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julie.sellar@bupa.co.nz; bobbie@onla.co.nz; david.heald@bakertillysr.nz; "Senator Malcolm Roberts"
Subject: complaint with regards the RNZSPCA totally ignoring prosecution guidelines ,MOU and bill of rights lack of accountability to the public
Date: Wednesday, 8 June 2022 1:23:16 pm
Attachments: [Charges 29 and 65 Ritza 13 October 2017.pdf](#)

For the attention of Mr Ray Smith

Copy for the board of the RNZSPCA and crown solicitor's office and senator Malcolm Roberts
During the formation of the One SPCA, due to lack of apparent supervision some inspectors saw an opportunity to obtain high value dogs.

This apparent "copycat" tactic has been reported on in Australia by Senator Malcom Roberts <https://www.malcolmrobertsqld.com.au/is-the-rspca-a-charity-or-a-dodgy-business/> published in June 2021 *"Much of RSPCA's revenue is gained from seizing animals from their owners under the rouse of falsely claiming that the animals are not being treated appropriately. A common feature of the RSPCA's approach involves the RSPCA harassing owners who appear to have fewer means and lack the ability to challenge the RSPCA in court."*

In 2017 Volkerson Kennels were the top breeders of German Shepherds, this was due to the unique imported blood lines of their dogs.

There are two main suspects Kevin Plowright and Rhys Heatley, a Waikato District Council Dog Control Officer.

I believe that these men, who have both since left their respective employment used this tactic to secure the specialist traits of these dogs to set up their own business.

Heatley through the Council, ensured that all the dogs at Volkerson were identified by their microchip numbers. Vets were called in to ensure that all microchip numbers were recorded on their farm of the dogs and all dogs identified.

They then liaised with their contacts at the New Zealand Kennel Club for the pedigrees of the dogs. We have to ask What does their pedigree have to do with things? Well Everything, apparently, when it comes to selecting a dog for your business venture.

In August 2017 Head Inspector Plowright and his associate 2nd in Charge Lauri Davis who is either ignorant or in on it, called at the farm and coerced Barbara who was then aged 78 to hand over 5 dogs on the pretext that they had too many dogs.

Since when does the SPCA have the power to do that. this was simple coercion and testing the water of compliance and getting a base line of stock dogs for the deceit which was to follow Barbara and Janine live on a large rural property, the property does not have a restriction as to the number of dogs they can have. Too many dogs would only be an issue for the SPCA if the dogs were not being cared for. Barbara has been breeding German Shepherds since 1960, the farm is typical of a farm with old buildings and sheds.

Plowright claimed that the areas the dogs were being kept in were not suitable and directed them to build new kennels which they did.

Before the kennels were completed he returned. He came on 12 October 2017 with Laurie Davis and Nicole, and decided to take more dogs. They made no mention of this on the day but returned the following day with a document printed with the VOLKERSON kennel name and a lot of blank spaces which Lauri Davis filled in with the dog's names and reason they were taken.

It is clear from the Body camera footage that they were taking as many dogs as they could. The dogs were numbered 1-15 and the document seen on the Body Worn Camera has never been produced instead a blank list with just the dog's names was left for Barbara and no reason as to why the dogs were taken.

On the 13th October 2017 they were accompanied by SPCA Vet Jess Beer who from the body worn camera footage appears to be able to spot ear infections from 20 meters away - an external examination, she is a self-declared SAFE activist and an associate of the "independent" vet who gave evidence at the hearing and who had prepared her brief of evidence even before charges were filed and without ever having visited the scene

On 13 October Jess Beer can be heard asking if they should record microchip numbers and both Plowright and Davis respond "no no no". and this is where the deception began.

They go round the farm like kids in a candy shop and miraculously select the imported blood lines while leaving other dogs which have domestic lineage. There are other charges in court eventually for dogs simply identified as two males in the cattle yard.

Time is everything you can take a dog to the corner dairy and leave it outside, it is an entirely different thing to leave it there overnight. Not one of the charges the ladies were to face took into account the temporary nature of the situation the dogs were in nor the fact that it was recorded the day earlier that these dogs were not in that location

In all 15 dogs were taken, 2 Bitches were in whelp.

From here, we do not know what happens to the dogs, as there is no list of microchips seized, no list of village numbers, no time of arrival at the SPCA and no time and date of examination by a vet.

It is very possible that dogs were swapped out and that the dogs which were seen by the vets were not the dogs seized.

This is supported by the fact that the dogs were disposed of before charges were filed and Barbara and Janine were prevented from visiting their dogs or having their vets provide a second opinion.

The vet reports show that one dog was "Sable" which is not a colour which Volkerson has also long haired dogs became short hair and vice versa.

The charges were such that they were relevant to the time of seizure so the next question has to be "why did they have to wait over a year for the charges to be filed."

In fact the charges were only filed after all the disposal Hearings were out of the way. Was this so that the dogs could not be referenced or held as evidence? I suspect that dogs were disposed of but those dogs were not the valuable blood lines which had been selected, those had long gone.

One example is a dog called Monty, Monty was microchipped, Yet he was microchipped at the SPCA and recorded.. no doubt this was a dog which then became "Monty"

In November 2017 Janine was interviewed, generally the issues to which the charges relate were not raised in the interview

The interview was all about coercion to surrender page 28 *"I can mention there's no course of action decided at this stage. Anything can happen from here"* Lauri Davis on page 30 states *"And we need you to understand, we, you know, we seized 15 dogs from your property on the 13th of October. **That was purely failing to comply with instruction. There, you know, we could've taken a lot –**"*

Kevin Plowright page 37 states ***"We're here because of failed compliance. It's the only reason we're here."***

Page 42 makes very strong suggestions of confidentiality if dogs are surrendered.

Section 130 has provisions for dealing with lack of compliance the legal provisions do not include coming in and taking them the law and the legislation was deliberately ignored.

From the interview it is very clear that the charges were dreamt up after the dogs had been seized and the expected surrender did not eventuate. The inspectors had made up their mind that the dogs were not going to come back despite the new kennels having been built and the

chief inspector of the Auckland SPCA Greg Reid was bold enough to say so

There was never any notice of noncompliance and their own body worn camera footage shows the new kennels ready in November 2017, six and half weeks before the deadline of 31.12.2017. There was no non compliance and any action would have failed, they wanted the dogs and the path taken was the only one available to them some of these dogs blood lines were selling over seas for up to a million dollars

The two bitches in whelp produced some 20 puppies, the number is not known and fluctuates when looking at records as pups disappeared, were allegedly eaten and then a dog with a totally different village number showed up in the records as deceased. One pup was born in a crate, the mother had already whelped 7 puppies at VSA, in the back of a moving SPCA van. DOA at Mangere.

Pregnant bitches were x-rayed.

There were charges with regards to having not cared for sick animals; these dogs were in the Pukekohe Pound for 2 weeks before being vet examined, therefore this must mean that by default the RNZSPCA is guilty of having had the dogs in their care and not having tended to them.

By default Charges should then be brought to the RNZSPCA for having seized dogs which they claimed were ill . By having those charges proved it naturally follows by default that the RNZSPCA must also be guilty of having sick dogs in their care and not providing them with care .

These dogs which were allegedly covered in "Faeces" stained fur were in that condition when they were examined on the 27th October 2017, they were seized on the 13th October 2017. This means that if they were allegedly ill to start with, this would not have exasperated the situation and if they were in that condition on the 13th why allow this to continue ?

As a former Police Prosecutor I am very aware of the chain of evidence and I would have expected to have seen business records showing the microchip numbers of the dogs seized on the day. A chain of evidence as to where the dogs were for every second until examined by a vet. I would have wanted to see the vet make a statement "I checked the dog's microchip number and recorded it as and I found " instead we don't even know what time they were examined or when they arrived at the SPCA.

Reference is made to SPCA village numbers but there is a disjoint to the actual identification of the dogs seized

The seizure itself was a circus, there were two dogs in the hay barn, on forcing open the liftable bolt with a concrete builders block and leaving things for approximately 10 minutes (as shown on Body Worn Camera footage) a dog was found in a crate tied up in a most unnatural contrived position. Plowright had made a show of not being able to get in, but his body camera footage, exposed a brief glimpse of Rhys Heatley inside the shed having entered from the opposite end.

We have provided a chronology of events as per attached showing stills from the BWC footage . Through the gap in the doors captured on Plowright Body worn camera is a shot of Heatley inside the shed Enhancement of the shot brings out the outline of a dog walking beside him. From there Plowright whacks the door with a brick and there is considerable delay before the constrained dog is discovered

The back doors through which Heatley gained entry are left open . It's the small details which give them away

This dog was allegedly euthanised due to the injury on her leg which in itself begs belief as amputation, tendon surgery (Prof Andrew Worth Massey University Working Dog specialist) could surely have been considered and how an area not even an abrasion became a festering wound can only be attributed to a swap out of animals or bad veterinary practice.

Most importantly, Janine and Barbara were never allowed to have a second opinion on any of the allegations and their vets were not welcome, this would no doubt have undone the whole plan and proved that the dogs which were at the SPCA were not the Prized Volkerson dogs . Independent follow up from the SPCA records and DNA testing will prove this

It was only after the interview failed to secure surrender of the dogs that they began collating evidence for charges

In January 2018 disposal proceedings began and the crown prosecutor was engaged

In March 2018, a search warrant was executed we have extensive body worn camera footage of the search and it was a free for all fishing expedition and all evidence that Janine and Barbara had collated was taken and has never seen the light of day again, the search warrant was invalid but apparently that doesn't count highly now days nor the fact that their computer was taken, cloned and accessed their emails months later. No inventory was ever provided beyond a very short document with less than half a dozen items

In all there was an excessive number of interactions and "visits " Plowright was convinced that dogs were being hidden, anyone associated with the ladies had a visit and this ensured that no one supported them as their friends were all afraid that they would be targeted next. In December when Janine was visiting a friend with one dogs and her pups Plowright pulled out and started exercising his powers . Several days later the lady had a visit from dog control who had been asked to go there and pick up dogs :- she did not have any

In May 2018, 6 dogs were at the rear of the property. They had been on a training run and were resting while their kennels were being cleaned. This raid was instigated by Dog Control who through hearsay evidence of Plowright, allegedly phoned Plowright after getting a barking dog complaint from a neighbour over a kilometre away. Heatley and Plowright went in through the rear of the property from the neighbouring farm and interfered with the scene while the rest of the crew detained Janine and stopped her from going back for the dogs.

It was alleged that the dogs were left without water it is suspected and highly probable that the water was tipped out when the scene was interfered with . Plowright's BWC shows him walking up to the dogs and he states: " take a photo of that one, it is tangled". With that, the dog stands up and walks away. How did Plowright know it was tangled from that distance? If he left it tangled then this is not a very SPCA thing to do again it is strangely similar to the scene in the hay barn.

The dogs were taken and Heatley can be heard to say on BWC "you're going to stay with me for a few days" after the dogs are loaded into his vehicle on 18 May 2018 at 14:30 pm. If Heatley had done his job, the dogs would not have committed any offence under the Dog Control Act but the language of Plowright on the way to recover the dogs, just proves he was on a mission and revenge for not surrendering certainly comes to mind.

We do not have a time of the dogs arriving at the SPCA nor what time they were examined by the vet, which brings up the question as to identification of the dogs at the SPCA, why did the dogs go with Heatley and which dogs actually arrived at the SPCA and why were dogs being paraded around at the Mangatangi fire station was there a big reshuffle going on ?

The charges were filed in November 2018, after the second lot of dogs had been disposed of. Both sets of dogs were disposed of to the Auckland SPCA

The disposal applications were made by the crown solicitor herself in the name of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Auckland (SPCA Auckland). Both judges accepted that the organisation was the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Auckland (SPCA Auckland) registration number 222889 which is listed in the constitution of the RNZSPCA as a member society .

