

Robertson O'Gorman



TERENCE P. O'GORMAN, AM, BA LLB, Acc. Spec (Crim) - QI

S O L I C I T O R S

OUR REF: DDB:LP

YOUR REF:

21 January 2008

COPY

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Chief Inspector
RSPCA
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FAIRFIELD GARDENS QLD 4103

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Dear Mr Pecia

RE: GERALDINE ROBERTSON

I refer to the abovenamed and to my telephone conversations with you of 17 & 18 January 2008.

I confirm that the RSPCA will facilitate the preparation and shipping of the seized poodle puppies the subject of a pre-existing contractual arrangement with Benji Kennels at Singapore. To that end, I confirm that the RSPCA consents to Ms Robertson and a veterinarian Mr Callum Robertson of Clayfield Veterinary Surgery attending its Fairfield Kennels at 9.00 a.m. tomorrow, 22 January 2008, for the following purposes:

1. To identify the dogs for shipping to Benji Kennels;
2. To vaccinate the dogs for shipping to Benji Kennels, as required;
3. To micro-chip the dogs for shipping to Benji Kennels, as required.

As discussed, the Australian and Singaporean customs and quarantine requirements applicable to commercial exportation of animals require that vaccination occur no less than 2 weeks prior to shipping, and that the dogs be dipped and inspected within a 48 hour period prior to shipping. Accordingly, Ms Robertson and her veterinarian will require a further access visit for the purpose of dipping and finally inspecting/certifying those dogs approximately 2 days prior to shipping, once the flights are booked.

Further, we restate that Ms Robertson is not prepared to surrender any of the other seized dogs to the RSPCA. We await a position from your organisation as to whether or not a decision to forfeit the dogs is to be made. The client can then consider her options under the Act.

In the meantime, Ms Robertson is very concerned to ensure that the dogs she considers as her valuable puppies and breeding stock are clearly identified. I previously requested that our client and her vet be permitted access to the dogs to identify those animals, and micro-chip them. You have refused that request.

I confirm that the RSPCA has, however, assured us that it maintains an unassailable numerical identification system by which each of the seized animals is assigned a unique black tag and associated identification number. In light of that assurance, Ms Robertson is prepared to identify the dogs by way of the RSPCA's identification system.

You have indicated that staffing limitations at the Fairfield Kennels means there is no inspector available to accompany Ms Robertson for inspection/identification of the animals during the visitation of tomorrow. I confirm your advice that Ms Robertson should make arrangements tomorrow to return to the Fairfield Kennels for that purpose at a mutually convenient time later in the week.

Ms Robertson will need to be accompanied at the further inspection by an officer of the RSPCA who is apprised of the identification number of each dog in order that she can make an independent record of those numbers upon isolating the particular animals.

Thank you for your assistance. Please contact me if you have any queries.

Yours faithfully

ROBERTSON O'GORMAN

DOMINIC BRUNELLO

Solicitor