

## SHG Press Release

### Animal Welfare Act 2006 gives NO new powers to the RSPCA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

10th May 2007

The **Self Help Group for Farmers Pet Owners and Others Experiencing Difficulties with the RSPCA** (the SHG) is receiving calls from worried animal owners who believe that the RSPCA have been given new powers by the Animal Welfare Act 2006 (AWA) and who are realising that there are no safeguards written into the AWA that will protect people's civil and legal rights.

“Despite claims by Jackie Ballard, the Director General of the RSPCA, that the AWA *‘enables our inspectors to prevent animals suffering by taking effective action earlier in cases of ongoing neglect.’* the RSPCA have been granted NO new powers under the AWA” said Ernest Vine of the SHG.

“Unless the RSPCA, as a whole or individually, are appointed as “inspectors” as defined by the Animal Welfare Act 2006, they will have no more powers than they already had under the Protection of Animals Act 1911.”

“This means that the RSPCA currently have NO right of entry, NO right to demand answers and NO right to seize your animals.”

Anne Kasica of the SHG said “There are supposed to be consultations before secondary legislation and the Codes of Practice which will detail how an animal is supposed to be kept are implemented, but a spokesman for Mr. Bradshaw talking about the consultation on circus animals has stated that ***"The Bill is intended to ban all species not native to Britain."*** and that the consultation was needed before the ban becomes law!”

“Every animal owner in the country should take heed of these weasel words. It seems that the consultations are simply exercises to fulfil the requirements of the Act and that they are seen by Mr. Bradshaw and his Department as legal hoops to jump through before introducing the ban.”

“Animal owners should be telling the government, the Welsh Assembly and their local authority that they do not want the RSPCA to be appointed as “inspectors” under the AWA and that it is the duty of the authorities to appoint professionals with no political axe to grind..”

#### Notes to Editors: -

Please note that the petition to the Prime Minister for a public Inquiry into the policies and running of the RSPCA now has over 1800 signatures and can be seen and signed at

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

## References

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[http://www.sundaymirror.co.uk/news/sunday/tm\\_method=full%26objectid=18355794%26siteid=98487-name\\_page.html](http://www.sundaymirror.co.uk/news/sunday/tm_method=full%26objectid=18355794%26siteid=98487-name_page.html)

or

<http://tinyurl.com/25jby6>

Notes from FoBAS: The Federation of British Animal Sanctuaries

<http://www.warmwell.com/04oct23awb.html>

Act Helps Keep Pets Safer (from Harrow Times)

[http://www.harrowtimes.co.uk/news/localnews/display.var.1312188.0.act\\_helps\\_keep\\_pets\\_safer.php](http://www.harrowtimes.co.uk/news/localnews/display.var.1312188.0.act_helps_keep_pets_safer.php)

or

<http://tinyurl.com/2s4I7e>

For further comment please contact Anne Kasica on 01559 371031 or Ernest Vine on 01559 370566. Mobile 07719 367148. e-mail: [shg@the-shg.org](mailto:shg@the-shg.org)

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>

**ENDS**