The registration number of the RNZSPCA is 218546 both organisations are separate legal entities and had their own respective boards .

All documents all action was undertaken in the name of the Auckland SPCA

The dogs were disposed of by the Auckland SPCA and at a time before charges were filed and the ladies were not advised of what they had been charged with, even when the charges were filed, they were not fully and fairly informed and the identity of the dogs which are specific to the charge was never proved.

The chief inspector of the RNZSPCA in 2019 became involved in returning five more dogs which had been taken by Plowright in 2019 without documentation and without supporting evidence, she claimed to have no knowledge of the proceedings and resigned not long afterwards. In the first disposal, the puppies which were neither seized nor the subject of charges were disposed of under Section 136, when there is no provision for this and they were disposed of unlawfully by the crown solicitor. This shows the lack of detail and regard for the law exercised by the crown solicitor's office.

The name of the prosecutor was then swapped out and the prosecutor became the RNZSPCA. This was done without any apparent jurisdiction of the court to make this change and without consent of the board of the RNZSPCA to take on this prosecution which they had no oversight of.

Andrea Midgen the CEO of the Auckland SPCA and later the CEO of the RNZSPCA, used the scenario for its fullest fundraising potential and the kennels were labelled a puppy farm. Leaflets went to every household in the country and the case received much publicity which resulted in death threats to Barbara.

The Waikato dog control officer, Heatley, did not file any reports and more significantly we can show through his own Facebook posts that he received one of the puppies from first seizure which puts him into a situation of having been bribed in his position as a public servant.

No witness statement was provided by Heatley and he was not available for cross examination. This is despite that crown solicitor stating that the statement was still to come, this is a crucial witness statement deliberately withheld.

It was not obvious until the hearing, that Heatley and Plowright had been on the property before they "discovered the dogs out the back" and Heatley needs to explain the dog in the picture in the hay barn and if a dog was tangled when he was in there, why he left the animal unattended. In reality if the call on the second occasion had been taken by Heatley and he had dealt with it under the Dog Control Act there was no offence and no reason for removal of the dogs as no offence would have been made out, instead the ladies are being threatened with prison.

Filing of charges

The charges were filed by Plowright. It appears that there was no internal oversight of the filing of the charges and Luke Radich, crown solicitor, allegedly formulated the charges which were 79 in total.

In my day this was called throwing the book at someone. The prosecution guidelines were ignored as was every safeguard which the law provides.

The procedures and policies for prosecution in the SPCA were not adhered to.

There was no oversight from the board or management; it appears that the prosecution was solely in the hands of Plowright and the compromised crown solicitor which was acting against the direction in the terms of office where they should not be undertaking any private prosecutions.

Not only was this a private prosecution but there was no authority from the board which was allegedly the prosecutor.

The MOU and the technical standards were ignored and there is no evidence of the SPCA National Inspectorate being involved.

There is no evidence that either the inspectors or the crown solicitor's office adhered to the prosecution guidelines and the bill of rights was totally ignored.

As was the Criminal Procedure Act

Criminal Procedure Act

This legislation has built in safe guards for private prosecutions because the crown solicitor became involved and intituled the documents with the word crown, the prosecution did not follow the path for private prosecutions .

No section 187 document was filed

If the charges had been through a robust oversight it begs belief as to how they came to be filed in the name of fictional entity the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals(Auckland)

Section 13 of the criminal procedure act states that the act **must** be complied with and to have a crown solicitor lending credibility, to what appears to me, to be criminal offence on the part of the inspectors, and by ignoring statutory provisions which are intended to give protection to defendants is dangerously close if not actually , perverting the course of justice and act in which the crown cannot be complicit

Trial process.

The matter was to be trial by jury, but this changed at the last moment. Barbara was not allowed a support person, I know that because it was to have been me.

This was not a public hearing and it was not fair due to the lack of compliance with the Bill of Rights and the Prosecution Guidelines and Criminal Procedure Act.

Barbara saw her solicitors for the very first time that day, she had paid for lawyers when they suddenly pulled out, it appeared to me that they had been threatened. A lot of pressure was put on Barbara, now aged 83 to enter a plea of guilty.

The crown solicitor took on the prosecution and ignored every safeguard that is there to protect defendants.

The documents were even intituled at one time the Queen V and even the exhibits for the trial were labelled crown exhibits. This is deceptive and misleading and gave the prosecution an appearance of having been through robust and accountable

The Solicitor General's guidelines were totally ignored, so much so that the charges were filed in the name of a fictional organisation. The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Auckland).

The Auckland SPCA is defined in the constitution of the RNZSPCA as being its own separate legal entity.

It is quite clear that neither the Auckland SPCA or the RNZSPCA board consented to the prosecution being undertaken and there has been no independent oversight.

The book has been thrown at the ladies to make the matter complicated and overwhelm them as was the mountains of alleged evidence which then never saw the light of day.

Janine was prevented from referring to the vet reports and the body worn camera footage which would have supported her evidence.

There were two sets of evidence books the second was introduced during the hearing and differed from the original booklet provided to the defendants before the hearing

The crown solicitor totally ignored the legislative framework under which he was supposed to work and treated the matter as a crown prosecution rather than the private prosecution which it was. He changed the category three charges at the 11th hour so that they could go before a judge alone, this is because he had not filed the pre-requisite documents for a trial by jury.

Evidence was deliberately withheld in the hearing and no body camera footage which would have proved the innocence of the ladies was withheld as were the vet reports.

Not one business record was produced, so there was no chain of evidence and in the end the Judge preferred the evidence of the SPCA and the crown solicitor because she felt that there

would have to be too many people in on it.

The reality is that the vets may have been totally honest with their findings, it is just that the dog they examined was not the dog which was seized.

This is a well-orchestrated scenario, it will lead to a serious miscarriage of justice if the ladies are sentenced.

Action after the hearing

When the decision was delivered I had Janine go through the body camera footage and we have found that using their own evidence we can show that the court was consistently misled in the end it came down to the judge preferring one story rather than the other because of the reputation attributed to the prosecutor and crown law

We have compiled many discrepancies the largest one of all is the scene in the shed which with the devil being in the detail is limited to a few frames inadvertently captured By Plowright

We urgently request intervention as this can only set a precedent for the SPCA to walk up to any one and say we will give you confidentiality if you hand your animals over, otherwise we will crucify you.

We hope that you can take this seriously as the SPCA has to have accountability to the public. It may well be that the new board of the RNZSPCA is as horrified with this as we are and decide that they have been set up as well

In that case they need to urgently advise that the prosecution was never authorised in their name

Request for MPI

To that end, we seek, aside from a full investigation, all business records which will trace the dogs from the minute they were seized until they were disposed of.

An investigation as to who the prosecution agency was and establish the identification of the dogs disposed of to the "forever homes"

This has the potential of impacting on the ability of the RNZSPCA to hold approved status and it appears that the fundamental requirement of accountability to the public has been missing as they do not even acknowledge the rights under the bill of rights

Regards
Grace Haden

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I, Kevin Plowright of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Auckland) have good cause to suspect

Charge 29

Failing to meet physical, health and behavioural needs of animal
Animal Welfare Act 1999
Section 10, 12(a) and 25

CRN: 18092503986

That JANINE ANNE WALLACE, between 28 July 2017 & 13 October 2017, at Mangatawhiri, being a person in charge of an animal, namely a German Shepherd dog named Ritza, did not ensure that the physical, health and behavioural needs of that animal were met in a manner that was in accordance with good practice.

Particulars:

Unsatisfactory tethering (lead twisted around leg);
No access to water;
Unhygienic conditions (faecal build-up);
No behavioural enrichment.

Charges 29 and 65: Ritza on 13 October 2017 Pages 82-84 [351 – 357]

HAYBARN on 13.10.2017 at 1 pm

L Davis walks over to Hay Barn doors and looks inside.

K Plowright said: "what's in there?"

L Davis said: "Dogs" "Kev there are dogs in here."

K Plowright said: "Crated? Loose?"

L Davis said: "Chained"

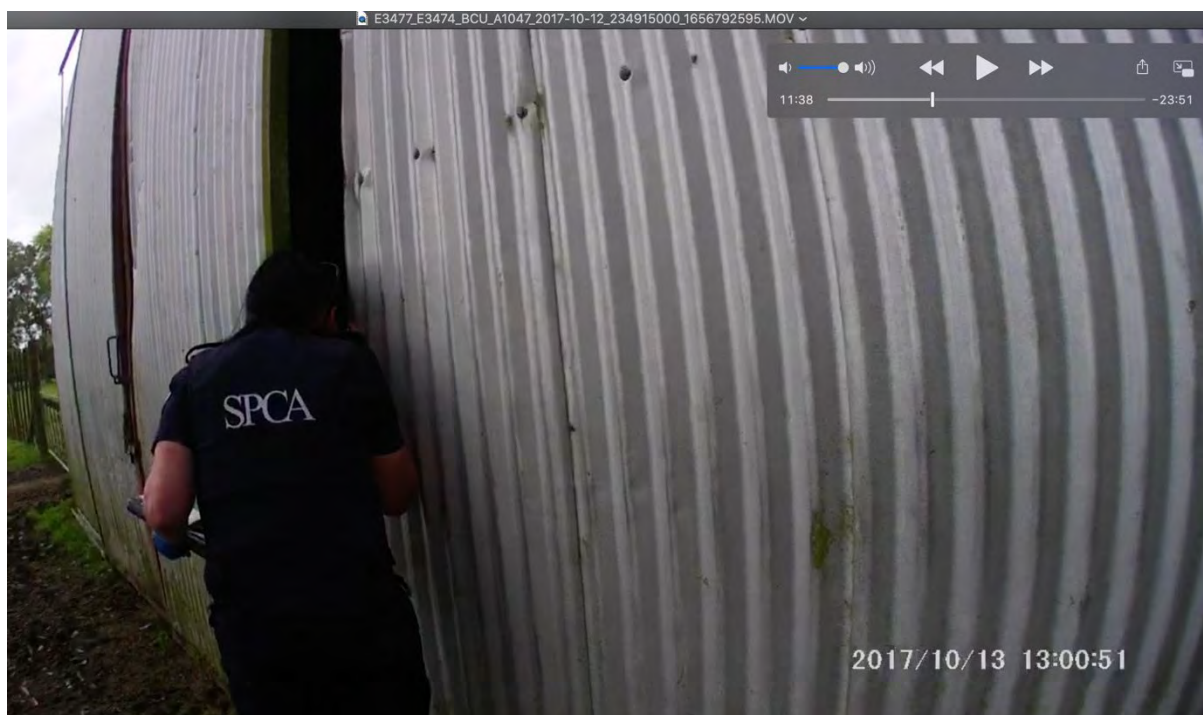


13:00:49 Body Worn Camera 13.10.2017 L Davis – walking towards the opening of the Hay Barn to take a look inside.



