Sherm M. Jones

Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

RETURN WARRANT TO:

General Sessions
 100 East Church Street, Suite 6
 Saluda, SC 29138

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ORIGINAL

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Saluda

Personally appeared before me the affiant Jonathan L Nelson whobeing duly sworn deposes and says that defendant Devante Ryheem Scottdid within this county and state on or about 3/24/2026

violate the criminal laws of the

State of South Carolina (or ordinance of ☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Saluda

in the following particulars:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Animals / Animal Fighting or Baiting Act, penalty

I further state that there is probable cause to believe that the defendant named above did commit
 the crime set forth and that probable cause is based on the following facts:

That on March 24, 2026 in the city/county of Saluda, one Devante Ryheem Scott did knowingly allow use of a facility under his/her
 control or an animal under his/her control to be used for the purpose of animal fighting or baiting. See attached Affidavit

Signature of Affiant

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Saluda

Affiant's Address P. O. Box 21398Columbia, SC 29221-

Affiant's Telephone _____

ARREST WARRANT

TO ANY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THIS STATE OR MUNICIPALITY OR ANY CONSTABLE OF THIS COUNTY:

It appearing from the above affidavit that there are reasonable grounds to believe that

on or about 3/24/2026defendant Devante Ryheem Scott

did violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina (or ordinance of

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of Saluda

) as set forth below:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Animals / Animal Fighting or Baiting Act, penalty

Having found probable cause and the above affiant having sworn before me, you are empowered and directed to arrest the said defendant and bring him or
 her before me forthwith to be dealt with according to law. A copy of this Arrest Warrant shall be delivered to the defendant at the time of its execution, or as
 soon thereafter as is practicable
 Sworn to and subscribed before me

on 3/24/2026

(L.S.)

Signature of Issuing Judge

William Robin FreemanJudge Code: 7434Judge's Address 108 South Rudolph StreetSaluda, SC 29138-Judge's Telephone (864)445-4500Issuing Court: ☒ Magistrate☐ Municipal☐ Circuit

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Form Approved by
 S.C. Attorney General
 April 21, 2003
 SCCA 518

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

AFFIDAVIT

COUNTY OF: Saluda

Personally appeared before me, a magistrate of this County, the affiant, one S/A Jon Nelson, South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) who first being duly sworn, deposes and says that defendant,

Devante Ryheem Scott

did within this County and State on or about March 24, 2026, violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina in the following particulars:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE
Animal Fighting or Baiting Act

VIOLATION
16-27-0030 CDR 0540

The affiant further states that there is probable cause to believe that the defendant named above did commit the crime(s) set forth, and that such probable cause is based on the following facts:

On or about 3/24/26, the Defendant, Devante SCOTT did commit the offense of Animal Fighting or Baiting at [REDACTED] Saluda, SC. Facts to establish: On March 24, 2026, the State Law Enforcement Division Dog Fighting Unit executed a search warrant at the defendant's address. 22 pit bull style dogs were located on the property. Numerous dogs have scarring, open wounds, inadequate housing, and are restrained with heavy chains. The scarring and open wounds along with the use of heavy logging chains are consistent with persons who fight dogs as well as being in close proximity to each other to keep them in an agitated state. All of the above is believed to be true based on the investigation of SLED & violates S.C. Code of Laws section 16-27-0030.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 24
day of MARCH, 2026.



Signature of Issuing Judge (L.S.)



Signature of Affiant

Affiant's Address: P.O. Box 21398
Columbia, SC 29221
Affiant's Telephone: (843) 896-7253

2026A4110100043

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/☐ Municipality of

Saluda

THE STATE

202508126

against

Devante Ryheem Scott

Address:

Saluda, SC 29138-8231

Phone: SSN: [REDACTED]

Sex: M Race: B Height: 5'7" Weight: 200

DL State: SC DL #: [REDACTED]

DOB: 1994 Agency ORI #: SCLED0000

Prosecuting Agency: State Law Enforcement Division

Prosecuting Officer: Jonathan L Nelson - S00528

Offense: Animals / Ill treatment of animals in general,

torture

Offense Code: 2804

Code/Ordinance Sec: 47-01-0040(B)

This warrant is CERTIFIED FOR SERVICE in the

☐ County/ ☐ Municipality of

The accused

is to be arrested and brought before me to be

dealt with according to the law.

