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

Press Release
For Immediate Release
16th January 2008

Coats for cold dogs - another “confusing” message from the RSPCA

The RSPCA’s PR department put out a press release on 7 January 2009. It stated that young dogs, old dogs and those with thin or sparse coats could benefit from a coat and that letting your dog get cold was an offence. By 13 January 2009, it was warning the same dog owners that they faced prosecution if they followed this advice.

Anne Kasica of the SHG said:
“This is a very unfortunate state of affairs. The central message is that the RSPCA can do anything it likes. It can prosecute people for having thin dogs, or for having a fat dog. Given the way that evidence is handled, with their vets often producing several versions of their reports before the final one is disclosed, the only people who are safe from the RSPCA are people who don’t keep an animal.”

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Word Total: 141

Notes to Editors: -

References:

RSPCA: Keep wildlife and pets warm through the big freeze
Politics.co.uk, UK - 7 Jan 2009
... through the cold winter months safely,” says Tim. Dogs with thin or sparse coats, who are very young or old may benefit from a coat when out exercising. ...
or
http://tinyurl.com/98wpff

Telegraph.co.uk RSPCA says people who dress up their dogs could be prosecutedTelegraph.co.uk, United Kingdom - 13 Jan 2009Jo
Barr, RSPCA spokeswoman, said: "Dog owners should be aware that under the Animal Welfare Act that came into force in April 2007 they have a duty of care
or
http://tinyurl.com/9ynk2h

...Dog Owners Warned On Pet Dressing Sky News
http://tinyurl.com/7fm38h

IT'S 'HARMFUL' TO DRESS UP YOUR DOG UK Express
http://www.express.co.uk/posts/view/79925/It-s-harmful-to-dress-up-your-dog

Buy a doggie sweater, go to jail? Los Angeles Times

Human Events
http://www.humanevents.com/article.php?id=30266

all 16 news articles
http://news.google.co.uk/news?hl=en&tab=wn&ned=uk&ie=UTF-8&nci=1292836304

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. e-mail: 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 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