

**The Self Help Group for Farmers, Pet Owners and Others
Experiencing Difficulties with the RSPCA (The SHG)**

Press Release

For Immediate Release

8th October 2009

RSPCA ATTEMPTS TO CENSOR THE INTERNET AND SUPPRESS CRITICISM

The German Shepherd Rescue network ("GSR") has, during the course of a superb and highly-successful internet-based campaign, drawn international attention to the RSPCA's hypocritical annual slaughter of many thousands of healthy dogs. The GSR campaign focuses on ten German Shepherd dogs ("GSDs") who were slaughtered together in Pontadarwe in July this year by RSPCA inspectors using a captive bolt pistol.

The national outcry and response from the national media has been huge. The RSPCA seems to have lost patience. Nothing they have said or done has been able to stem the flow of criticism.

Things have now taken a darker tone. The charity's highly-paid lawyers have written to Jayne Shenstone of the GSR in threatening tones.

They claim that the RSPCA owns the trade mark of the acronym RSPCA "in both upper and lower case". Part of a communication from top RSPCA commercial lawyer Amanda Gibbs states:

"In the circumstances, please provide me, by no later than 5pm today with details of how and when you acquired the RSPCA's approval and permission to use the RSPCA's registered trade marks on your website and/or any publications associated with your company. If we do not hear from you, we will have no option but to assume that you do not have any such permission. When reconsidering the content of your website and publications, please note that the protection afforded by the trade mark registration process and the Trade Marks Act 1994 effectively covers the use of the RSPCA acronym in upper and lower case."

Facebook has also been the subject of RSPCA action to try to muzzle the complaints and are removing content critical of the charity which uses the acronym "RSPCA" having received a notice that the content "infringes their copyright(s)."

Anne Kasica of the SHG said:

"We know that the RSPCA threatens journalists, defence lawyers and veterinary surgeons. However, if the state of our law is now, as the RSPCA's highly-paid lawyers claim, that one needs permission from the RSPCA to use the acronym 'RSPCA' then no criticism of this political and highly-secretive 'charity' will

ever see the light of day. The acronym 'RSPCA' has been in public use for years and we believe that people will keep using it. To do otherwise would mean the end of the right to comment - there would be no more cartoons in your local paper, no more columns and no more internet blogs

"We think we have the freedom to make fair comment in the UK. Have we finally lost the right to freedom of speech to those organisations, like the RSPCA, with the financial clout to bully people like Jayne Shenstone into submission?"

The SHG's Ernest Vine, invited people to go to the German Shepherd rescue site at <http://germanshepherdrescue.co.uk/gsd-shot-by-rspca.html> straight away and said:

"People should go there while they still can and see what the RSPCA did to those poor dogs."

"Ask yourself whether this is really an issue about trademark infringement."

"The SHG is encouraging everyone to go to their MP or Assembly Member and raise these very serious issues. Do we really want so-called charities like the RSPCA to be completely immune from legitimate criticism?"

"We at the SHG have been demanding a full public inquiry into the RSPCA and their activities for years."

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Notes to Editors: -

1. The captive bolt is a slaughterer's weapon, but it is not used to kill. It is used to stun animals before they are killed by "bleeding out" in the slaughterhouse.
2. It seems that captive bolts are now being used by RSPCA employees to "euthanize" animals which are rescued or which come into its possession when owners die.
3. It is not known how the GSD's died, but RSPCA Headquarters confirmed in several releases that they all did and that captive bolts were used on all. It is not known how many times each animal had to be "bolted" before they were sufficiently stunned.
4. The SHG has previously highlighted rumours that the RSPCA was using the weapon to save money on the massive amount of killing that it does.
5. GSR is a network of over two hundred volunteers who specialise in rehoming GSDs - the RSPCA failed to contact any of them, or anyone they know, with a view to rehoming the dogs that were killed.

References:

[BBC NEWS | UK | Wales | South West Wales | Row as dogs put down by ...](#)

31 Aug 2009 ... eight RSPCA officers, a decision was made that the most humane form of euthanasia would be to use a captive bolt, said the spokesman. ...

news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/wales/south.../8230378.stm

[RSPCA puts down 10 German Shepherds with bolt gun - Telegraph](#)

31 Aug 2009 ... An organisation which re-homes German Shepherd dogs has condemned the ... The RSPCA said relatives of the owner, who lived at Pontardawe, ...

www.telegraph.co.uk/.../RSPCA-puts-down-10-German-Shepherds-with-bolt-gun.html

[RSPCA in bolt gun anger](#)

A furious Jayne Shenstone of German Shepherd Rescue told us: 'There is a large to 10 German Shepherd dogs at an address in Pontardawe, in South Wales. ...

www.ourdogs.co.uk/News/2009/Sep2009/.../rspca.htm

[The Self Help Group for Farmers, Pet Owners and Others ...](#)

captive bolt pistols then they should make it quite clear ... A copy of this and previous press releases from The SHG are online ...

the-shg.org/30%20August%202009.pdf

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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 help line number is **0844 700 66 90**

A copy of this and previous press releases from The SHG are online at <http://www.the-shg.org/SHGPressReleases.htm>

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>