13:00:50 Body Worn Camera K Plowright 13.10.2017 as L Davis looks inside the Hay Barn

13:00:51 Body Worn Camera Footage 13.10.2017 K Plowright E3477_E3474_BCU_A1047_2017-10-12_234915000_1656792595.MOV



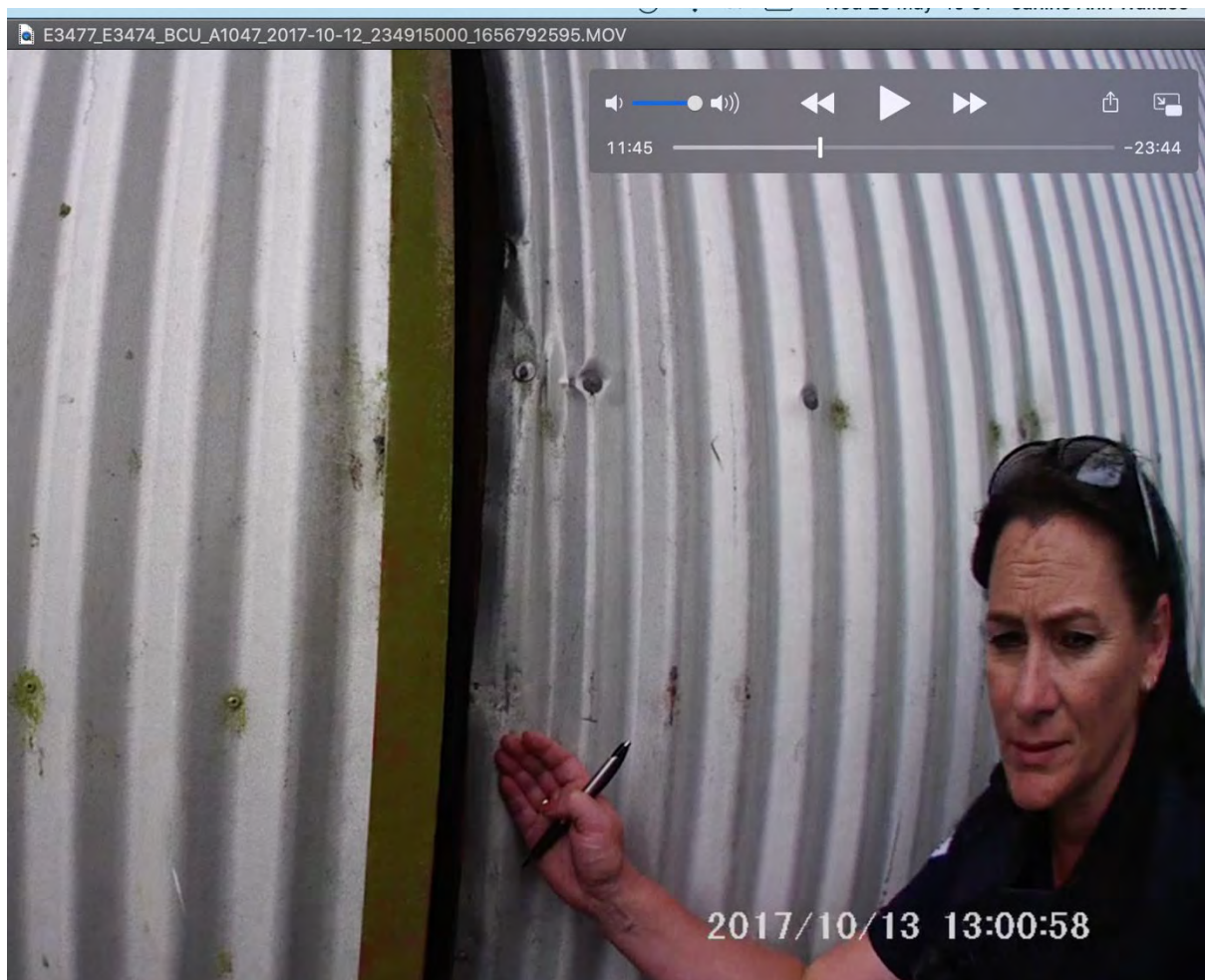
13:00:52-59 Body Worn Camera K Plowright, Plowright walks over looks inside the haybarn sees the dogs and Rhys Heatley

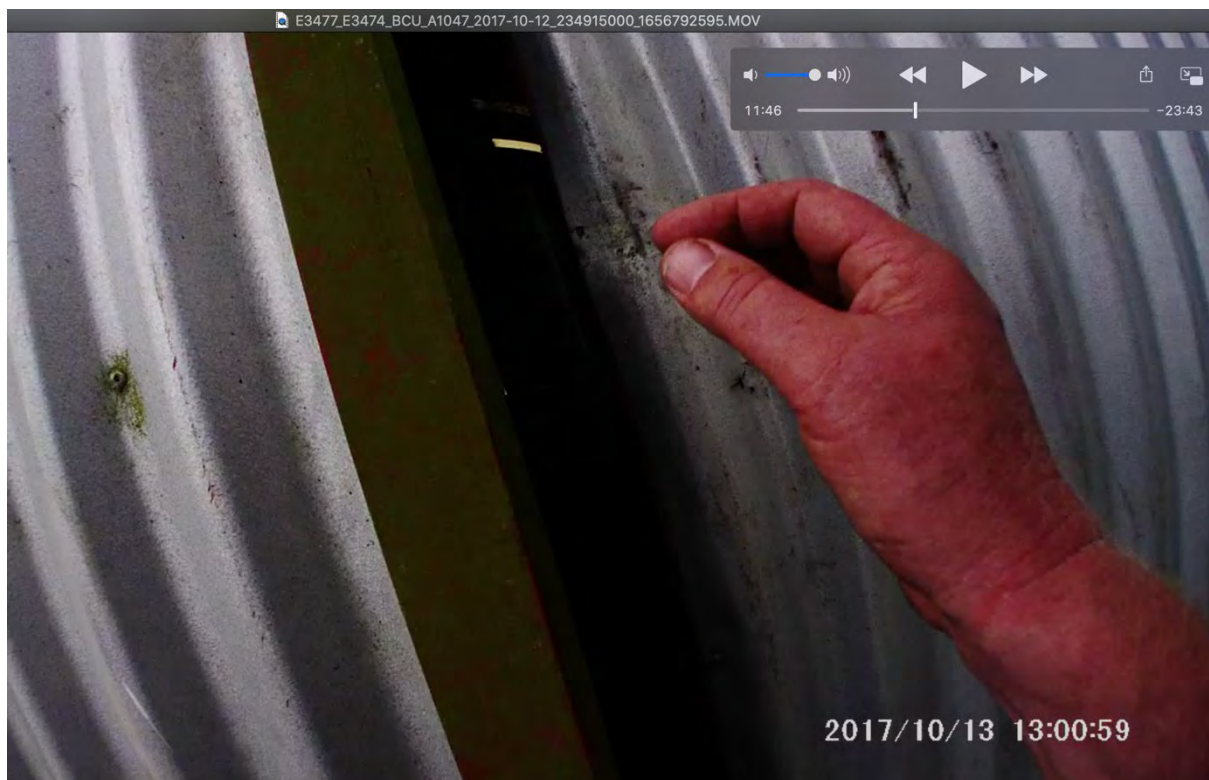


13:00:49 – 58 Body Worn Camera Footage K Plowright of L

Davis looking inside the Hay Barn, she then moves away to enable K Plowright to have a look himself.

13:00:57 Body Worn Camera L Davis AUDIO Rhys Heatley inside the Hay Barn, Rhys entered through the back of hay barn's identical double doors. He closes the double doors behind him! Rhys said: **"What are you doing in here?"**
WHO IS RHYS TALKING TO???





13:00:59 Body Worn Camera K Plowright right hand about to look into the Hay Barn



13:01:01 Body Worn Camera K Plowright – Rhys Heatley inside Haybarn walking with Ritza 1 of 2 screen shots



13:01:02 Body Worn Camera K Plowright – Rhys Heatley
inside Haybarn with Ritza 2 of 2 screen shots

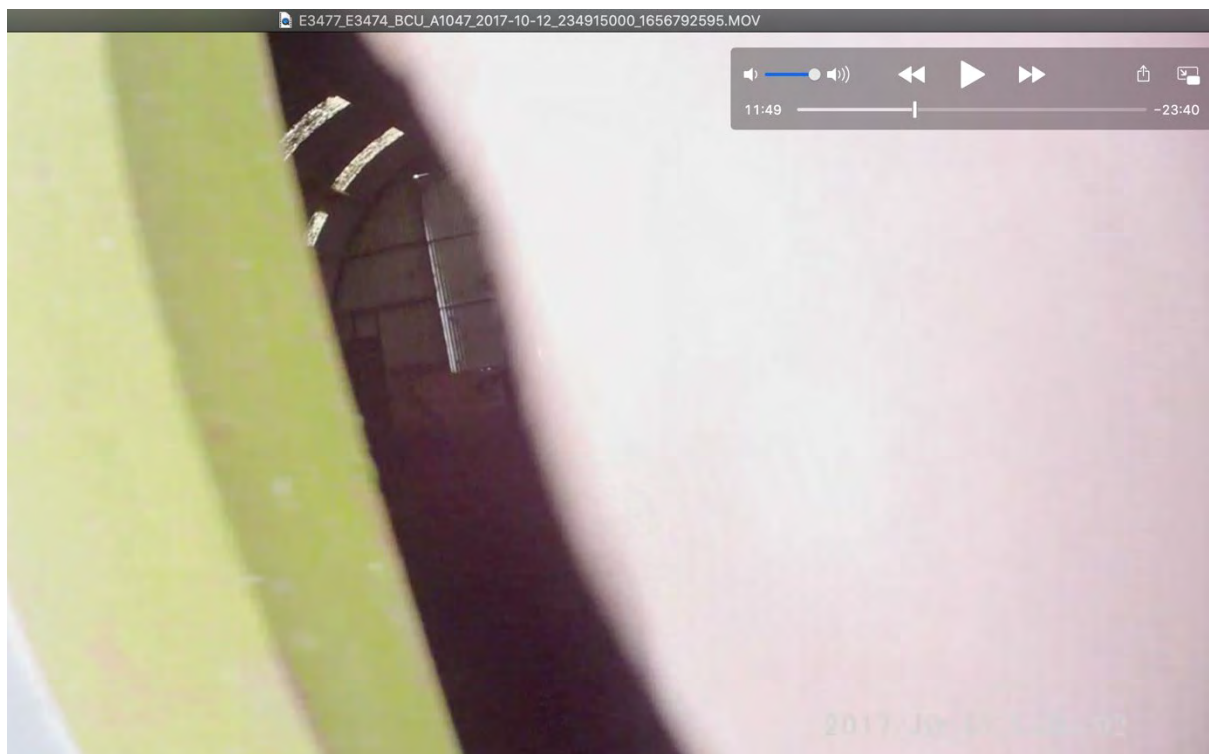


Enhanced Image showing a dog outside the cage



Note Dog next to his leg





13:01:02 Body Worn Camera K Plowright putting his arm in front of the camera 1 of 2 images (K Plowright does this on numerous occasions of importance) to cover up



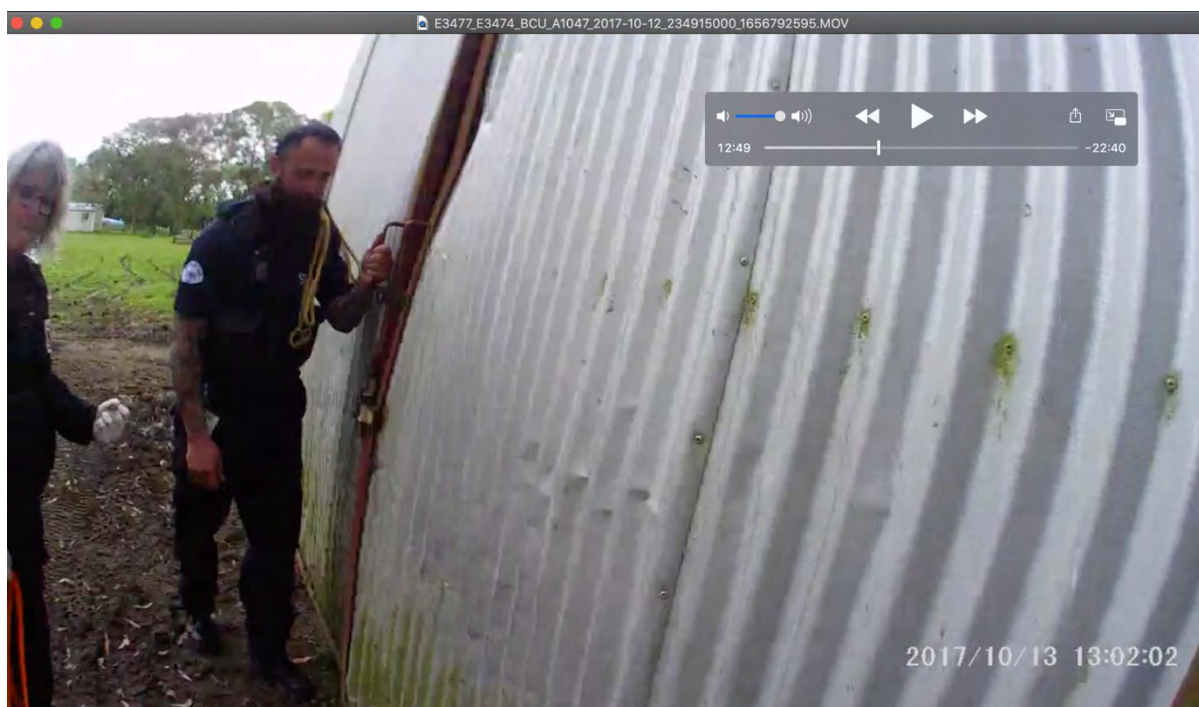
13:01:04 Body Worn Camera K Plowright reaches out to the pin on the chain holding both sliding haybarn doors together



13:01:06 Body Worn Camera K Plowright standing in front of the double haybarn doors looking inside the haybarn.



