

2018 LIST OF SHAME

SPCA Inspectors see many cases of shocking animal abuse, neglect and cruelty. This List of Shame is the culmination of these – the very worst cases the SPCA has investigated and prosecuted in 2017.



1 **Sully**, a spaniel poodle cross, was owned by a woman previously prosecuted by the SPCA and disqualified from owning animals. He was found living in a dark room, underweight and covered in matts in his coat that prevented him from moving freely. After a court order to forfeit Sully into the care of the SPCA and months of rehabilitation, Sully was adopted by a new loving family. The owner is being prosecuted and due to her failing to appear at court, a warrant for her arrest has been issued.

Sully was chosen as the ‘face’ of the 2018 SPCA Annual Appeal because he demonstrates just how vital the SPCA’s work is.

Without dedication from the SPCA Inspectors, vets, canine team, animal behaviourists and his foster family, Sully would not be living the happy life he is today.



2 A man was sentenced to home detention after keeping a large number of birds in abhorrent condition. Upon arriving at his property, an SPCA Inspector found **600 chickens, roosters and ducks** being kept in overcrowded conditions. The birds were walking around in thick mud and faeces, among the bodies of dead birds. They were so hungry that they were trying to feed on the decomposing birds. A large number of birds were removed by the inspector.

A veterinarian examination determined that the health and prognosis of the birds was so poor they were unlikely to regain full health, even with intensive treatment. Sadly, they had to be euthanised to end their suffering. **The man was prosecuted by the SPCA and sentenced to six months’ home detention**, 150 hours of community work, and ordered to pay veterinary and court costs to a total value of \$3840. He was also disqualified from owning animals for 10 years.



3 It wasn’t until **Tasha** collapsed and was unresponsive that anyone sought help for her. The five-year-old Labrador cross was rescued by an SPCA Inspector and taken for immediate veterinary treatment. Sadly, she died the same day due to the severity of her condition.

Tasha was so emaciated that she had the lowest possible body condition and clinical signs indicating chronic starvation. She had flea allergic skin disease, a sore on her leg and fur loss consistent with a collar wound. Tasha would have endured a huge amount of pain and was probably suffering for a considerable period of time. Her owner pleaded guilty to ill-treatment of an animal, was disqualified from owning animals for 10 years and fined \$2000.



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4 In a very disturbing case of animal cruelty, a young mallard duck was found with catastrophic fireworks-related injuries that **SPCA veterinarians suspect were intentionally inflicted.**

The duck was found still alive, and in extreme pain. Her beak was destroyed and she had suffered a degloving injury. The injuries she sustained could only have been caused by a firework, likely purposely put in the duck's mouth.

These catastrophic injuries were irreparable and the kindest thing SPCA veterinarians could do was end her suffering. Despite launching a full investigation, SPCA Inspectors never found the person or persons responsible.



5 An SPCA Inspector found **Kasey and Keita** living alone inside a house among rubbish, faeces and very little food and water. Keita was pregnant and underweight and Kasey was suffering from a bad ear infection. **Their owner told the SPCA the dogs had been living alone in the house for a year and he had been only visiting once a week.**

After an SPCA investigation, the owner was banned from owning dogs for five years, sentenced to 120 hours' community work and ordered to pay \$3183.80 in reparations to the SPCA. Both Kasey and Keita were forfeited to the care of the SPCA, where they made a full recovery.



6 **Jimmy** was dumped at a beach, malnourished and with bad wounds, bruising to his head and an irreparable eye injury. His injuries suggest Jimmy suffered blunt force trauma to his head – **likely inflicted purposely by a cruel person.**

SPCA Inspectors launched a full animal welfare investigation, but have not found the person or persons responsible. **Jimmy amazed SPCA staff with his kind soul and loving temperament** – and even wagged his tail while veterinarians stitched up his eye. He is still recovering at a foster home, but once healed, Jimmy will be adopted by a loving family and finally get the love and care he deserves.



