

Anne Chester States:-

I am a Veterinarian of nineteen years experience having graduated from the University of Queensland Veterinary School in 1988. I am employed by RSPCA Qld Inc as the Senior Veterinarian.

On January 9th 2008 I was asked to examine 102 dogs and puppies by RSPCA Inspector Laurie Stageman. On January 11th 2008 I was presented with a further 4 adult standard poodles for examination.

The following is a true and accurate record of my findings:

There were 24 puppies (<4mths), 12 juveniles (4mths-1year) and 70 adults dogs. The dogs were brought to the RSPCA shelter in numerous vehicles purpose built for the transporting of dogs. The majority of these dogs were poodles (standard or toy) but also included 2 Pomeranian puppies and 2 Labrador puppies. The dogs were given identity tags and triaged as they were removed from the vehicles. More detailed examinations were carried out over the following 2 days and treatment regimes put in place.

There were 37 adult standard poodles. The most obvious condition noted was that the majority of these dogs were severely matted (the fur matted to the skin) and smelt strongly of urine which would be obvious to a lay person. Dog groomers were organised to begin clipping the following day (January 10th 2008). Four of the dogs were discovered to have maggots. Two dogs were "flyblown" around their peri anal region, 1 dog on his leg and 1 dog had maggots in his external ear canal. These dogs required general anaesthetics to clip and clean the wounds as they were in such discomfort. One of these dogs required hospitalisation and intravenous fluids for 3 days to ensure his recovery. All 4 dogs were placed on antibiotics to treat the infections associated with the myiasis (infestation of tissue by maggots). The adult toy poodles also required clipping and bathing as their coats were matted with faeces and urine.

On January 10th 2008 multiple faecal samples were taken from pens housing the juveniles and the puppies. A protozoan parasite known as Coccidia was found in 2 pens involving 8 puppies. Coccidia are single celled organisms that infect the intestine. There is rapid multiplication of the parasite in the intestinal wall, and the subsequent rupture of the cells of the intestinal lining. Several stages of multiplication occur before the final stage, the oocyst, is passed in the faeces after they have adequately matured, they become infective to the dog that swallows them from faecal-contaminated ground. Coccidia infection causes watery diarrhoea and can be a life-threatening problem.

Hookworm was also found in a 2 pens involving 8 puppies. Subsequent routine faecal samples have been found to be positive for hookworm in numerous dogs and so a blanket treatment regime for hookworm has been implemented in the shelter. Hookworm attach to a dog's intestinal lining the



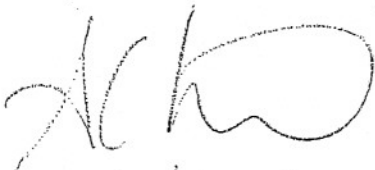
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worms feed on the host's blood. Dogs can develop life-threatening anaemia from blood loss.

Twelve dogs required antibiotic eye ointment for treatment of conjunctivitis and ten dogs required treatment for unilateral or bilateral ear infections. These conditions were easily detectable on clinical examination and should have been noticed by a lay person.

I have viewed some video footage supplied to me by RSPCA Inspector Stageman of the dogs at the Waterford property many were in dirty cramped conditions and this was reflected in the state of their coats on admission to the shelter.

In my professional opinion these dogs were suffering due to the owner's failure to provide appropriate living conditions and treatment for various conditions.


4/2/2008