13:01:20 – 13:01:25 Body Worn Camera L Davis Dr Beer standing at the front of Dani's area states: **"Conformity if you take one with an ear infection you probably should take them both."** (Referring to Dani). J Beer confirms **ONLY 2** with probable ear infections at 13:01:20 on 13.10.2017.



13:02:02 Body Worn Camera K Plowright Joanna Smout
Waikato District Council & SPCA Inspector Andre Williams at
Haybarn front double doors

IMPORTANT TO NOTE PLOWRIGHT & DAVIS CONFIRM
THEY BOTH SAW RHYS HEATLEY INSIDE THE HAYBARN
WALKING TOWARDS THE CRATE **2 MINUTES BEFORE**.
THESE EXACT TIMES ARE DOCUMENTED ON EACH
PHOTO FROM Body Worn Camera footages.

**PLOWRIGHT CREATES A COMMOTION 2 MINUTES AFTER
SEEING RHYS HEATLEY INSIDE HAYBARN WITH RITZA.**

[347] Judge Grau "I simply note here - I do not accept there was a high level of
"commotion" involved in the entry to the barn that Ms Wallace alleged.

Evidence from Body Worn Camera Footage 13 October 2017 L Davis @13:02:04 -
13:02:33 E3460_E3457_BCU_A1045_2017-10-12_234931000_-
789473466.MOV **confirming with commotion with Mr K Plowright picking up a
large Builder's concrete block and smashing it 10 times against the Hay Barn
door.** A total of at least 10 People present at the Hay Barn namely K Plowright; L
Davis; J Beer; Rhys Heatley; Jo from Waikato District Council; Katie Wright SPCA;
Todd Kircher Tuakau Police; Lloyd SPCA Inspector; Robert SPCA Inspector; and

SPCA Inspector Andre causing a big commotion. Including one SPCA vehicle directly parked at the Hay Barn other vehicles were closeby.



13:02:00 Body Worn Camera K Plowright

K Plowright said "It's alright, I have got the key"

Picks up the builder's concrete block at the end of the Haybarn, walks to the double doors and smashed the concrete block 10x against the doors.





13:02:15 – 22 Body Worn Camera L Davis Photo and AUDIO says

L. Davis: “Kev, Rhys is already in there! “

K Plowright: “Yeah but can he get the dogs out without clambering over a whole lot of shit to get out?”

L Davis walks over and looks through the doors and says: “Yeah”



13:02:26 Body Worn Camera K Plowright

Fenton SPCA inspector says" I have a hammer and crowbar"

K Plowright "Oh have you?"

Fenton "Yeah"

13:02:40 Body Worn Camera K Plowright "Well if you don't mind doing that Fenton, I want to go and take some photos under the Wool Shed." And walks to the Wool Shed



13:03:46-54 Body Worn Camera L Davis - Rhys Heatley putting a lead on Dani at rear end of 40 ft long Hay Barn



13:04:29 Body worn Camera L Davis - Rhys Heatley is at the front end of the Haybarn gate with Dani



13:04:44 Body Worn Camera L Davis - Rhys Heatley walking Dani to Fenton's SPCA vehicle in front of Haybarn and putting Dani into Fenton's vehicle



13:04:48 Body Worn Camera L Davis 13.10.2017 opening the bolt, releasing the double hay barn doors to enter from the front.

13:04:59 Body Worn Camera L Davis 13 Oct 2017 AUDIO

L Davis "Is there only one in here Rhys?"

R Heatley "No, two"

L Davis slides open the double Haybarn doors and enters with Dr Beer.



13:05:08 - 13:00: Body Worn Camera L Davis Entering the Haybarn through front double doors with Dr Beer. **NB The rear end double Hay Barn Doors are NOW open.**

13:05:29 Dr Beer walks towards Ritza looks and returns to Pirelli.

13:05: 33 – 13:05:42 Another SPCA Inspector Andre Williams walks to Ritza and stands in front of her. Ritza lies there wagging her tail.

13:06:17 Body Worn Camera L Davis AUDIO Dr Beer says “He should go”

13:07:09 Body Worn Camera L Davis AUDIO Dr Beer says “This one is tied up, you want to get a photo of it, the leg is by her head.”

Seven Minutes after Rhys Heatley is filmed on K Plowright’s Body Worn Camera footage inside the Haybarn.

Photo taken by Lauri Davis after the Inspectors have stood and watched her for several minutes



13:07:30 K Plowright's Body Camera Footage stops in front of the Hay Barn after walking to the Wool shed to take photos and remains like that for 16 minutes and 34 seconds.

[351] Judge Grau "Ritza received medical treatment after she was taken into SPCA custody, but it was unsuccessful, the leg worsened, and she had to be euthanised."

Transcript Manukau District Court January 2022 Page 353 of 1,098 Lines 19 -26
Dr Beer's Evidence in Chief

- 20 Q. So take your time to find the right place if you need to because there's quite a bit in relation to Ritzer.
- A. Yes.
- Q. And then tell us what happened subsequent to her being found there and examined on site, what happened to her over the next few days and weeks?
- 25 A. Okay, so with that injury, we knew it was swollen and she was started on pain relief and antibiotics immediately, we didn't know exactly what would

RITZER's SPCA Medical Report Exerts

13.10.2017 Ritza was given a synthetic opiate painkiller Temgesic 1.6ml SC on the Friday afternoon

Temgesic is a painkiller - SC = Subcutaneous under the skin injection
Why has there been such a delay when Ritza was deemed so urgent?
Dr Beer said in her Evidence in Chief that "Ritza was started on pain relief and **ANTIBIOTICS IMMEDIATELY.**"

This was not correct. A major contradiction

According to Ritza's SPCA Medical Records, as stated by Dr Beer, **ANTIBIOTICS (Clavulox) was only started on the 16th October 2017.**

About 17,800 results (0.44 seconds)

Temgesic for dogs

Buprenorphine (brand names: Buprenex®, Simbadol®, Belbuca®, Vetergesic®, Buprenodale®, Sublocade®, Suboxone®, Subutex®, Temgesic®) is an opioid analgesic used to treat pain, or is used as a preanesthetic in the hospital or clinic setting.

Jess Beer Start Metacam tomorrow morning 2.5mg Sid = veterinary abbreviation meaning to give medication once a day a painkilling anti inflammatory **NO ANTIBIOTICS.**

13.10.2017 K Plowright's video 20171013_131018.mp4, taken in the Hay Barn of Ritza being escorted out into an open area by Rhys Heatley.

ALL SPCA photos & Body Worn Camera footage supplied by L Davis & K Plowright confirm Ritza's coat was in good condition, not matted, not contaminated when she was seized on 13.10.2017.

This statement is not correct on the 13.10.2017 when Ritza was seized

13.10.2017 NO matts behind the ears as stated in Ritza's SPCA medical records on **17.10.2017** by Groomer Katie Wright who was present in the raid on 13.10.2017

13.10.2017 NO matted fecal/dirt contamination as stated on

16.10.2017 by Vet: J Beer Coat is matted and fecal/dirt contaminated. **Coat in better condition**

13.10.2017 NB Ritza is walking on both hind legs - weight bearing at **13:10:01 on 13.10.2017**



13.10.2017 photos taken from K Plowright's video in the Haybarn show clearly Ritza had no matts. No matts were identified by Dr Jess Beer 16.10.2017 of sternal thorax.



16.10.2017 RITZA's first full Veterinary Health check was not until MONDAY afternoon 16th October 2017.

Vet: J Beer Coat is matted and fecal/dirt contaminated. Coat in better condition
 Jess Beer Musculoskeletal - Discomfort on hind limb extension but compromised by right hind oedematous hock from ligature. Malodorous and 5 x 10 cm necrotic skin patch on medial aspect of hock. Temperament: friendly

Continue on Metacam to go on Clavulox (Antibiotics) 250mg give 1.5 tablets 2x daily. Use cone to stop licking.

**NO ANTIBIOTICS UNTIL 4 DAYS LATER = 96 hours, RITZA IS
DIAGNOSED WITH GANGRENE**

I believe this has been a contributing factor in the demise of Ritzer. If you further view the Body Worn Camera footage I believe that it would be near impossible for a dog to get their hind leg wrapped around in their neck collar as seen on their footage. J Beer further describes Ritzer as having urinary and faecal staining as per their own Body Worn Camera footage and their numerous photos show that she was clean on the 13.10.2017 and not far from her was firm fresh faecal matter.

Therefore having viewed their evidence we strongly dispute it.

<https://dogdiscoveries.com/uncategorized/dogs-get-gangrene>

At the Vet's Office

How is gangrene diagnosed in dogs? The diagnosis includes several steps and procedures: a physical examination, blood tests – to check the white blood cells count (should be high in case of a gangrene), tissue culture – to determine the type of bacteria causing the infection and tissue samples examination – to find cellular evidence of cell death.

Preventing further infection spread – achieved with antibiotics.

Eliminating the infection – also achieved with antibiotics.

Treating the underlying cause that led to gangrene.

The prognosis for a dog with gangrene depends on several factors:

Location of the gangrene

Severity

How fast diagnosis was set

How fast treatment was initiated.

Sadly, when dogs get gangrene, it is much harder to spot than it is in humans. This is because the fur can cover the damaged tissues for a long period of time. When the fur falls off and the gangrene becomes visible, the condition has already significantly advanced.

What causes gangrene in dogs? When it comes to living organisms, blood is multi-functional. It carries and transports oxygen, nutrients and disease-fighting antibodies to every cell in the body. If the blood flow is impaired, cells die, infections develop and tissues are damaged beyond repair.

A gangrene case may start with an untreated open wound. The wound allows infiltration of bacteria and becomes infected. Untreated infections lead to gangrene. So generally speaking, gangrene occurs in cases of **impaired blood flow** and in cases of **wound infections**.

A necrotizing infection causes patches of tissue to die.

These infections are the result of bacteria invading the skin or the tissues under the skin. If untreated, they can cause death in a matter of hours. Fortunately, such infections are very rare. How long does it take for necrosis to occur?

