

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

**Press Release**

For Immediate Release

30<sup>th</sup> October 2009

**Police Confirm they are Investigating the RSPCA for Animal Cruelty**

Following many complaints to the Chief Constable, South Wales Police have confirmed that they are investigating the RSPCA and its inspectors in relation to ten acts of alleged cruelty to German Shepherd dogs, and other welfare offences.

It has not been confirmed whether any RSPCA employees have been suspended pending the results of the police investigation into their activities.

Jayne Shenstone from German Shepherd Rescue added:

"German Shepherd Rescue is pleased that its complaint against the RSPCA is being investigated by South Wales Police. These ten poor German Shepherd dogs were treated disgracefully by the RSPCA and its employees."

"The dogs were grabbed one by one with a grasper, shot in the head with a captive bolt and then left to die."

"The RSPCA is a member of The World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) and the International Companion Animal Management Coalition (ICAM) who specifically condemn any use of a captive bolt by anyone on dogs of any type."

"The RSPCA has claimed it's the only time they have heard of such a weapon being used like this, but captive bolts are routinely issued to inspectors."

"We look forward to an early confirmation that South Wales Police will proceed to PACE interviews. We believe that serious offences have been committed, and that they merit charges for both the RSPCA and the officers responsible."

Anne Kasica from the SHG said:

"It appears that South Wales Police are treating this in a professional and objective manner. We look forward to the outcome of their investigations and interviews with the RSPCA."

"We would comment that the RSPCA have recently been charging even more people -especially the young, sick and the old with new offences under the Animal Welfare Act (AWA). The RSPCA spent huge sums lobbying for the AWA, which criminalises any failure to meet animals' needs."

"In comparison to the RSPCA's treatment of these ten German Shepherd dogs, on 14 October 2009, farmer Ronald Norcliffe was fined £150 for failing to meet his cows 'psychological and ethological needs' following a prosecution by Kirklees Council. His failure was not providing his cattle with an electric light in the cow shed even though Mr. Norcliffe had no electricity in his farmhouse."

"Should the RSPCA be convicted of a criminal offence of cruelty to the animals then it would clearly place their position as a prosecuting authority for this specific type of offence in question."

**Ends**

**Word Total:** 402

**Notes to Editors:** -

Inspector Mark Hobrough of South Wales Police can be contacted on 01656 655555

Chief Constable of South Wales police Dr. Barbara Wilding can be contacted by e-mail:

[acpo.staff.office@south-wales.pnn.police.uk](mailto:acpo.staff.office@south-wales.pnn.police.uk)

**For further comment please contact:**

Jayne Shenstone spokeswoman for German Shepherd Rescue on 01568 797957

Or from the SHG:

Anne Kasica on 01559 371031

Ernest Vine on 01559 370566

Mobile 07534 056639.

e-mail: [shg@the-shg.org](mailto: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 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>

**References**

[Farmer fined for failing to meet 'psychological needs' of cow](#)

Telegraph.co.uk -Oct 14, 2009

Carol English, prosecuting, said: "He said the cattle were fine and he always kept them this way. He wouldn't keep the doors open as it was too cold. ...

[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. ...

[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, ...

[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. ...

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

captive bolt pistols then they should make it quite clear ...

International Companion Animal Management Coalition

<http://www.icam-coalition.org/resources.html>

World Society for the Protection of Animals

<http://www.wspa.org.uk/>