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Cat Hair Leads To Charges In Murder Of Contractor

Polk Held On \$300,000 Bond

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KANSAS CITY, Mo. -- Cat hair helped investigators bring charges against a Kansas City man in the murder of a self-employed contractor last year.



Henry Lee Polk (pictured, left), 40, is accused of first-degree murder and armed-criminal action in the death of Stephen M. Nolte.

Nolte was found dead by a relative at a home he was working on in the 5500 block of North Troost on March 8, 2004.

Investigators found cat hairs on the victim's pockets that had been turned inside out.

Officers learned that Polk kept several cats at his home.

The hairs from the crime scene were sent to a California laboratory.

"The results of these tests indicated a genetic DNA match between a hair found on the victim and two of the cats from the Polk residence," Clay County Prosecutor Daniel L. White said in a press release.

According to court documents, a witness told investigators that Polk went to the home on North Troost on March 7, 2004 to talk to Nolte about money he was owed for installing carpet for him.

The witness also told investigators that Polk later took Nolte's pickup truck and dropped it off in Kansas City, Kan. Two days after the murder, the witness claimed Polk had her drive him to a spot in Liberty where she saw him burn clothing that he was allegedly wearing the night of Nolte's murder.

Polk is being held on \$300,000 bond.

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