Necrosis occurred in 2 of 4 cases in which the patient had been operated on within 3 hours of the injury, and our exploratory survival analysis estimates that 37% (95% confidence interval, 13%-51%) of all cases of ACS may develop muscle necrosis **within 3 hours of the injury**

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Necrotizing_fasciitis

Necrotizing fasciitis (NF), also known as **flesh-eating disease**, is a bacterial **infection** that results in the **death** of parts of the body's **soft tissue**.^[3] It is a severe disease of sudden onset that spreads rapidly.^[3] Symptoms usually include red or purple skin in the affected area, severe pain, **fever**, and vomiting.^[3] The most commonly affected areas are the **limbs** and **perineum**.^[2]

Typically, the infection enters the body through a break in the skin such as a cut or **burn**.^[3] Risk factors include **poor immune function** such as from **diabetes** or **cancer**, **obesity**, **alcoholism**, **intravenous drug use**, and **peripheral artery disease**.^{[2][3]} It does not typically spread between people.^[3] The disease is classified into four types, depending on the infecting organism.^[4] Between 55 and 80% of cases involve more than one type of **bacteria**.^[4] **Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA)** is involved in up to a third of cases.^[4] **Medical imaging** is often helpful to confirm the diagnosis.^[4]

Necrotizing fasciitis may be prevented with proper **wound care** and **handwashing**.^[3] It is usually treated with **surgery to remove the infected tissue**, and intravenous **antibiotics**.^{[2][3]} Often, a combination of antibiotics is used, such as **penicillin G**, **clindamycin**, **vancomycin**, and **gentamicin**.^[2] Delays in surgery are associated with a much higher risk of death.^[4] Despite high-quality treatment, the risk of death is between 25 and 35%.^[2]

Within 4 days in the SPCA environment our loving "Retza" has caught the highly contagious strep disease and the Vets and people supposedly caring for her neglected her, she was not treated

17.10.2017 Coat in pretty good condition, does have some mild matting behind ears - NOT POSSIBLE SHE IS NOT A LONG COAT - Video demonstrates this is not the case screened on TV and the above photo taken at the scene on 13.10.2017

Ritzer **WAS NOT** Veterinary health checked

18.10.2017 Rechecked leg. Still necrotic and malodorous. OK to continue with **Metacam** and **Clavulox**. Recheck again on Tuesday as may need a General Anaesthetic and debriding. Vet: D Dreyer

WHY WAS RITZER NOT TREATED OR CHECKED IN THE LAST 6 DAYS = at least 144 hours??? From 18.10.- 24.10.2017 RITZER WAS NOT TREATED, not medically checked or bandage changed and/or wound dressing changed, no evidence of monitoring from 13.10.2017 - 27.10.2017 - Negligence Where is Body Camera Footage, Kenneling footage, Photos, the SPCA employees

statements and notes over the whole period of time.
In the 11 days after being seized on the 13.10.2017 Ritza received
Veterinary treatment ONLY 3 times namely
16.10.2017 – 1st Full veterinary examination by Dr Beer
18.10.2017 – 2nd veterinary treatment by Doug Dreyer
24.10.2017 – 3rd veterinary treatment by Dr Beer

24.10.2017 Body Worn Camera K Plowright
E3499_E3498_BCU_A1047_2017-10-23_231743000_-
471933794.MOV

12:38:28 J Wallace “How are they?”

12:38:30 K Plowright “Good”. Now I need to talk to you about one of them. One of the dogs that was removed from the barn. He had the lead wrapped around his leg.

12:38:35 Ritza? She would have panicked hearing all of that. Yes.

12:38:40 K Plowright the leg was enlarged as it came out.

12:38:45 J Wallace yes but there was no abrasions or anything like that.

12:38:49 L Davis No there was.

12:38:50 K Plowright Yeah so long story short. There was a gangrenous infection. In there they are on a hardcore series of antibiotics now to try and get rid of that. But of course, if the gangrene can't be got on top of. We will get a vet having look further from there. But it had done quite a bit of damage that lead.

12:39:18 L Davis “It was, so the lead was wrapped around from the cage, it was wrapped around that part of the leg.

12:39:24 K Plowright “so you got this part in through here on this little fella, just on in through here”

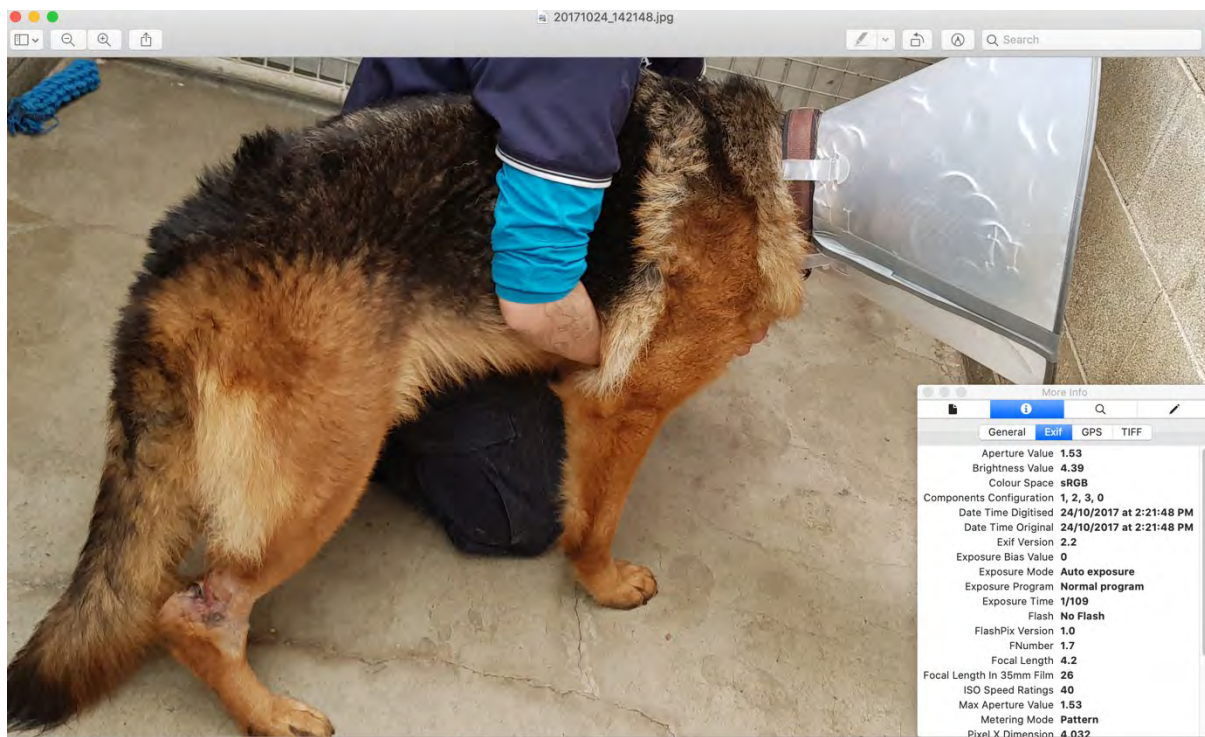
12:39:31 L Davis “And you can see the indent from the lead where it was. When we released her, she could not even put her leg – we have got it all on video – it was all stuck out the back like that. She couldn't put any weight on it. It was twice the size of her other leg. Still I haven't seen her today but last week it was still quite swollen and she was still quite lame in that leg. But they are doing everything they can to just try and combat that and just monitor her for the minute. We just wanted to let you know that she is of concern.

12:40:01 K Plowright "So they are bringing the dogs that were underweight up to normal weight, the matting and grooming is being done to get them to a healthier standard in the coat, so everything. When something is seized the SPCA is fully responsible for the health and wellbeing of those animals and that is what we are doing. So yeah however you will be responsible for all the veterinary all costs associated with that."

12:40:30 L Davis "Unless you surrender any, and then we will take the costs for that."

12:40:35 K Plowright "Have a think on that."

24.10.2017 Photo from K Plowright at SPCA 20171024_142148.jpg



24.10.2017 Vet: J Beer rechecked leg. RHS lesion around hock, full thickness open purulent wound with granulation tissues but deep to Achilles tendon. Weight bearing and surprisingly comfortable with it.

24.10.2017 Kevin Plowright gives permission for this animal to go under anaesthesia for the purpose of a hip dysplasia test and ear exam and any other exam/treatment deemed necessary to mitigate possible suffering while the animal is in our care.

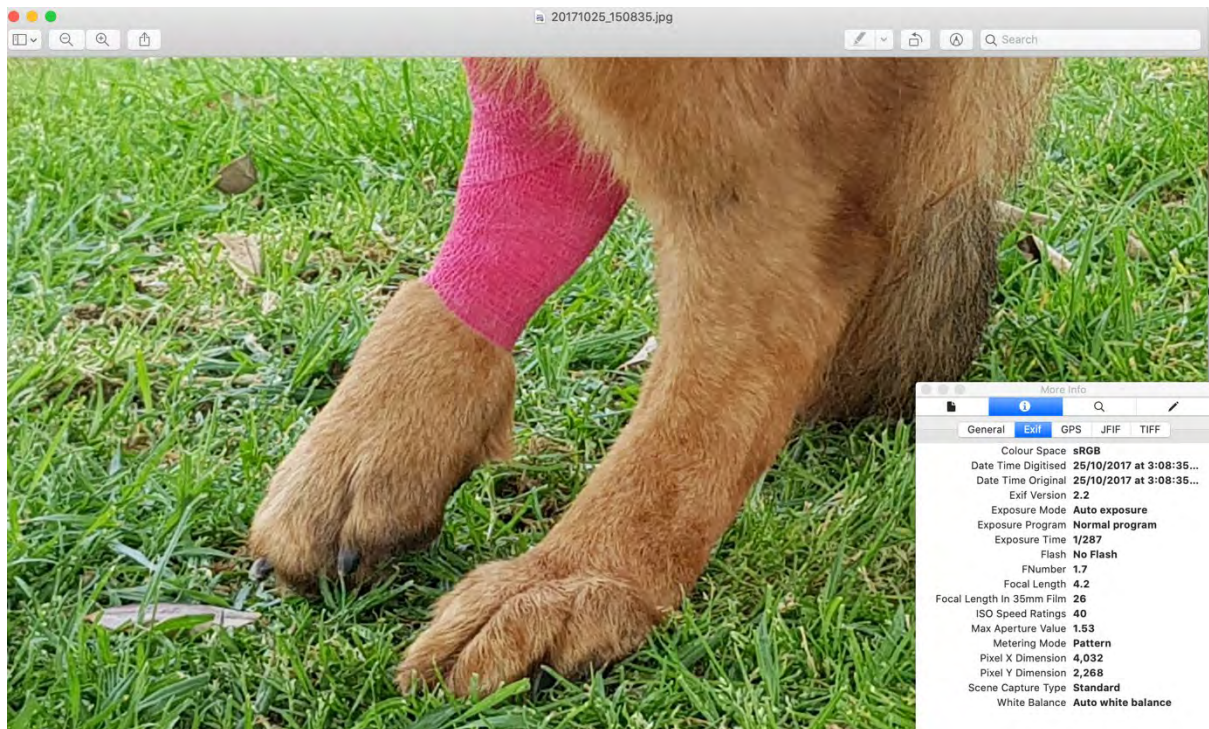


Photo from K Plowright collection 20171025_150835.jpg of Ritza on 25.10.2017 at 3.08 pm, it appears that this bandage is too tight, her foot is swollen.

