

Submission
No 12

**INQUIRY INTO THE RSPCA RAID ON THE WATERWAYS
WILDLIFE PARK**

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GPSC5 GPSC5 - Submission for Parliamentary inquiry into RSPCA Raod pm Waterways Wildlife Park

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The Director, General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5

16th June 2010

Submission for Parliamentary Inquiry into RSPCA Raid on Waterways Wildlife Park

I wish to make the following points:

- 1 The incident of the RSPCA raid on Waterways Wildlife Park was typical of the way the RSPCA inspectorate works. All too often an overbearing and autocratic attitude is their usual way of conducting an "investigation".
- 2 Almost without exception, any person who is "investigated" will end up in court charged with animal cruelty. It is my firm belief that the only reason Nancy Small was not charged is because of the overwhelming support she received from her community testifying to her *dedication, not neglect*, of animals. Countless past cases of "proven" animal cruelty reveal those charged have been elderly (usually women), often suffering medical problems, and living alone with very little money and no witnesses to defend themselves against a large number of RSPCA and allied personell from such bodies as the DPI, RLPB and *their own, so called "independent" vets!* (Note: Nancy was just out of hospital).
- 3 The criteria used by the RSPCA is, at best, frequently wrong, and at worst fabricated. My sister, Ruth Downey, had almost her whole herd of cattle (48) shot by the RSPCA despite an obvious improvement in their condition. At the height of the drought in 2007, hay of any quality was extremely hard to procure, and Ruth's cattle were *thin but strong*. However, ***could cattle described by the RSPCA in February that year as "emaciated", be all still alive, on their feet and able to rear healthy calves, run, and jump fences several months later – if they had not been receiving sufficient feed?*** Nevertheless,

the cattle were duly shot and 2 charges laid for each animal for "Failure to Provide Sufficient Feed" and "Agravated Cruelty". The RLPB vet, Sean Slattery was *pressured, against his will, to add to his statement the phrase that it was "cruel to keep them alive" - in order for the RSPCA to be able to "get a conviction"!*

Joan Overeem,