

Summary

On the 11th September 2009 the RSPCA received information direct from the Metropolitan Police concerning allegations, ⁴⁶ of serious welfare conditions at ³⁴ kennels, contracted by the Met for boarding of case pit bull type dogs. ⁴⁷

⁴⁸

1

2

3

5

kennels -6

4

7

8

9

10

RSPCA, Met Police and veterinary surgeons.

Teams included

11

Met Police case dogs¹²

14

- 83

13

15

Bio security measures were immediately put in place at ³⁶ due to a recent outbreak of Canine Parvovirus.

An initial examination of the premises took place at ¹⁶ by a team including RSPCA, Met Police and a veterinary surgeon. The purpose of this initial examination was to establish if there were any animals in need of immediate treatment due to physical condition. ¹⁷ this examination was completed and a review of the findings undertaken. All dogs seen were in good to reasonable body condition.

RSPCA and the vet identified a total of 21 offences under four sub sections of section 9(2) of the Animal Welfare Act. A non-exhaustive list follows:

(a) need for a suitable environment

- very poor lighting in certain areas
- poor ventilation
- poor hygiene and method/frequency of cleaning
- faeces flowing through kennels
- insecure kennels
- dogs having access to electrical cables

- 6 x dog carcasses in freezer in food prep area
- evidence of rat infestation

(b) need for a suitable diet

- old food in kennels and non-kennel areas
- water bowls dirty, some with algae present
- dog carcass contained within food storage freezer

(c) need to exhibit normal behaviour patterns

- lack of evidence of regular exercise, use of external runs
- lack of any environmental enrichment for dogs

(e) need to be protected from pain, suffering, injury and disease

- lack of or incomplete individual dog records
- severe lack of bio security methods
- evidence of dogs able to fight through chain link fencing
- wrongly labelled prescription medications

There was a serious inadequacy in the number of staff present to manage the number of dogs and provide suitable care.

Met Police have removed the dog carcasses for further post mortem reports

Runnymede Environmental Health Dept was invited to attend and inspect the premises. This they did, including a first floor area containing dogs to which they had not previously had access. The EHO officers left with a plan to discuss with their management the process of revoking the kennels' boarding licence. A quote from an EHO officer concerning the RSPCA/Met Police operation, "This is the best thing that's happened here in years."

Met Police will remove all 83 dogs from 35 [redacted] to another of their establishments on 16th September.

18 [redacted]

19 [redacted]

20 [redacted]

dogs will remain at 21 [redacted] these 2 seized animals and are the responsibility of other forces who have been advised of the operation of Met Police.

22 [redacted]

was arrested on 38 [redacted] arrived at 23 [redacted] 39 [redacted] provided a new address, for which a warrant was arranged. 37 [redacted] was interviewed by 24 [redacted] during which 40 [redacted] admitted to 'hitting dogs' but no specific incidents were detailed. 41 [redacted] did not admit some of the more specific allegations of cruelty. 42 [redacted]

Property was searched and some items removed. 25 [redacted] dog, a 44 [redacted] was removed from 43 [redacted] property. The dog was examined by and is suspected of having Canine Parvovirus. The vet was not satisfied the dog was suffering under the Animal Welfare Act S4. 26 [redacted] has resigned from 45 [redacted] position at

27 [redacted]

The investigation is ongoing.

While the RSPCA operation was undertaken in such a fashion that the only cost incurred was that of the RSPCA staff and attending veterinary surgeon.

27 [redacted] from 28 [redacted]

29 [redacted]

The Officers were all kept up to date by the periodical reviews and updates; 31
32 [redacted] set up ensured that everybody knew the progress of the day and I was far better able to
Officers with roles as the dynamics of the day changed.

33

MPS FOIA Disclosure