

SHG Press Release

In the wake of **yet another failed animal welfare prosecution**, this time by the London Borough of Newham, which resulted from a combined RSPCA Special Operations Unit/local authority/police raid and which might lead to Newhams many other prosecutions being declared null and void, and which has further destroyed public confidence in the use of expert witnesses by prosecutors:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

29th November 2006

Following yet another failed animal welfare prosecution **The Self Help Group for Farmers, Pet Owners and Others experiencing difficulties with the RSPCA** (The SHG) again calls for every animal welfare prosecution to be scrutinised by the CPS.

Anne Kasica said: “This case has been an outrageous waste of public resources. It has been a political prosecution which has been the inevitable result of the RSPCA’s political activities and Mr. Gilbert and his family have suffered dreadfully as a result.”

“We call on the government to ensure that the new Animal Welfare Act is amended to ensure that this never happens again, and that strict training and continued review of all personnel responsible for enforcing it is imposed.”

The SHG believes that there should be absolutely no RSPCA involvement in local authority prosecutions and that when the new Inspectors are appointed under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 steps should be taken to ensure that they are not infiltrated by those with a political axe to grind.

Said Ernest Vine of the SHG: “It is imperative that the use of Expert Witnesses in prosecutions of any sort is immediately reviewed by the government. The system is failing to provide professional, objective and fair assessments of prosecution evidence and resulting in terrible injustices along with the utter waste of public funds and court and police time. This must never happen again. The animal owning public deserves to be protected from the activities of extremists who do not believe in pet shops, or in some cases even the owning of pets.”

Conclusion

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

The SHG asks the CPS to protect the public and call in every Animal Welfare Prosecution for a full and independent review before permitting the prosecution to go ahead.

The SHG demands a full review of the use of Expert Witnesses by prosecutors.

Notes to Editors: -

References

NEWHAM DOUBLE BLUNDER IN PET SHOP FIASCO

http://the-shg.org/Newham_Double_Blunder_in_Pet_Shop.html

RSPCA letter to every local authority stating their opposition to the sale of animals in pet shops

<http://cheetah.webtribe.net/~animadversion/rspca%20pet%20letter.htm>

Animal Rights & the Future of the Pet Industry

<http://the-shg.org/OATA.htm>

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 help line number is **08700 72 66 89**

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>

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