7 Several animals had to be euthanised to alleviate their suffering, after their owner failed to treat their obvious injuries and ailments. The owner's animals included a goat with an irreparable fracture, and a cat suffering from kidney disease, painful dental disease and two untreated fractures.

The woman was sentenced to 300 hours' community work and **9 months supervision, including attendance of any programmes recommended by probation.** She was ordered to pay \$2000 reparations, \$500 towards legal costs, to forfeit ownership of her two cats to the SPCA and was disqualified from owning animals for five years.

A cow with a severe, untreated eye injury was also found on the woman's property but was identified as belonging to her associate. He was also prosecuted and sentenced to 150 hours' community work, ordered to pay \$788.20 in reparations and a contribution of \$500 towards solicitor costs and disqualified from owning animals for five years.



8 SPCA Inspectors arrived at a paddock to find a grey horse, **Frosty**, in obvious pain and distress. Frosty had undergone eye removal surgery and the sutures had been left in and his head was grossly enlarged and misshapen. The Inspectors immediately called a veterinarian, who said that Frosty's **facial swelling, eating and breathing difficulty were obvious even from a distance and should have been tended to immediately**. Sadly, due to the extent of his injuries, the veterinarian recommended Frosty be euthanised on humane grounds.

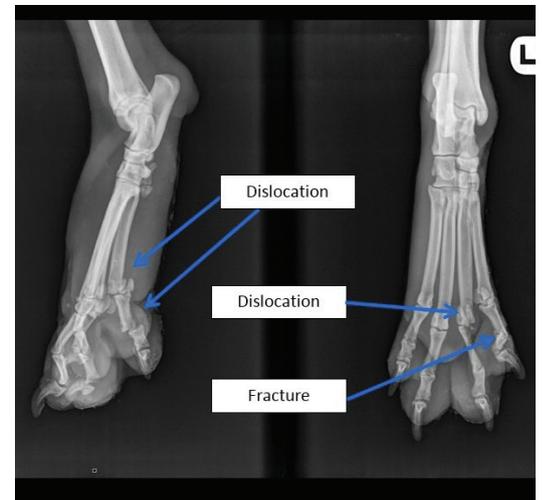


Frosty's owner was prosecuted by the SPCA and sentenced to 260 hours' community work, disqualified from owning horses for 5 years and ordered to pay reparations of \$1468.41.

9 When **Lemuska** the staffy was hit by a car, he sustained such terrible injuries he couldn't move. He suffered open, degloving wounds on both hind legs so severe that the bone was exposed. Despite these obvious injuries, Lemuska's owner didn't take him for veterinary treatment.

An SPCA Inspector immediately seized Lemuska to take him for urgent veterinary treatment. Sadly due to the extent of his injuries and the severe and distress he was suffering, there was no choice to end Lemuska's suffering.

Lemuska's owner was prosecuted by the SPCA and sentenced to 150 hours' of community work, and ordered to pay reparations of \$197.31 and court costs of \$60. He was also disqualified from owning animals for two years.



10 **Four dumped kittens** were rescued and brought back to health by the SPCA after they were found in a bin liner. Just six weeks old, the tabby kittens were very lucky to have survived the ordeal. They were given vet care, food, and spent time with a foster family before each being adopted by loving families.

Abandoning an animal is an offence under the Animal Welfare Act 1999, but the SPCA Inspector's investigation into finding the person responsible was not successful. **Unfortunately, animals being dumped and abandoned is not uncommon – stories like this can be found at every SPCA Centre across New Zealand.**



11 **Sandfly's** routine dental check-up was botched so badly by the equine dentist, it caused irreversible damage to his pulp tissue. The equine dentist removed half to two thirds of two cheek teeth without pre, or post-treatment sedation or pain relief. Two months later, Sandfly stopped eating and was diagnosed with an infection in one of his teeth.

The SPCA prosecuted the equine dentist responsible for Sandfly's treatment and he was ordered to pay a fine of \$2,500 payable to the SPCA and reparation of \$2,500 vet costs payable to the pony's owner. Because of the irreversible tissue damage, Sandfly is being kept on long-term oral antibiotics and a tooth extraction will be required.

