

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

Press Release

For Immediate Release
30th July 2008

**RSPCA Statistics 2008 are a sham built on human
and
animal suffering**

The new RSPCA figures indicate a huge rise in successful RSPCA prosecutions.

How have they achieved such spectacular results?

The SHG is releasing the contents of an e-mail we received today (29 July 2008) from Paul Watson, a Criminal Defence Solicitor in Middlesbrough:

"Anyone receiving a Summons issued in respect of an RSPCA prosecution may also receive a collection of statements supporting the RSPCA's case."

"The recipient should be aware that if he/she fails to appear or be legally represented at the first hearing of the summons, then the RSPCA will "proceed in absence" by simply reading out the statements to the Magistrates."

"The recipient will then be found guilty in his/her absence and the Magistrates will then be asked to issue a warrant not backed with bail."

"Such a warrant requires the Police to find that person, arrest and detain them until the next sitting of the Court."

"This has resulted in overnight detentions in the cells at the local Police Station and has caused very considerable distress to those detained."

"This practice is now being routinely used by the Solicitors instructed by the RSPCA to conduct prosecutions on their behalf in the Teesside/North Yorks/Co. Durham area and possibly further afield."

"We are taking one such case to the Teesside Crown Court to appeal the convictions of the family involved. It is to be hoped that the Appeal Judge will express some opinions as to the desirability or otherwise of this RSPCA tactic."

"We will let you know the result."

The SHG wants to know exactly how much of the RSPCA's increase in successful prosecutions has been the result of such underhand and disgraceful tactics.

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Notes to Editors: -

Paul Watson can be contacted on 01642 293427

References:

Previous SHG press releases on RSPCA figures:

RSPCA Cruelty figures at a ten year low and RSPCA figures misrepresent the facts

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

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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 **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>

