

**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

The SHG and NEIGHBOURS BACK CAT RESCUER CONVICTED BY THE RSPCA

Neighbours of Elsie Nash, 79, who has been convicted on 13 counts of animal cruelty, have voiced their support of Elsie, claiming that she only had the cat's best interests at heart.

During its private prosecution of Elsie Nash, 79, the RSPCA's legal team showed the court a video of Elsie's house, taken during in the raid by the RSPCA's "Special Operations Unit". The video, taken by Herchran Boal - one of the inspectors on the raid - showed litter trays which Elsie had not emptied, as well as dirty walls and floors. There was also said to be "an overpowering smell".

Those who are aware of the way the RSPCA works will recognise the formula used by the RSPCA's "Special Operations Units" to support claims that animals were suffering as a result of their surroundings. It is frequently deployed when prosecuting rescue centres not affiliated to the RSPCA.

Anne Kasica of the SHG said:

"The RSPCA have raided yet another pensioner and someone else who rescues animals."

"Elsie Nash and her friends and neighbours are rightly devastated by what the RSPCA's Special Operations Unit have done."

"This is not a unique event - as Frank Field MP will tell you. Pat Seager, Betty McDairmid, and many other pensioners and rescuers, have been raided."

"The SHG fully supports Elsie and all those other pensioners and rescuers whose lives have been devastated and their animals destroyed as a result of the RSPCA prosecuting them instead of helping."

Ernest Vine, also of the SHG, said:

"Again this is all about money."

"It's time that someone courageous in government took steps to put a stop to the RSPCA's money-spinning prosecutions."

"The RSPCA spent £110,000 on the case with its very expensive lawyers and boarding kennels, which it hopes to get back in donations and legacies from people who want the RSPCA to look after their animal when they die."

"One of the saddest aspects of this story is that most of the forty cats the RSPCA seized from Elsie last year would have been roaming the streets if Elsie hadn't taken them in. The RSPCA had already refused to help many of them."

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Word Total: 357

Notes to Editors: -

1. 79 year old Elsie Nash has been found guilty by a district Judge of 13 counts of animal cruelty.
2. Friends and neighbours claim that Elsie only had the cats' best interests at heart.
3. Douglas Sabin who lives near Elsie in Erdington, Birmingham, said the RSPCA was wrong to prosecute the pensioner.
4. Mr. Sabin Said: "She has devoted her entire adult life to the protection and welfare of stray and homeless cats. Much of her time was given to holding charity events to raise funds for cat protection. She has had no life except for that given freely for the welfare of the animals she loves so much. Her heart is as big as her house and she used both for the benefit of the creatures she loves. To find her guilty of animal cruelty is not a case of justice served."

References:

Erdington neighbours back cat cruelty convictions pensioner ...
20 Jan 2009 ... lives near Elsie in Edrington, said: "She has devoted her entire adult life to the protection and welfare of stray and homeless cats. ...

<http://www.sundaymercury.net/news/midlands.../erdington-neighbour-backs-cat-cruelty-convictions-pensioner-97319-22728028/>

Homes needed for ten cats - Birmingham Mail

17 Jan 2009 ... RSPCA Insp Herchran Boal said although the cats were taken off Nash in February ... If she really loved them she would have let them go ...

<http://www.birminghammail.net/news/top-stories/2009/01/17/homes-needed-for-ten-cats-97319-22714751/>

Hounded – DisabilityNow

Hounded. Disability Now has assembled evidence that Britain's best-known ... The home of pensioner Betty McDiarmid, a 75-year-old wheelchair-user with ...

<http://www.disabilitynow.org.uk/living/features/hounded>

Wirral Globe - Frank Field MP hits out at RSPCA

A FURIOUS MP has attacked the RSPCA after a pensioner who ran a voluntary animal shelter was banned from keeping animals.

Birkenhead MP Frank Field defended ...

http://www.wirralglobe.co.uk/news/3717221.Frank_Field_hits_out_at_RSPCA/

BBC NEWS | UK | MP attacks RSPCA prosecutions

23 Sep 2008 ... Frank Field, MP for Birkenhead, is furious at the recent prosecution of Pat Seager, a 71 year old pensioner who ran a voluntary animal shelter ... Concerns over RSPCA prosecutions 22 Sep 08 | File on 4 ...

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/news/7631635.stm>

Widowed animal carer cleared of cruelty

BBC News - Nov 25, 2004

The court heard that when the RSPCA's investigators entered Roberta's house they were overwhelmed by the smell of urine and animal faeces ...

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/shropshire/4043293.stm>

RSPCA KILLS PENSIONER'S DOG WHILE SHE'S IN HOSPITAL

File Format: PDF/Adobe Acrobat - View as HTML

22 May 2008 ... Jean Stack was forced to leave her Yorkshire terrier, Whiskey, alone when she was taken into Whiston hospital. It ...

http://the-shg.org/22nd_May_2008.pdf

BBC - Inside Out - RSPCA - Kind to animals, cruel to humans?

... Inside Out's Glenn Campbell investigates. Video - RSPCA > ... Critical of the current system - Roger Gale MP

http://www.bbc.co.uk/insideout/content/articles/2008/11/07/south_east_rspca_s14_w9_feature.shtm

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Victims of the RSPCA bite back

Telegraph.co.uk - Feb 3, 2008

In Norwich in January, Judge Philip Browning was critical of the RSPCA's conduct in seizing a much-loved pony, Florry, which had been with Martin and Gina ...

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/columnists/christopherbooker/3555615/Victims-of-RSPCA-bite-back.html>

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>

For further comment please contact Anne Kasica on 01559 371031 or Ernest Vine on 01559 370566. Mobile 07719 367148.
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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>