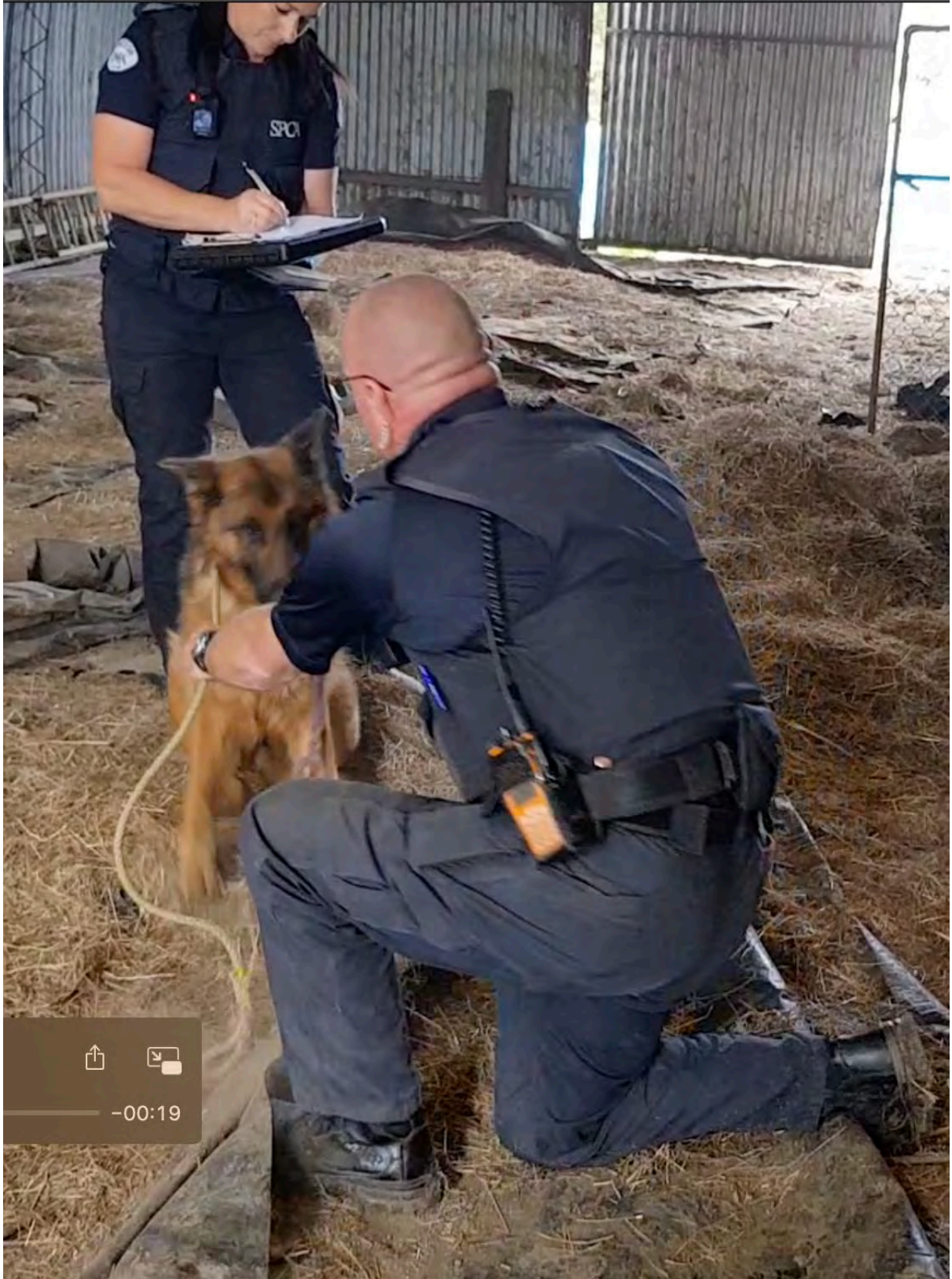
25.10.2017 **General Anaesthetic X-ray hips v/d Jess to assess.**
Clip fur around wound and scrub with hypercleanse. Excise necrotic skin, wound granulating, but achilles tendon exposed with part of the tendon necrotic. Pack wound with manuka honey, bandage. Continue with antibiotics and metacam.

25.10.2017 Slightly matted fur clipped from sternal thorax. **WHY?**



25.10.2017 This photo of Ritza above is taken by K Plowright NB: Both front legs, shaved and injection sites, sternum thorax shaved but it is not the same as the front legs. Is this photo taken after or before Ritza had been given General Anaesthetic X-ray hips v/d Jess to assess.

20171013_131018.mp4





13.10.2017 2x Screen Shots taken from K Plowright's video of Ritza at 13:10:15 20171013_131018.mp4 with Rhys Heatley

26.10.2017 ALARM BELLS...Discussion with KP/LD, vets, sort out team, canine attendants required tomorrow morning regarding further management of this case.

AA noted non weight bearing on RH and foot appears swollen. Required muzzle for examination due to high pain level associated with wound RH.

Tarsus completely dropped (almost touching floor) on right side. All digits held in slightly flexed position. Bandage has significant strike through.

0.4mg/kg methadone administered IM to facilitate bandage change.

*Assessment: Clinical signs of 'dropped tarsus' with digits in flexed position is consistent with gastrocnemius tendon injury (likely rupture) and intact SDFT dog is very painful. **INFECTION - Lack of hygiene in SPCA care***

With an injury to the achilles tendon as well as infection, further treatment would require infection control, tendon repair (if possible) and long term post-operative care and physiotherapy. Surgical treatment typically requires specialist input.

Due to severe level of pain, level and complexity of injury, long term postoperative care, need for frequent bandage changes and sedation, dogs' level of distress with cage confinement and wearing E-COLLAR, human euthanasia is recommended.

[353] Judge Grau This charge is proved. If this dog had not been left tethered as it was for an extended period of time, she would not have got tangled in her lead, ultimately with fatal consequences. Four of the SPCA's witnesses expressed the opinion that this injury was not caused in a matter of minutes."

Evidence: Body Worn Camera L Davis 13 October 2017 at 12:48:08 Rhys Heatley "There are two dogs beside the shed, Jo said there are more in the shed." L Davis "Cool da da da Kevin"

Although a very rare occurrence, canine gangrene is **similar to the condition found in humans**. Among the common shared symptoms are: Swelling of the area caused by infection. Foul-smelling discharge caused by dying tissues.^{12/07/2017}

What is gangrene caused by?

An untreated bacterial infection can cause gangrene.

Traumatic injury. Gunshot wounds or crushing injuries from car crashes can cause open wounds that let bacteria into the body. If the bacteria infect tissues and remain untreated, gangrene can occur.^{11/02/2021}

Can you heal gangrene?

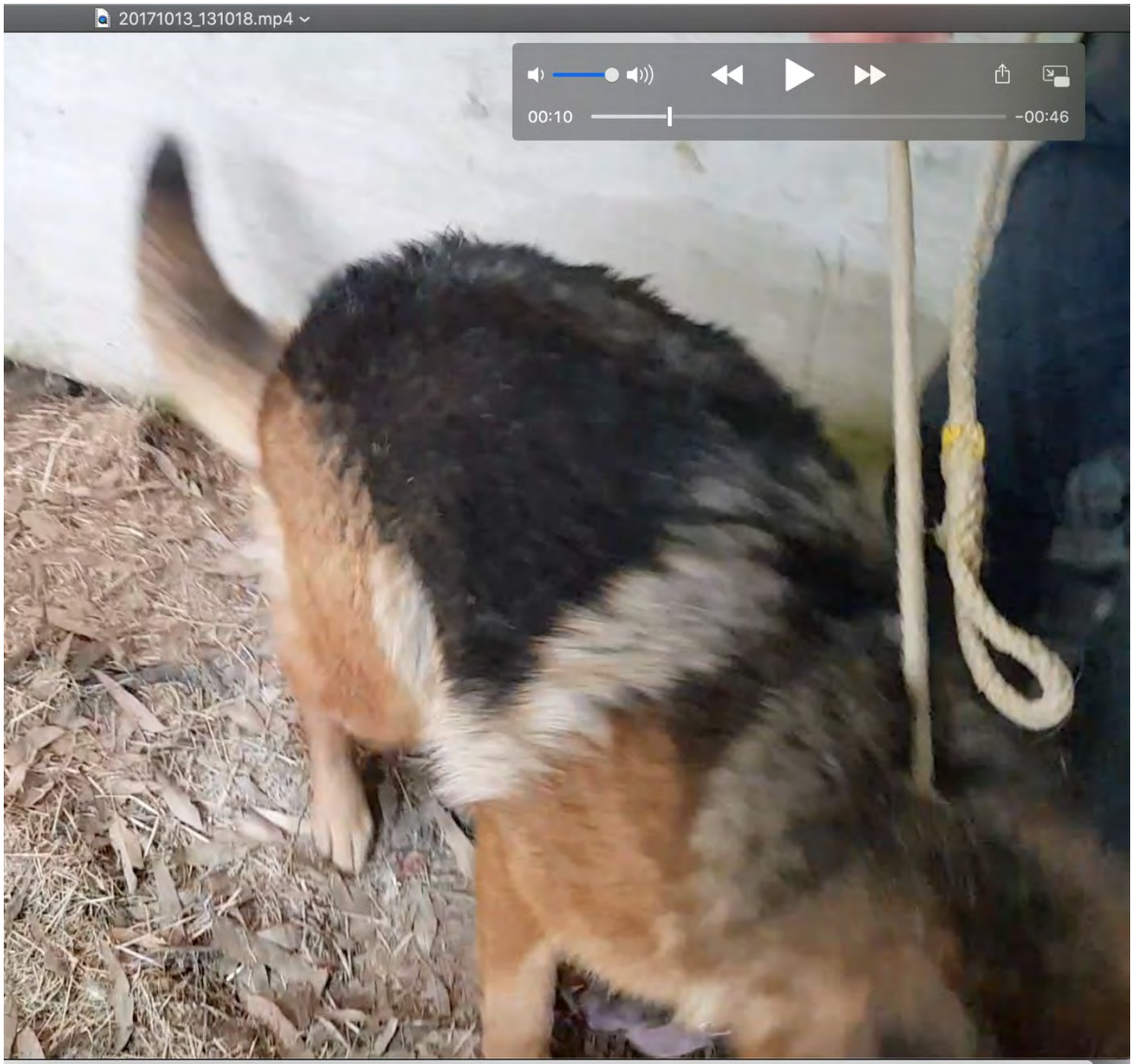
The prognosis is generally favorable except in people in whom the infection has spread through the bloodstream. **Gangrene is usually curable in the early stages with intravenous antibiotic treatment and debridement.** Without treatment, gangrene may lead to a fatal infection.

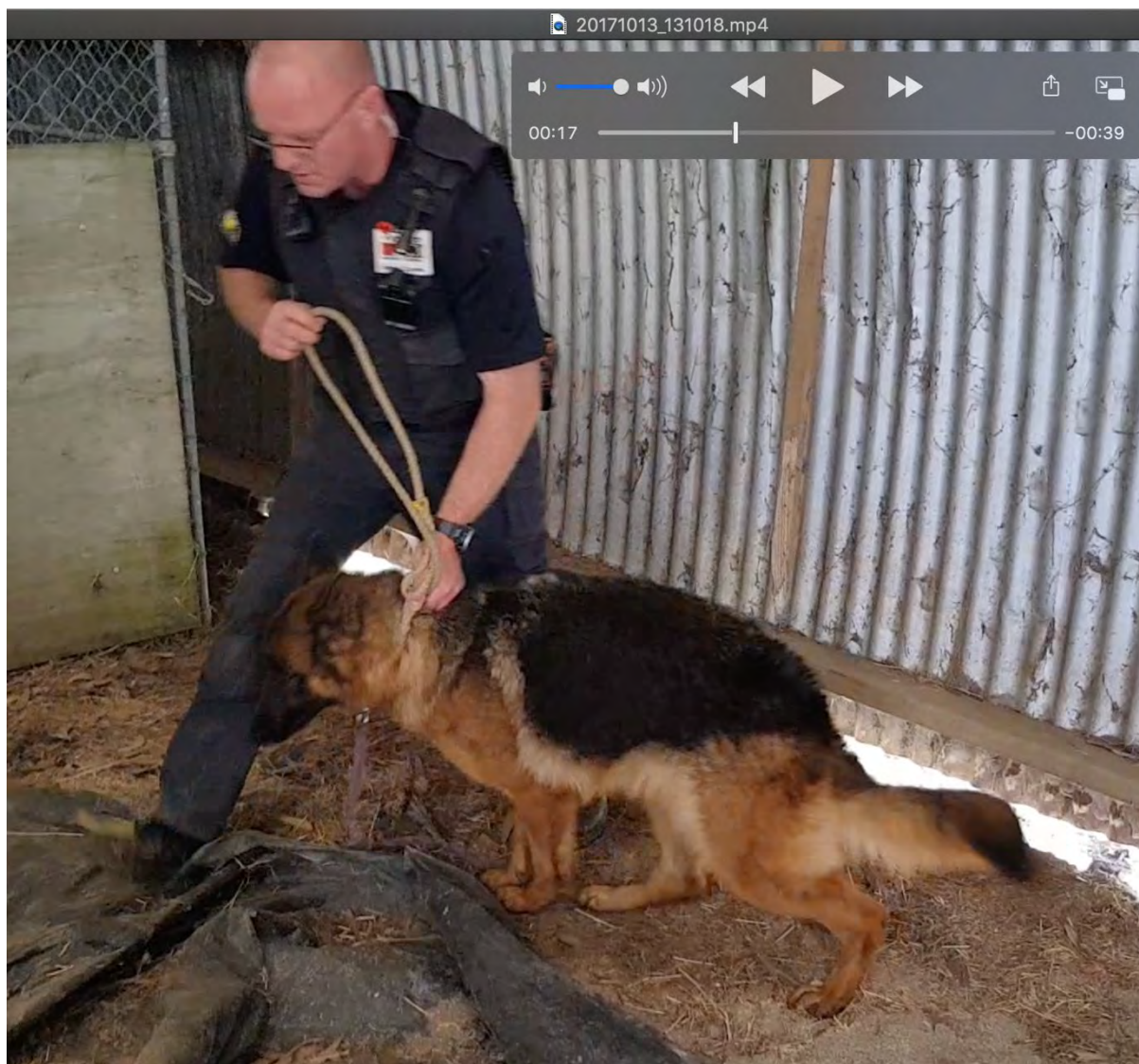
The requirement for a two-metre tether is not the minimum standard or even recommended best practise under the Code. It appears to be an arbitrary instruction from the SPCA

