

SHG Press Release

In the wake of the failed RSPCA prosecution of primate owner Jason Allen The SHG again calls for a full public enquiry into the RSPCA and its activities and for the CPS to call in and review every RSPCA prosecution.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

26th October 2006

As the dust settles in the wake of the failed RSPCA attempt to prosecute primate owner Jason Allen The Self Help Group for Farmers, Pet Owners and Others experiencing difficulties with the RSPCA (The SHG) again calls for a full Public Enquiry into the RSPCA and its activities.

Anne Kasica said: "It is totally unacceptable that a self appointed body such as the RSPCA can obtain and waste scarce police resources like this. On top of that we have to consider the drain on the legal aid system and the time and resources of the court that have been squandered, and that is before we even consider the waste of money donated to the RSPCA for animal welfare by the public"

Said Ernest Vine of the SHG: "This case is the perfect example of why there should be a requirement for RSPCA prosecutions to be scrutinised by the police and CPS."

"Jason Allen has been subjected to a high profile and intensely distressing RSPCA operation and has been separated from his animals since their seizure. The animals were bred from without Mr. Allens knowledge or permission whilst the RSPCA held them as evidence in the case and the baby capuchin which was born died before it could be returned to Mr. Allen."

The SHG is appalled that the government can allow a charity, which lobbies Parliament for the law to be changed, to investigate and prosecute people whose very activities are those that the RSPCA may be campaigning to end. This means that the RSPCA can never comply with the requirements of the Code for Crown Prosecutors that a prosecutor be fair, independent and objective.

Had the RSPCA succeeded in proving that it was illegal to separate mother and baby of any animal type on the grounds that they suffer from stress then pet keeping and farming in this country would have come to an end.

Anne Kasica said: "We believe that the Crown Prosecution Service should act now, and call in and review every case brought by the RSPCA to ensure that it complies with the requirements of the Code for Crown Prosecutors, and that they should take over and drop those that are clearly political, or not in the public interest."

Conclusion

The SHG again calls for a full Public Inquiry into the RSPCA and its activities.

The SHG asks the CPS to protect the public and call in every RSPCA prosecution for a full and independent review before permitting the prosecution to go ahead.

Notes to Editors: -

References

Owner cleared of monkey suffering

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/wales/south_west/6085786.stm

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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 **08700 72 66 89**

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