(L.S.)

Signature of Judge

Date:

RETURN

A copy of this arrest warrant was delivered to

defendant Devante Ryheem Scotton 3-24-2026

Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

RETURN WARRANT TO:

General Sessions

100 East Church Street, Suite 6

Saluda, SC 29138

DEFENDANT COPY DEFENDANT COPY DEFENDANT COPY DEFENDANT COPY DEFENDANT COPY DEFENDANT COPY DEFENDANT COPY

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Saluda

AFFIDAVIT

COPY

SCCA 518

Personally appeared before me the affiant Jonathan L Nelson whobeing duly sworn deposes and says that defendant Devante Ryheem Scottdid within this county and state on or about 1/13/2026 violate the criminal laws of theState of South Carolina (or ordinance of ☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of Saluda)

in the following particulars:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Animals / Ill treatment of animals in general, torture

I further state that there is probable cause to believe that the defendant named above did commit the crime set forth and that probable cause is based on the following facts:

That on January 13, 2026, in the county of Saluda, one Devante Ryheem Scott did commit the crime of Animals / Ill treatment of animals in general, torture in that he/she did See attached Affidavit

Signature of Affiant

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Saluda

Affiant's Address P. O. Box 21398Columbia, SC 29221-

Affiant's Telephone

ARREST WARRANT

TO ANY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THIS STATE OR MUNICIPALITY OR ANY CONSTABLE OF THIS COUNTY:

It appearing from the above affidavit that there are reasonable grounds to believe that

on or about 1/13/2026 defendant Devante Ryheem Scott

did violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina (or ordinance of

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of Saluda) as set forth below:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Animals / Ill treatment of animals in general, torture

Having found probable cause and the above affiant having sworn before me, you are empowered and directed to arrest the said defendant and bring him or her before me forthwith to be dealt with according to law. A copy of this Arrest Warrant shall be delivered to the defendant at the time of its execution, or as soon thereafter as is practicable

Sworn to and subscribed before me

on 3/19/2026

Signature of Issuing Officer

William Robin Freeman

Judge Code: 7434

(L.S.)

Judge's Address 108 South Rudolph StreetSaluda, SC 29138-Judge's Telephone (864)445-4500Issuing Court: ☒ Magistrate ☐ Municipal ☐ Circuit

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

AFFIDAVIT

COUNTY OF: Saluda

Personally appeared before me, a magistrate of this County, the affiant, one S/A Jon Nelson, South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) who first being duly sworn, deposes and says that defendant.

Devante Ryheem Scott

did within this County and State on or about January 13, 2026, violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina in the following particulars:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE

Ill-Treatment of Animals

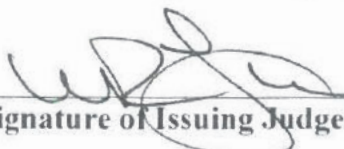
VIOLATION

47-1-0040 (B) CDR 2804

The affiant further states that there is probable cause to believe that the defendant named above did commit the crime(s) set forth, and that such probable cause is based on the following facts:

On or about 1/13/26, the Defendant, Devante SCOTT did commit the offense of Ill-Treatment of Animals at [REDACTED] Saluda, SC. Facts to establish: On January 13, 2026, the State Law Enforcement Division Dog Fighting Unit witnessed pit bull style dogs tethered with heavy logging style chains at the defendant's address. There were also numerous blue barrels lying on the ground that are used for makeshift shelters, which do not constitute adequate housing. All of the above is believed to be true based on the investigation of SLED & violates S.C. Code of Laws section 47-1-0040 (B).

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 19TH
day of MARCH, 2026.



Signature of Issuing Judge (L.S.)



Signature of Affiant

Affiant's Address: P.O. Box 21398
Columbia, SC 29221
Affiant's Telephone: (843) 896-7253