

APPLICANT: Geraldine Fooi Fong ROBERTSON

AND

RESPONDENT: CHIEF EXECUTIVE, DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND FISHERIES

AFFIDAVIT

I, Penelope KIRK, of 2304 Lismore Pitfield Road, Pitfield Victoria, solemnly and sincerely affirm and declare:

1. I am a registered veterinarian and graduated in 1978 from Queensland University with Bachelor of Veterinary Science. I have been practicing since that date.
2. In May 2004 I sold my veterinary practice in Brisbane called Logan West Veterinary Surgery.
3. For some years prior to that Geraldine Robertson, the applicant, was a client of mine.
4. I used to see Geraldine's poodles at my clinic or sometimes I'd had limited access to her premises. I saw dogs that were in good order for some years. My records for the time concerned were sold along with my practice in May 2004. I probably only saw around 30 dogs and I knew she had more but I did not know how many. I had never done full kennel vaccinations there.. I was only seeing dogs that were being shown or bred or pups that were being sold.
5. About 10 years ago Geraldine brought to me the torn up and decomposing

11/3  
Penelope Kirk

carcass of one of her adult standard poodles. The dog had been ripped apart by the other dogs at the property. She asked me to perform an autopsy on this dog and I told her that it was pointless because it was so badly damaged and decomposing that no valid conclusions other than that mauling had occurred, could be drawn.

6. On a few other occasions I stitched up a few of her dogs that had been badly mauled by her other dogs.

7. One day, about 13 years ago, Geraldine asked me for help because things had gotten out of control. She had told me about dogs attacking others in the run, and there had been more than one fatal mauling. I convinced her to euthanase a number of the dogs, in order to reduce the total to a more manageable number, and arranged for my daughter and a neighbour's son, both young teenagers, to assist her with bathing and clipping the remaining dogs.

8. I attended at her property and was astounded. There was at least one litter that was 12 months or more old that were ungroomed and unsocialised. They were not vicious, but completely freaky, and obviously unused to strangers.

9. I estimated at that time that there were between 120 to 140 dogs. It was hard for me to tell accurately because there were some boarding dogs there and there were areas I didn't go into.

10. On the left hand side as you walk in were all the whelping bitches and then there were dogs in all different areas everywhere.

11. I euthanased 27 dogs on that day. These dogs were euthanased because they were unmanageable. I felt that as Geraldine was unable to keep up the care required to maintain so many poodles, it would be better to reduce the number, and arrange some assistance with grooming. Many of these dogs were unsocialised, and in my opinion, given Geraldine's limitations, unplaceable without prolonged rehabilitation, if ever. These dogs were so severely matted that it was difficult finding veins. The dogs were in good condition nutritionally, but seriously neglected in terms of coat and general care. Because a poodle's coat grows continually, like sheep fleece, regular clipping is essential for good health. Extreme matting will result if coats are not regularly groomed and clipped, such that movement may be restricted, hair pulls out by the roots, ear and eye problems are likely, and if soiling of the coat occurs, fly strike and maggot infestation will occur. Fortunately these dogs were not that badly affected at the time. I put all the bodies in body bags and onto a trailer and I'm not sure how Geraldine disposed of them.

12. Many of the remaining dogs I saw that day were overcoated and matted. There was one standard poodle litter that stuck in my mind. They were all matted and you could only tell one end from the other by seeing a tail. It seemed that there had been too many puppies bred, and too many remaining unsold, for a variety of reasons, for Geraldine to keep on top of the situation, especially since she was also trying to cope with her husband's progressive


You said B. why would they want to each each other?

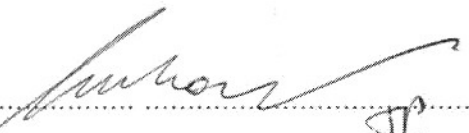
END 1995 July/August 2/3  
P/C [signature]

senility/dementia..

15. There was a period of time towards the end of my time at Logan West Vet Clinic where Geraldine blamed me for an outbreak of parvo at her kennels and she stopped using us and started using someone else. (Parvovirus causes severe haemorrhagic gastroenteritis, and is caused by a virus. Properly immunized dogs are highly resistant to infection. The virus may be actually spread by human movement, i.e. contaminated footwear or clothing, as well as direct contact with vomit/faeces of infected dogs, and is highly fatal in puppies.)

16. All the facts and circumstances set out in this affidavit deposed to are within my own knowledge save such as are deposed to from information only and my means of knowledge and sources of information appear on the fact of this my affidavit.

Affirmed by  on the day of 2008 at Bullerat in the presence of: 13<sup>th</sup> day of August 2008.

  
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JP.

DEPONENT BARRISTER/JUSTICE OF THE PEACE/SOLICITOR

A JUSTICE OF THE PEACE FOR VICTORIA  
REG. No. 11851  
ANTHONY WILLIAM GORE  
30 NELSON ST, SEBASTOPOL 3356

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13/8/2008