

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

Press Release

For Immediate Release

24th January 2008

EX-RSPCA EMPLOYEE JAILED FOR 11 YEARS FOR ANIMAL RIGHTS OFFENCES

Former RSPCA employee Heather Nicholson was jailed for 11 years for her part in the animals rights SHAC attacks. The attacks focused on the hapless families of alleged suppliers to Huntingdon Life Sciences.

Ms. Nicholson, it seems, has much in common with Robin Webb. Like Mr. Webb, Ms Nicholson left her position in the RSPCA to join the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) and the SHAC conspiracy. Like Webb too, she left an ostensibly innocent job to pursue an extreme animal rights campaign.

Robin Webb was just one of several hard-line animal rights activists on the RSPCA's ruling council. He was recently found by Mr Justice Irwin to be a "pivotal figure" in the ALF. He was filmed by Channel 4's Dispatches offering advice on how to make a bomb and filmed again in the United States demonstrating how to make a different device.

Anne Kasica of the SHG said:

"Heather Nicholson may have been jailed for 11 years but there are plenty of extremists still at large and willing to step into her shoes."

"Many of them have strong links to organizations like the RSPCA. Because of this, many ordinary people - vets, lawyers, drivers and businessmen - have to live with threats on a daily basis."

"It is time that there was a full public inquiry into the membership and activities of the RSPCA and its employees."

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Notes to Editors: -

References:

Animal Rights and the future of the pet industry

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

A petition to the Prime Minister for a public Inquiry into the policies and running of the RSPCA received 2,029 signatures.

<http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/rspcainquiry/>

"SHAC" animal rights activists jailed for blackmail | Reuters
21 Jan 2009 ... Nicholson, 41, who was convicted of conspiracy to blackmail at a trial last year, was jailed for 11 years while Gregg Avery, 41, ...

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/UKNews1/idUKTRE50K2Z920090121>

Profiles: The "SHAC Seven" - animal rights extremists who waged hate ...

23 Dec 2008 ... He married Heather Nicholson after they met at protests against veal ... The 41-year-old life-long vegan used to work for the RSPCA but left ...

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/crime/article5389017.ece>

Profiles: Heather Nicholson and Gregg Avery | guardian.co.uk
23 Dec 2008 ... She worked for the RSPCA before joining SHAC in a senior ... and former wife Heather Nicholson - both committed animal rights activists. ...

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2008/dec/23/ukcrime-animalwelfare1>

Oxford wins court ruling over ALF

BBC News - Oct 13, 2006

A judge found Animal Liberation Front press officer Robin Webb was a "pivotal figure" in the organisation and should be subject to an injunction. ...

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/low/uk/6048228.stm>

The Guardian - Focus on animal activists

Guardian Unlimited - Aug 1, 2004

Robin Webb, spokesman for the ALF in the UK, regularly attends Shac conferences in the US where his incendiary speeches go down a storm with activists who ...

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2004/aug/01/animalwelfare.world>

Glaxo in bid to ban protesters

This is Local London - Apr 23, 2007

... representing the Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC) group, and Robin Webb, ... But Mr Avery, who is a spokesman for the SHAC group, which has been ...

http://www.thisislocallondon.co.uk/news/1346678.glaxo_in_bid_to_ban_protesters/

Robin Webb - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Robin Webb Webb was previously a member of the ruling council of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) ... runs the Animal Liberation Press Office in the UK ... In the footage, Webb appeared to offer advice on how to make a bomb. ...

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robin_Webb

Animals, Politics and Morality: Second Edition - by Robert Garner
- 2004 - Political Science - 285 pages

The new challenge came from a younger, even more militant, group centring on the BUAV. Thus, Kim Stallwood and [RSPCA Ruling Councillor] Angela Walder set up the RSPCA Action Group ...

<http://books.google.co.uk/books?isbn=0719066212...>

SPEAK campaign - Wikipedia,

In November 2004 the university obtained an injunction against a number of ... The newspaper has named Mel Broughton, Robin Webb, and Amanda King as three ...

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SPEAK_\(animals\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SPEAK_(animals))

More results from

<http://en.wikipedia.org/>>

Judgement of Mr Justice Gibbs:

University of Oxford v Broughton

... Robin Webb (a spokesman for ALF) and Mr. Broughton the first Defendant speaking on behalf of SPEAK campaigns. Greg Avery of SHAC is reported as saying: ...

<http://oxcheps.new.ox.ac.uk/new/casebook/cases/Cases Chapter 23/University of Oxford v Broughton.doc>

Oxford injunction extension 'necessary to protect staff ...

18 May 2006 ... and their previous history implicated three of them - Mel Broughton, ... Robin Webb, Amanda Richards, Greg Avery and Natasha Avery, ...

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2006/may/18/highereducation.animalwelfare1>

Oxford seeks city-wide animal rights protest ban 10 Apr 2006 ...

The individuals covered by the injunction are Mel Broughton, John Curtin, ... Robin Webb, Amanda Richards, Greg Avery and Natasha Avery, ...

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2006/apr/10/highereducation.businessofresearch>

More results from

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/>

For further comment please contact Anne Kasica on 01559 371031 or Ernest Vine on 01559 370566. Mobile 07719 367148. e-mail:

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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>