

Police say Georgia mom forced son to kill hamster



This undated photo provided by the Meriwether County, Ga., Sheriff's Department shows Lynn Middlebrooks Geter. Geter, 38, is charged with one count each of animal cruelty, child cruelty and battery after she forced her son to kill his pet hamster with a hammer as punishment for bad grades. (AP Photo/Meriwether County Sheriff's Department)

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WARM SPRINGS, Ga.—A Georgia woman is in jail after police say she forced her son to kill his pet hamster with a hammer as punishment for bad grades.

The sheriff of rural Meriwether County told the Atlanta Journal-Constitution Thursday that the 12-year-old boy told his teacher about the killing. The teacher reported it to the Division of Family and Child Services, who contacted police.

Sheriff Steve Whitlock said 38-year-old Lynn Middlebrooks Geter of Warm Springs faces one charge each of animal cruelty, child cruelty and battery. The sheriff's office said she remained in the Meriwether County jail early Friday. It was not immediately known if she had a lawyer.

Meriwether County is located about 90 minutes southwest of Atlanta.

Information from: The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, <http://www.ajc.com> ■

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