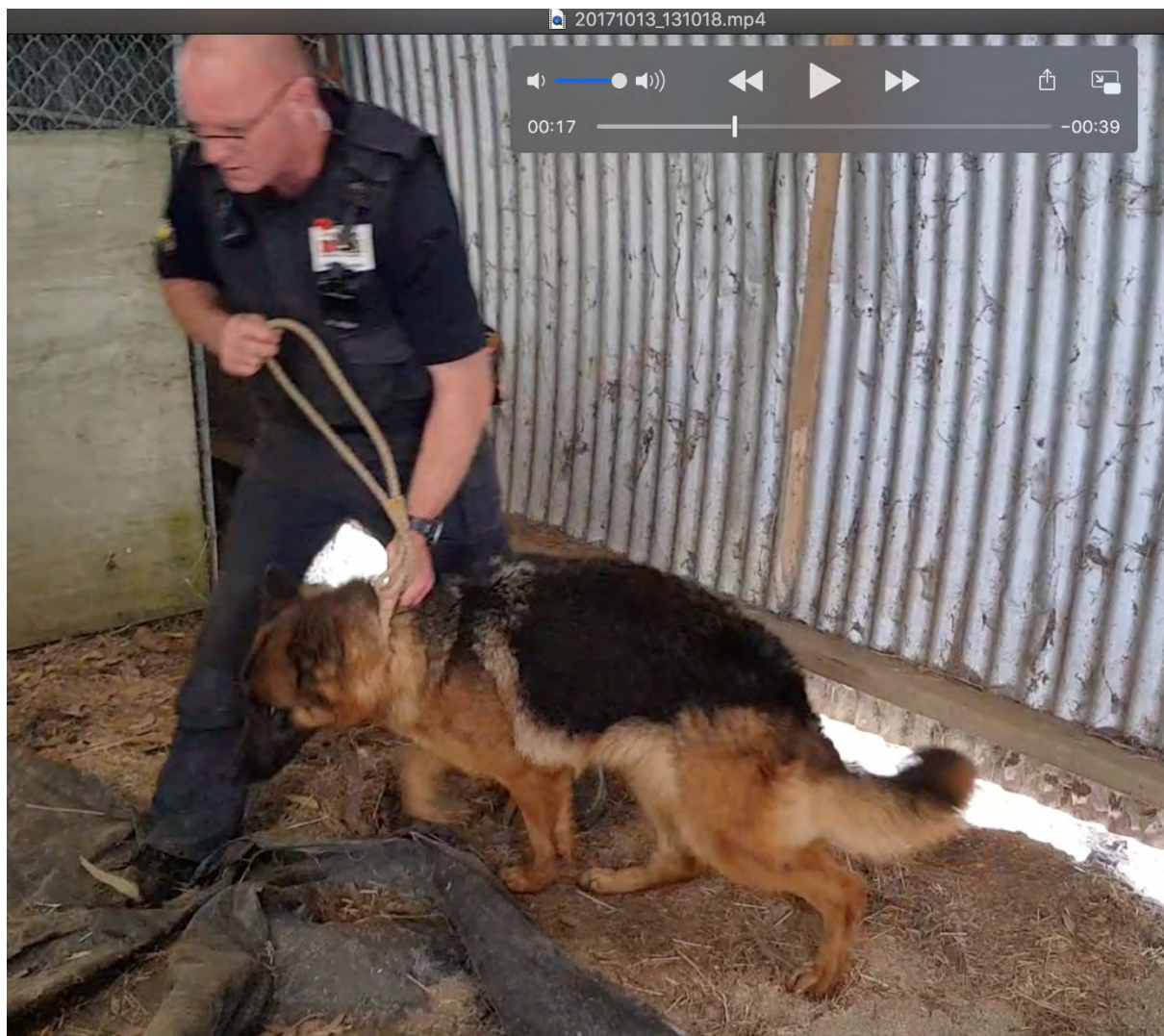
There appears to be no obvious swelling as described by Ms Davis Statement "Her leg was double the size we took a video of it" Body Worn Camera Footage K Plowright 24.10.2017

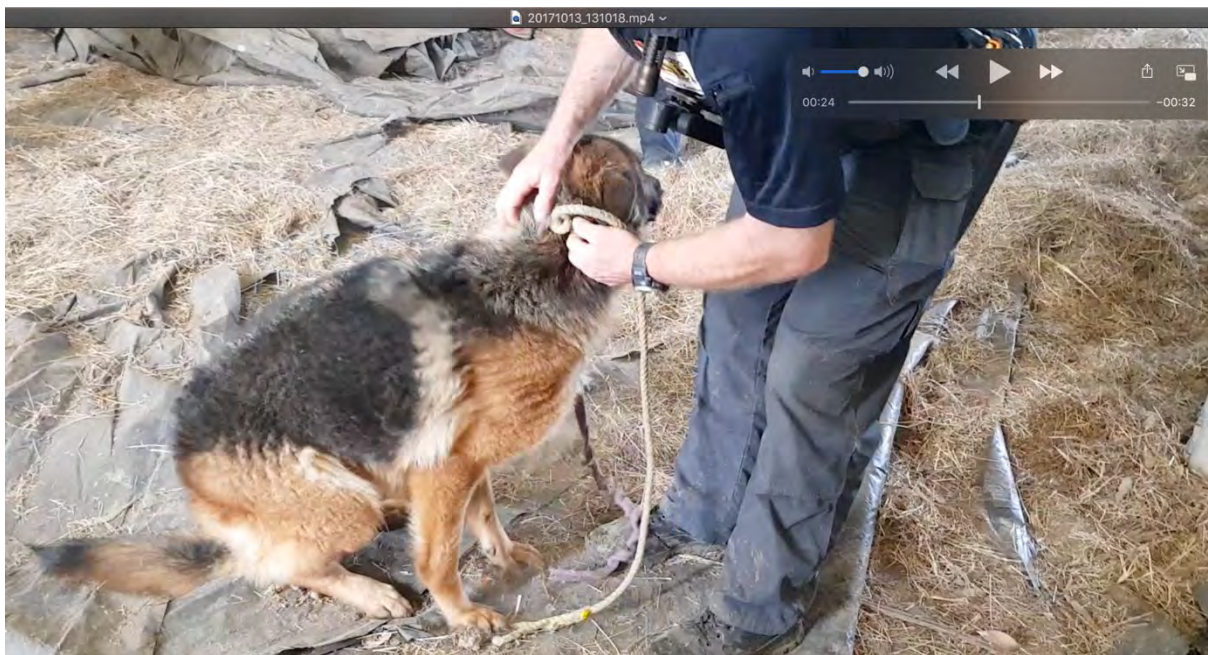
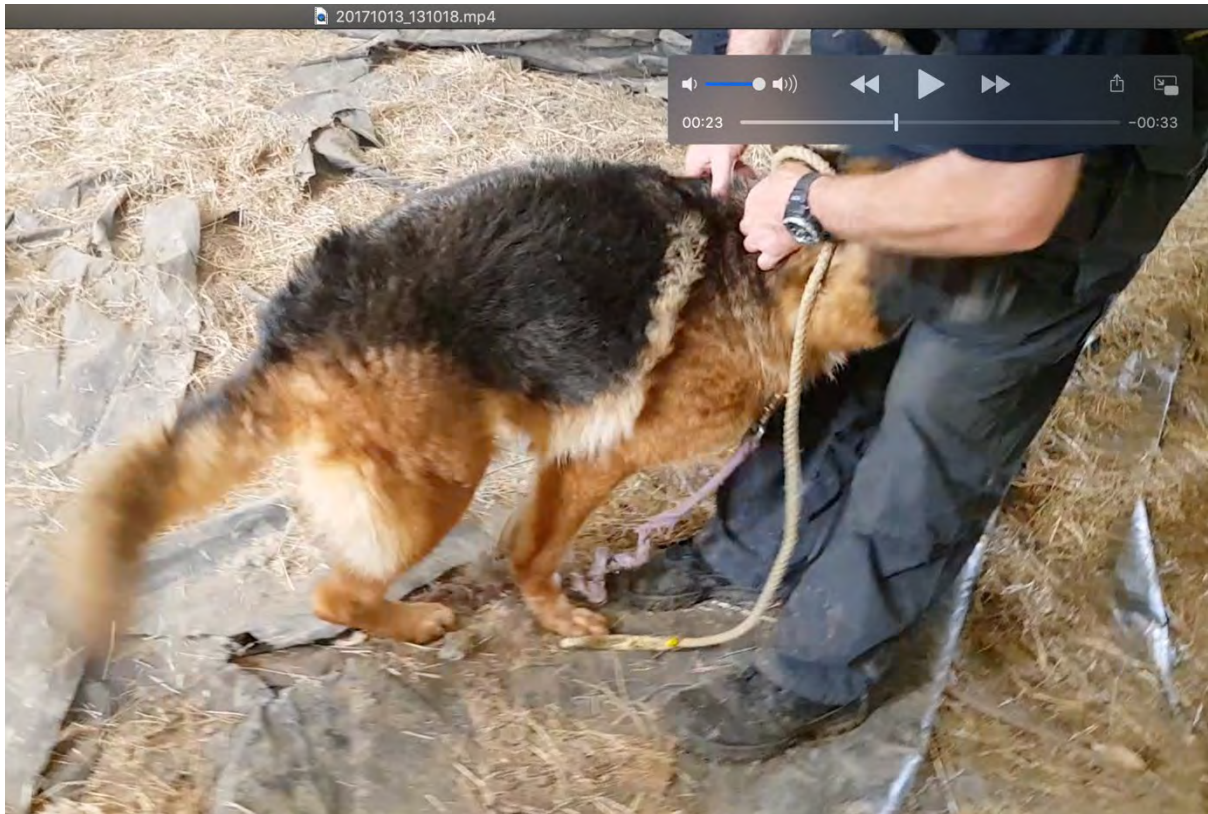
Photos = Screen shots from K Plowright's 1 minute video as Ritza is walked out by Rhys Heatley.

