

Statement by Inspector Shayne Terrence Towers-Hammond, RSPCA QLD

In the Matter of: Duty of Care – Geraldine Robertson

My name is Shayne Terrence Towers-Hammond. I am an Inspector with the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals – Queensland (**the RSPCA**). I also hold the appointment as Inspector The Animal Care and Protection Act 2001.

On 9 January 08, I, assisted with the execution of a Warrant to Enter on behalf of the RSPCA, at Waterford Boarding Kennels Lot 13 Buccan Rd Buccan Qld as a result of information received by the RSPCA that there may have been up to twenty (20) dogs of varying breeds living in inappropriate conditions. I also believed that a number of these animals may have required treatment for disease or injuries on the basis of the information received from the public.

On arrival at the property the warrant was executed and this resulted in the extent of the situation to be realized. I initially believed (up to twenty (20) dogs of varying breeds) there were over one hundred (100) dogs living in putrid conditions. The animals were living amongst their own excrement and filth. I also discovered that a number of the animals required immediate veterinary treatment for various observed conditions.

The RSPCA seized and removed all animals from the establishment to alleviate the conditions they were living in and to allow veterinary treatment for the identified suffering animals. One hundred and four dogs (104) of various breeds including Poodles, Labradors, and Pomeranians, were seized. As there were over five times the expected animals at the property, Extra resources of the RSPCA's to assist in the animals' removal, were called upon and subsequent veterinary examination and treatment as a priority. All animals had to be transported to the RSPCA Fairfield Shelter to achieve this. My concerns were verified by the veterinarians who advised me that a number of the animals were malnourished and in some cases were maggot infested.

Due to the unforeseen requirement of transporting, collating and treatment of this many animals the opportunity to gather further information in relation to documentation and records pertaining to the animals was unable to be achieved under the initial Warrant to Enter.

As a result of the initial information received and the findings of inspectors thus far, I believe that this property has been used as a commercial type operation supplying animals on the domestic and international market. During my discussions with the owner (Ms Geraldine Robertson), she claimed that the animals had received intestinal treatments and were being cared for in what she believed to be appropriately. She made claims the animals were being fed and watered everyday. She also claimed she had veterinary support for her dogs.

During the 9 January 08, visit I viewed what I believed to be records including computer equipment within the office area and accommodation area of the property.



Signed: *S. Towers-Hammond*

Dated: *21 FEB 08*

I believe that to be able to verify or negate these claims by Ms Robertson, the opportunity to seize and examine and documentation in regard to the boarding or management of the animals the property is imperative.

This documentation (both hardcopy and electronic) sought would include but not be limited to the following:

- a. Commercial Food Suppliers Contacts / Receipts,
- b. Veterinary Surgeon Reports / Contracts for care of kennel animals,
- c. Any Veterinary qualifications of Ms Robertson or staff of kennel,
- d. Boarding Histories / Cage Cards / Immunization Histories,
- e. Feeding Regimes,
- f. Cage and Animal Cleaning Rosters
- g. Animal Grooming Procedures / Agreements
- h. Commercial Agreements,
- i. Advertising Materials,
- j. Animal Sales History, and
- k. Animal Drug Dispensing Authorities

Signed: *S. Peter Hammond* Dated: *21 FEB 08*

