



19 July 2022

Grace Haden
grace@verisure.co.nz

Dear Grace

Your complaint of 8 June 2022

I am writing to you again regarding the concerns you raised on 8 June 2022 in connection with The Royal New Zealand Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Incorporated (SPCA) seizing and disposing of dogs formerly owned by Barbara Glover and Janine Wallace and subsequently prosecuting Ms Glover and Ms Wallace.

As I advised you in my previous letter of 29 June 2022, in accordance with the terms of a 29 November 2021 Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) and the SPCA, MPI has referred to the SPCA aspects of your complaint which relate to alleged actions or omissions by current or former SPCA staff.

I am now responding to you regarding the other concerns raised in your 8 June 2022 email (and the accompanying document).

There have been a number of Court decisions with regard to the SPCA's seizure and subsequent disposal of Ms Glover and Ms Wallace's dogs (and puppies born to two of the dogs). MPI was not a party to any of those proceedings.

The Court is the proper forum for Ms Glover and Ms Wallace to raise some of the concerns you have identified. It would be inappropriate for MPI to question, or seek to look behind, any findings made, processes adopted, or orders granted by the Courts in those proceedings. This includes it being inappropriate for MPI to look into:

- whether the SPCA had the legal power to seize the dogs or dispose of either the dogs or puppies born to those dogs (powers to seize and dispose of the dogs and puppies born to the dogs were dealt with in District Court decisions on 12 July 2018 and 5 December 2019);
- whether the SPCA or the Courts followed proper procedures in relation to the prosecution of Ms Glover and Ms Wallace; or
- the concerns regarding the SPCA's treatment or care of the dogs that were raised by Ms Wallace or Ms Glover at the defended hearing in relation to the SPCA prosecution in January and February 2022, given that (after both parties had the opportunity to present evidence and cross-examine the other party's witnesses at that hearing) the District Court made findings of fact in its judgment of 31 March 2022 which did not uphold those concerns.

Ministry for Primary Industries
Charles Fergusson Building
34-38 Bowen Street
PO Box 2526
Wellington 6140, New Zealand

Your 8 June 2022 email also states that a pregnant bitch seized by the SPCA from Ms Wallace and Ms Glover gave birth to a puppy in a crate in the back of a moving SPCA van and that that puppy was “DOA” (which I take to mean dead on arrival) when that van arrived in Mangere.

From the SPCA clinic records we have seen (including the notes in those records from an SPCA veterinarian) we understand that:

- the SPCA had taken the bitch to the after-hours veterinary clinic in Mt Wellington (where she gave birth to several live puppies);
- after being discharged from the after-hours clinic the bitch gave birth to a still born puppy while being transported back to the SPCA centre in Mangere, and attempts to resuscitate that puppy were unsuccessful; and
- after the bitch returned to the SPCA centre it was identified that she was carrying one further puppy, she was given time to settle and five units of oxytocin, and the further puppy was delivered also stillborn and again attempts to resuscitate it were unsuccessful.

It is apparent from these records that the bitch and puppies were under veterinarian care.

If you have any concerns regarding the actions or omissions of a veterinarian in relation to the dogs seized from Ms Glover and Ms Wallace or puppies born to the dogs seized, including any concerns regarding diagnostic or treatment methods a veterinarian used or did not use, the appropriate body to raise those concerns with is the Veterinary Council of New Zealand.

In relation to the other concerns you raised on 8 June 2022, they are also not matters that it would be appropriate for MPI to investigate. You could:

- raise any concerns regarding the Waikato District Council Dog Control Officer who assisted the SPCA when Ms Wallace and Ms Glover’s dogs were seized directly with the Council; and
- raise any concerns regarding a Crown solicitor with Crown Law or the Law Society.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Gary Orr', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gary Orr
Director Compliance Services