

Thomas Stanley Didovich, of Auckland, education manager, swear...

1. I am employed by the Royal New Zealand Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Incorporated as Education Manager.
2. I am swearing this affidavit in response to queries raised by Grace Haden, the first defendant in the matter of Wells and Ors v Haden and Ors, CIV-06-004-1784.
3. In 1995 I was Manager of Animal Welfare Services, Waitakere City, and in that year the City Council asked me to investigate the possibility of the City's dog control officers becoming Animal Welfare Inspectors.
4. I met with Neil Wells and after lengthy discussions with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry a pilot programme was set up between MAF and Waitakere City. The objective of the pilot programme was to test the synergies between animal control and animal welfare.
5. Prior to this only people from SPCAs had been warranted outside Government Departments.
6. The pilot programme was set up for 6 months in the expectation that an Animal Welfare Bill would be introduced in 1995.
7. With each delay to the introduction of the Animal Welfare Bill the Waitakere Pilot Programme was rolled over.
8. The MAF compliance team audited the performance of the pilot programme on an annual basis.



9. The pilot programme ceased on the same day the Animals Protection Act 1960 ceased (31st December 1999) and the Animal Welfare Act 1999 commenced (1st January 2000).
10. In 1998, in anticipation of the passing of the Animal Welfare Act, the founding trustees, Neil Wells, Nuala Grove, Sarah Giltrap, and Graeme Coutts met and decided to form a trust, the Animal Welfare Institute of New Zealand ("the Trust"). I was present at that meeting.
11. On or about 28 February 2000 I picked up the two original copies from Neil Wells and took them to each of the other three trustees for signing. I was the witness to each of the three signatures.
12. I went to Nuala Grove at her home in Takapuna and, Sarah Giltrap at her business premises at Parnell.
13. I went to Graeme Coutts at Coutts Motors in Newmarket and learned he did not work there so I then went to Graeme Coutts at the Ceramco House, Totara Avenue, New Lynn.
14. In each instance the deed was signed in duplicate and I witnessed the signatures. It is my signature that appears in the annexed trust deed as witness.
15. I returned the two signed copies to Neil Wells on or about 1 March 2000.
16. I was aware that initially the application for approved status was rejected by the Minister of Agriculture on the grounds that not all the criteria of the Act had been met but after a robust dialogue with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry the Minister of Agriculture approved the Trust and the approval was Gazetted on 18th January 2001.
17. Subsequent to the Gazetting of the Trust as an approved organisation the animal welfare officers employed by Waitakere and North Shore Cities were appointed inspectors under section 124 of the Animal Welfare Act 1999.



18. On 14 August 2007 I was appointed a Trustee of the Trust.

SWORN at AUCKLAND this 29th day)

of May 2007

before me:





A Solicitor of the High Court of New Zealand
Justice of the Peace
Registrar

Cedar-Wood Trillian Brown
Solicitor
Davies Law
New Lynn, Auckland