

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

**Press Release**

For Immediate Release

26th January 2008

**RSPCA introduces double standards for animal welfare**

The RSPCA has finally apologised "unreservedly" to the Hindu community for killing a Temple's sacred cow over a year ago.

The charity says that it now plans to "reassess its protocol" when dealing with the welfare of animals at "organisations which have a non-violent ethos".

No such protocol is in the public domain.

The RSPCA raid on the Temple was led by Superintendent Tim Wass who was immediately promoted to Chief Officer of the Inspectorate.

On issuing the apology to Bhatkivedanta Manor Temple, the RSPCA claimed that it now recognised the hurt caused to the sentiments of these communities, and wished to build a progressive relationship.

Stewart Coyle, the farm manger of New Gukol, a Hindu cow protection programme said: "The RSPCA's resolution will now help to protect all our cows. I believe the temple and RSPCA can now work together for animal welfare".

Anne Kasica, of the SHG, asked: "Does this 'resolution' now mean that everyone is safe from the RSPCA? I don't know of any farm that does not have a 'non violent ethos', but I think that farmers will continue to live in fear of an 'unannounced visit' from the RSPCA, commanded by someone like Mr Wass."

Ernest Vine, also of the SHG, said: "Is there perhaps a danger here that the RSPCA will start to apply their double-standards to those with a 'non-violent ethos' on the one hand, and 'violent' farmers and pet owners on the other?"

"Could we see scenes reminiscent of the Middle Ages where ordinary people are forced to flee to Hindu Temples in order to save the lives of their elderly or ill pets from the RSPCA?"

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**Notes to Editors: -**

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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>

**References:**

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