

----- Original Message -----

Subject: SHG Press Release - RSPCA Cruelty figures at a ten year low
Date: Tue, 03 Oct 2006 12:53:00 +0100
From: The Shg Org <shg@the-shg.org>
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To: <undisclosed recipients>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The RSPCA claims that cruelty figures have risen. Their own figures for the past ten years show that cruelty convictions are actually lower now than in 1995. Over the past decade the figures peaked around the turn of the century and then steadily declined.

(All data sourced from RSPCA Annual Reviews and Press Releases)

Any living animal coming into their care has only a 50% chance of life.

It is clear that the figures released by the RSPCA have, at best, been misunderstood.

For a full analysis of the figures and comment see [Attachment 1](#).

For RSPCA data 1995 - 2005 see the Excel spreadsheet [Attachment 2](#).

Notes to Editors: -

For further comment please contact Anne Kasica on 01559 371031 or Ernest Vine on 01559 370566. Mobile 07719 367148. e-mail: shg@the-shg.org

The SHG was officially formed in June 1990 and has been helping people to defend themselves and their animals from the RSPCA ever since. The national helpline number is *08700 72 66 89*

Background information on the Self Help Group for Farmers Pet Owners and Other Experiencing Difficulties with the RSPCA can be found at <http://www.the-shg.org>

Details of further criticisms of the RSPCA can be found at the RSPCA-Animadversion website: <http://cheetah.webtribe.net/~animadversion>

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Commentary RSPCA Data 1995 – 2005

(All data sourced from RSPCA Annual Reviews and Press Releases)

The RSPCA claims that cruelty figures have risen. Their own figures for the past ten years show that cruelty convictions are actually lower now than in 1995. (Sheet 2).

It is clear that the figures released by the RSPCA have, at best, been misunderstood.

An analysis of the figures for 2000 compared with 2005 shows that

RSPCA Statistics		
2000 compared to 2005		
Workload		
Phone calls received*	Down	36.60%
Complaints investigated*	Down	12.55%
Rescues*	Up	6.06%

Inspections [*]	Down	94.65%
Animal collections [*]	Down	23.10%
Cruelty statistics		
Prosecutions ^{[1]*}	Up	94.66%
Convictions	Down	16.26%
Defendants	Down	4.35%
Penalties for cruelty		
Prison sentences	Down	46.62%
Banning orders	Down	6.83%
Defendants who could have been banned but were not	Down	28.64%
Homes found, treatments & destructions		
Homes found [*]	Down	27.50%
Treatments [*]	Down	11.73%
Humane destructions [*]	Up	85.70%
Destructions for medical reasons [*]	Down	34.32%
Finances		
Income	Up	53.12%
Cost of generating funds	Up	88.23%
Productivity (work unit) ^[2]	Down	24.31%
Cost per work unit	Up	38.43%

1. RSPCA failed to publish prosecutions in the 2005 Annual Review. RSPCA sources suggest 1604 prosecutions for 2005.

2. Work Unit^{*} is direct cost per activity undertaken by the RSPCA divided by expenditure for year.

Also sourced from the RSPCA's own figures, any living animal coming into their care has only a 50% chance of life.

Comparison RSPCA stats 1995 – 2000 – 2005

Workload	1995	2000	2005
Phone calls received	1,223,828	1,558,131	1,169,057
Complaints investigated	110,175	124,374	110,841
Rescues	6,265	8,680	13,907

Inspections	20,294	16,941	774
Animal collections		143,659	138,563
Cruelty Statistics			
Prosecutions	812	853	1,604
Convictions	2,201	3,114	2,071
Defendants	981	1,125	1,013
Penalties for Cruelty			
Prison sentences	23	73	31
Banning orders	650	819	749
Defendants who could have been banned but were not	225	249	162
Homes Found, Treatments & Destructions			
Homes found		99,619	69,900
Treatments		286,540	247,940
Humane destructions		3,227	2,988
Destructions for medical reasons		87,725	58,420
Finances			
Income x 1000	£37,311	£66,612	£99,959
Expenditure x 1000	£40,169	£71,012	£73,150
Cost of generating funds x 1000		£7,341	£13,821
Cost per work unit		£29.14	£40.34

Prosecution figures are unavailable for 2004 and 2005. The RSPCA have not released them. They have changed the way they report them. Highlighted figures in red were obtained from a July RSPCA press release and were labelled 'cases reported'.

Anyone who has seen the media reviews would believe that cruelty figures have increased by massive percentages, yet the RSPCA's own data shows that over a decade the figures peaked around the turn of the century and then steadily declined.

A comparison of the figures for the past ten years can be found in the attached Excel Spreadsheet

N.B. Two different sets of figures? The RSPCA annual report details resources expended on prosecutions as £5.5 million but in the July Information Cruelty Statistics the costs are just over £3 million. Which set of figures is correct?

Conclusion

“The SHG again calls for a full Public Inquiry into the RSPCA and its activities.”

“The SHG believes there should be a stay on the progress of the AWB until the statistics provided by the RSPCA in support of it have been properly and independently audited,”

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Financial data	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Income x 1000	37,311,	43,435,	53,971,	50,777,	57,492,	66,612,	69,933,	79,641,	83,875,	90,157,	99,959,
Expenditure x 1000	40,169	40,787,	48,017,	54,325,	63,304,	71,012,	70,449,	69,083,	69,297,	68,810,	73,150,
Costs of generating funds x 1000	-	-	-	-	-	7,341,	7,879,	11,156,	9,983,	12,633,	13,821,
Balance x 1000	109,552,	119,037	161,305,	163302,	172,756,	162,474	144,797,	133,238	145,306,	139,603,	163,984,
Workload											
Phone calls received	1,223,828	1,303,481	1,397,516	1,558,131	1,572,344	1,592,673	1,509,317	1,443,156	1279953	1,151,088	1,169,057
Complaints investigated	110,175	101,751	133,664	124,374	132,021	126,746	123,156	114,004	105,932	109,985	110,841
Rescues	6,265	6,982	8,255	8,680	9,927	13,112	11,947	11,311	11,806	12,560	13,907
Inspections	20,294	18,293	21,531	16,941	15,708	14,452	8,264	2,557	3,166	1,044	744
Animal collections	-	116,093	169,846	143,659	156,721	180,168	184,706	183,609	182,570	157,482	138,563
Cruelty statistics											
Prosecutions	812	790	872	853	701	824	736	699	708	1,507	1,604
Convictions	2,201	2,282	2,650	3,114	2,715	2,473	2,449	2,000	1,829	1,665	2,071
Defendants	981	971	1,195	1,125	971	1,059	949	910	928	868	1,013
Penalties for cruelty											
Prison sentences	23	55	57	73	60	57	61	64	55	44	31
Banning orders	650	681	795	819	723	787	734	880	698	695	749
Defendants who could have been banned but were not	225	222	261	249	170	227	176	187	168	223	162
Homes found, Treatments & Destructions											
Homes Found	-	79,492	88,216	99,619	-	96,403	90,689	82,936	69,956	69,787	69,900
Treatments	-	264,999	272,499	286,540	-	280,880	247,310	261,988	263,155	238,265,	247,940,
Humane Destructions	-	3,999	2,871	3,227	-	1,609	4,244	3,703	2,857	3,092	2,988
Destructions for Medical Reasons	-	63,216	84,866	87,725	-	88,938	80,738	68,950	61,752	61,789	58,420
Total Destructions	-				-						