

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

Press Release

For Immediate Release

16th January 2008

**Coats for cold dogs - another "confusing" message
from the RSPCA**

The RSPCA's PR department put out a press release on 7 January 2009. It stated that young dogs, old dogs and those with thin or sparse coats could benefit from a coat and that letting your dog get cold was an offence. By 13 January 2009, it was warning the same dog owners that they faced prosecution if they followed this advice.

Anne Kasica of the SHG said:

"This is a very unfortunate state of affairs. The central message is that the RSPCA can do anything it likes. It can prosecute people for having thin dogs, or for having a fat dog. Given the way that evidence is handled, with their vets often producing several versions of their reports before the final one is disclosed, the only people who are safe from the RSPCA are people who don't keep an animal."

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Word Total: 141

Notes to Editors: -

References:

RSPCA: Keep wildlife and pets warm through the big freeze

Politics.co.uk, UK - 7 Jan 2009

... through the cold winter months safely," says Tim. Dogs with thin or sparse coats, who are very young or old may benefit from a coat when out exercising. ...

[http://www.politics.co.uk/opinion-formers/press-releases/opinion-former-index/animal-welfare/rspca-keep-wildlife-and-pets-warm-through-big-freeze-\\$1259146\\$366366.htm](http://www.politics.co.uk/opinion-formers/press-releases/opinion-former-index/animal-welfare/rspca-keep-wildlife-and-pets-warm-through-big-freeze-$1259146$366366.htm)

or

<http://tinyurl.com/98wpff>

Telegraph.co.uk RSPCA says people who dress up their dogs
could be prosecuted Telegraph.co.uk, United Kingdom - 13 Jan 2009Jo

Barr, RSPCA spokeswoman, said: "Dog owners should be aware that under the Animal Welfare Act that came into force in April 2007 they have a duty of care
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/4227567/RSPCA-says-people-who-dress-up-their-dogs-could-be-prosecuted.html>

or

<http://tinyurl.com/9ynk2h>

...Dog Owners Warned On Pet Dressing Sky News
<http://tinyurl.com/7fm38h>

IT'S 'HARMFUL' TO DRESS UP YOUR DOG UK Express
<http://www.express.co.uk/posts/view/79925/It-s-harmful-to-dress-up-your-dog>

Buy a doggie sweater, go to jail? Los Angeles Times
<http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/unleashed/2009/01/buy-a-doggie-sw.html>

Human Events

<http://www.humanevents.com/article.php?id=30266>

all 16 news articles

<http://news.google.co.uk/news?hl=en&tab=wn&ned=uk&ie=UTF-8&ncl=1292836304>

The SHG challenges the Crown Prosecution Service to Review every RSPCA prosecution after two RSPCA prosecutions collapse following evidence of witness coaching and court decides RSPCA expert veterinary evidence 'unsafe'.
<http://the-shg.org/29th%20December%202007.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>