1. Haybarn Ritza K Plowright's video 13 Oct 2017 10 seconds after release weight bearing NB Right hand Back Leg Toes clearly defined
2. Haybarn Ritza K Plowright's video 13 Oct 2017 17 seconds after release standing, stepping out, weight bearing NB Right hand Back Leg Toes clearly defined
3. Haybarn Ritza K Plowright's video 13 Oct 2017 17 seconds after release stepping out weight bearing NB Right hand Back Leg Toes clearly defined. Look at her front leg she is stepping out moving forward while being restrained by Rhys Heatley NB both hind legs are firmly on the ground moving forward
4. Haybarn Ritza K Plowright's video 13 Oct 2017 23 seconds after release standing, weight bearing NB Right hand Back Leg Toes clearly defined
5. Haybarn Ritza K Plowright's video 13 Oct 2017 24 seconds after release standing about to sit down weight bearing NB Right hand Back Leg Toes clearly defined
6. Haybarn Ritza K Plowright's video 13 Oct 2017 25 seconds after release stepping out weight bearing NB Right hand Back Leg Toes clearly defined
7. Haybarn Ritza K Plowright's video 13 Oct 2017 33 seconds after release standing, weight bearing with Rhys Heatley NB Right hand Back Leg Toes clearly defined









[124] Judge Grau **“Dr Beer said you could not see the definition of the dog’s toes in a photograph because the entire foot was swollen.”**

[125] Judge Grau **“The dog could not or would not put its leg on the ground after release.”**

[126] Judge Grau **PAGE 28 “Dr Beer’ considered the rope would have been around Ritza’s leg for hours, not just a few minutes. In Dr Flint’s view the rope was around the leg which means it had **been moving around in the area to make that happen** and the wound was not a fresh wound.”**



Photo 13.10.2017 taken by K Plowright in the Haybarn at the alleged scene. NOTE:

1. There was NO ROPE wrapped around Ritza’s leg.
2. The photos – screen shots taken from the 1 minute video by K Plowright **PROVE Ritza was weight bearing**, using her hind leg to move forward, using her toes definitively immediately after release.
3. The area in which Ritza was found was NOT all worked up, as stated by Dr Flint from moving around if she had somehow created this situation herself. The area was pristine, the hay was still in place. Comparing with the Pirelli you can see how he has got worked up and the floor is bare.
3. **There is no wound therefore** Dr Flint’s statement is incorrect and misleading the Judge and court and public under oath. The above photos and Body Camera footage / Video footage taken by both Inspectors prove the skin was not broken, no abrasion, no cut,

no bruising, no wound, on the 13.10.2017 at 1:21 pm before departing from the farm.

Transcript Page 42 of 93 [193]

In cross examination Dr Dreyer was referred to German Shepherd breed standard weights, **with which he was unfamiliar**. He said that, in using the Purina scale, you do not take the breed of the dog into consideration. It was used as a body scoring condition for all breeds.

Reserved Decision Judge Blackie 5 December 2019 Page 14 of 21 Par 46

“Dr Dreyer said that he had considerable experience with German Shepherd dogs, he had been the veterinarian to the German Shepherd Club in South Africa.”

20191206114229294.pdf (page 14 of 21)

Q dreyer

[46] Both Mr Plowright and Dr Dreyer were cross-examined by the respondents. Mr Plowright rejected the contention that the tree canopy would have been adequate shelter against the weather. He also rejected the suggestion that the dogs were not dehydrated and that they were fit and well-muscled. Dr Dreyer said that he had considerable experience with German Shepherd dogs, he had been the veterinarian to the German Shepherd Club in South Africa. The fleas could have been detected much earlier. The matt and her fleas were responsible for the dermatitis.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Sonia van Kraayenburg** <sonia@grehenheim.co.za>
Date: Wed, Dec 11, 2019 at 9:35 PM
Subject: RE: German Shepherd Federation of South Africa
To: Barbara Glover <volkerson88@gmail.com>

Good Morning Barbara

We have **never** heard of such a person. The GSD Federation does not employ vets, but of course works closely with many of them

Regards

Sonia van Kraayenburg

061 495-5077

083 302-0536

Arabis Road, Kameeldrift West, Pretoria

061 494 4208 ■ 061 495 5077 Postnet Suite 431, Private Bag X0001, Ifafi 0260

info@petapartments.co.za

S 25° 42' 14" - E 27° 57' 49"

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From: Barbara Glover [mailto:volkerson88@gmail.com]

Sent: Sunday, December 8, 2019 02:53

To: sonia@grehenheim.co.za

Subject: German Shepherd Federation of South Africa

Good Afternoon Frikkie,

I am sorry we do not have your email address and we are hoping this email address works.

We would really appreciate if you could confirm receipt of this email and even more so if you can help us with some information.

Frikkie did your GSD Club have a Vet called Doug Dreyer employed by the German Shepherd Federation of South Africa? If so could you please tell me when and for how long and was he any good? Did you have any complaints? He did not call it the German Shepherd Federation of South Africa, he named it the German Shepherd Club of South Africa and there is no such club according to our research. He has been very evasive and does not have a clue about German Shepherds, this is why we thought we would contact you. No - one knows German Shepherds and South Africa better than you.

We look forward to hearing from you. We hope this email finds you all well and looking forward to the Christmas spirit.

Kind regards

Barbara Glover

Affidavit K Plowright sworn and signed 18 January 2018 Page 16 of 18 Paragraphs 78 – 81 regarding Ritza's euthanasia.

Important Note:-

Par. 78 => the infection have become gangrenous

Par. 80 "Ritza was inspected by their own veterinarian."

This sworn statement is PERJURY!

Inspector Plowright instructed Dr Jess Beer NOT to email through Ritza's medical records and photos which they had discussed early morning on the 27th October 2017.

Not supplying veterinary medical records which is absolutely against the Veterinary Code of Ethics to the Vet requested to give a second opinion (this was not forthcoming at all and only received on the 3rd April 2018 = 5.5 months later)

Kevin Plowright confirmed this at the "Interview" in November 2017 at Auckland SPCA, Mangere.

Dr Mark Clinning was not even supplied with medical records and photos. He was simply told by Jess Beer her opinion.

The law states we are entitled to an independent second veterinary opinion as does the Veterinary Code of Ethics complete with all medical records.

These records were received with partial discovery 03.04.2018 = 5 months later after repeated written requests from our lawyer.

At the meeting on the 9th November 2017 at the SPCA with Ray Sheath an ex Policeman with 22 years in the Police Force representing my mother, L.Davis / K.Plowright, when questioned why were Retza's medical records not emailed through to Dr Mark Clinning,

K.Plowright said he had told Jess Beer NOT to send them through! He also told Ray Sheath not to speak, he cannot ask any questions although he was representing my mother. R. Sheath has videoed the whole meeting for evidence.

Dr Mark Clinning of Takanini Veterinary Associates DID NOT INSPECT RITZA, this was a breach of s 138 and Perjury.

78. Ritza had further complications due to her leg having been without blood flow for a prolonged period. An area of skin and tendon and other tissue of her hock was dying and the infection have become gangrenous.
79. We considered whether amputation of the leg was an option but due to Ritza being a large dog breed this was not practicable. SPCA veterinarian Jess Beer recommended euthanasia.
80. Pursuant to section 138 of the Animal Welfare Act, we invited Ms Wallace Ms Glover to have the opportunity of seeking a second veterinary opinion. They accepted this and Ritza was inspected by their own veterinarian. Their veterinarian recommended euthanasia or amputation. Ms Wallace and Ms Glover agreed to Ritza being euthanized.
81. Ritza was euthanized on Friday, 27 October 2017.

We now question whether this in fact was our dog because at NO STAGE was she identified by microchip. Our Vet Dr Mark Clinning from Takanini Veterinary Associates was denied access by Kevin Plowright – what did Kevin Plowright have to hide.

RETZA WAS NOT INSPECTED BY OUR VETERINARIAN AT ANY TIME WHILST IN SPCA CARE AS SWORN BY KEVIN PLOWRIGHT'S IN HIS AFFIDAVIT 15.01.2018

It is to be noted Gribbles did not identify Ritza by microchip before doing the autopsy.

LABORATORY Gribbles Veterinary Pathology Ltd- Auckland
LABADDR1 37-41 Carbine Road
LABADDR2 Mt Wellington
REPORTFEE 347.19

@RESULTS

291916 RITZA NEC nr -

@COMMENTS

AU17-36008

Patient/Animal Identification: Ritza #291916 Dog #15.

Necropsy duration: 70 minutes.

Gross Examination: An adult female entire black and tan German Shepherd dog was submitted for post mortem examination by Inspector Kevin Plowright of the Auckland SPCA; this was conducted on 30/10/17. The dog weighed 31.3 kg and was in fair body condition (Body condition score 3/5, Purina Pet Care Centre scale, as reproduced in the Animal Welfare (Dogs) Code of Welfare 2010) with mild post mortem changes.

There was scant tartar on her teeth. The right fore dorsal antebrachium had been shaved and the ventral neck/thorax had an area of alopecia and lichenification. Red fluid oozed from the nostrils.

There was a skin and subcutis defect on the caudal aspect of the right hock proximal to the tarsocrural joint, with an irregularly shaped granulating wound and some yellow/green surface exudate; ruptured green/white ends of the common calcaneal tendon were identified. The lateral digital flexor tendon remained intact. The edges of the skin defect were red to grey/black. The area was oedematous and had been shaved.

The lungs, liver and mesentery were diffusely reddened.

There were green areas within two ileocecal lymph nodes.

The stomach contained dog biscuits. The heart weighed 248 g, and the liver weighed 1447 g. No other gross abnormalities were identified. Photographs were taken during the necropsy. Samples of a range of organs were collected for histopathology, if requested. A sample of fresh ileocecal lymph node was also frozen for further testing, if requested.

Gross diagnosis:

Ventral neck/thorax dermatitis.

Right hock skin and soft tissue wound with common calcaneal (Achilles) tendon rupture.

Probable visceral congestion.

Ileocecal lymph node pigmentation.

Comment: Jess and Kevin, the main finding at post mortem in this dog was the right hock wound that you were managing at the SPCA. I can confirm that the "Achilles" tendon was ruptured and that there was an associated wound. This was consistent with a traumatic foot injury, and consistent with your supplied history of a ligature injury. The presence of granulation tissue is consistent with a wound days to weeks old, consistent with the supplied history. It is my opinion that this injury would have caused severe pain, suffering and distress. An injury of this nature should be treated immediately to alleviate pain and distress (e.g. with pain-killing medications, bandaging and other measures such as amputation) in accordance with Section 11 of the Animal Welfare Act 1999, and Minimum Standard (10) - Ill Health and Injury, of the Animal Welfare (Dogs) Code of Welfare 2010.

The other post mortem findings in this dog were likely of trivial importance. It could be this dog had a flea allergy dermatitis leading to the ventral neck/thorax alopecia. The congestion of viscera (especially the pulmonary congestion) was probably related to barbiturate euthanasia and post mortem hypostatic congestion. The lymph nodes could have appeared green due to pigment deposition, although another cause (e.g. lymphadenitis) cannot be completely ruled out without culture and histopathology of the node.

Please note that the remains of this case will be routinely disposed of in two weeks' time, unless other arrangements for their storage or disposal are requested.

Michael Hardcastle, BVSc, MVStds (Hons), Diplomate ACVP Registered Specialist in Veterinary Anatomical Pathology Tel: 09 5744 708 | Email: michael.hardcastle@gribbles.co.nz

NECROPSY performed and reported by Gribbles Veterinary, Carbine Rd, Auckland Reference Ranges and Method Reference will be supplied on request Testing Requested

1 x Necropsy

1 x Necropsy

1 x Necropsy

@END

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