



TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW BETWEEN [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED] ON
26.06.2008

[REDACTED] This morning is the 27th of June, sorry, 26th June and it's about 10.50. I'm speaking to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] you have got no problems I'm taping our conversation here.

[REDACTED] Yes, no worries at all.

[REDACTED] Your home address please.

[REDACTED] It is classed as [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] OK and I believe you are contactable on phone [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] That's correct.

[REDACTED] My name is [REDACTED], I work for [REDACTED] and as I have explained to you earlier I am here investigating allegations that have been made against one of the RSPCA [REDACTED]. And I believe you have had a couple of incidents that you can report to me about things that have happened.

[REDACTED] Yes

[REDACTED] Tell me about the horse incident.

[REDACTED] Right. The horse incident that occurred in February

[REDACTED] Yes

[REDACTED] At the time I knew the owners of the horse which was [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Yes

[REDACTED] And I had had an urgent call from [REDACTED] to bring her some water. It was very hot at that time of the year because she had a dying horse.

[REDACTED] Yeah

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So I went out to the property and had taken water and that with me and she was there with this filly that was down, a part [REDACTED]. The filly would have been a yearling. What had happened was the horse had been sold to another party.

Yeah

But it was unhandled so the other party had requested that [REDACTED] halter break the horse so that at least you could lead it, tie it up.

Yeah

And started working on it. So [REDACTED] had agreed to do that. [REDACTED] had put a halter on the horse and tied it up and it had pulled back which young horses tend to do. So [REDACTED] had smashed it around the head with a batten.

Who told you that?

[REDACTED] had told me that. And the marks on the horse's head were consistent with having been bashed. Um, I had a look at the horse and I consider myself to be reasonably knowledgeable about horses. Before I came up here I was [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Oh, Ok.

So I mean

You obviously handled horses.

So I mean I have had a lot to do with you know horses.

Sure

And their care and that so.

The horse's eyes were very, very glazed. So she wasn't responding to any sort of physical stimuli.

Yeah

The breathing was extremely raspy.

What, what was it standing or

No, no the horse was down and we'd tried to sit it up because I had actually said to well with it the longer it actually lies on its side the more problems there's going to be and with the breathing being like that, um, you know it is not natural for a horse. So I said let's try and get it into a sitting position. The horse couldn't hold itself

Yeah

In a sitting position. It was very, very uncoordinated, not able to co-ordinate at all. At that time I said you know you really need to get the vet out here. She said "Look we have got huge vet bills; there is no way I can get a vet out". I said, "Well put the horse down".

Yeah

That is your other option. She says "Well I have got nothing to do it with". I said "This is a farming district, one of the neighbours is bound to have a rifle or something, if you can't do it get them to do it or get hold of it and I will do it for you".

Yeah.

Um and I sat with her for about three or four hours, there was no change in the horse.

Right

Um and it was very, very hot. There was no sort of shelter and at that time wasn't around but was coming back later on that evening so I actually left and the next day asked me to come up again and give them a bit of a hand and at this time the horse had been put in a sling.

Yeah

To help it stand but it was still, the head had swollen quite considerably, the breathing was very, very laboured and the horse was obviously in a heck of a lot of stress. It wasn't drinking it wasn't eating.

Yeah

Um and at that stage I repeated to them "Look hey you know, this, you have got two options, vet or put it down because this animal is suffering.

● Yeah

● I said "I think put down would be the best choice" because to me it appeared to have neurological damage".

● Sure

● Um so I left them because I had given up.

● When you say the horse was in a sling, what did they, what did they.

● Well they had the front forks of the tractor.

● Yeah

● And a tree, it was under the tree so at this time at least there was some shelter from the heat.

● Sure

● And they had laid out a sheet, so it was around the horse's belly and

● Right and they actually had a

● Yeah and they had it lifted so that the feet were just touching the ground.

● And so it slung off the forks of the tractor.

● Yeah.

● OK right

● And that was pretty visible and I went to see [REDACTED] that afternoon and she had already had a report, she said apparently from a SPCA inspector that had driven past and seen it.

● Yeah

● And I confirmed to her that I had seen it and while we were just sitting there – yeah the complaint had been lodged and while we were sitting there a text came through to me from [REDACTED] to say that [REDACTED] had rung and let them know that the people were looking at their horse.

● Yeah

● There had been a complaint about the horse.

● Mm

● hadn't been out there ● had just rung to warn them.

And that was the exact words in the text and I passed that straight onto ● and ● was there too.

● Right.

● So they, I had, I had texted that through so that it could be printed out but the whole texting conversation with ● in regards to

● Yeah

● What had happened and the fact that ● had, that no body did go out there.

● Sure

● Um and I think from memory that it was actually a few days before anything was done. The girls actually went out and took photographs with ●

● Sure

● She lent her camera. But at that time before they went the vet had actually rung to let them know someone was coming so they shot the horse. <laughter>

● Just ... that one OK.

● You get this call from ● saying "Come and help us".

● Yeah

● You go there and you spend three or four hours and you leave. You go back the next morning and they have already got it strung up with its hooves basically

● Yeah

● Off, obviously holding its weight with its shoes.

● Yeah

Was that the day that you went to [REDACTED] or the next day.

Yes I think it was that, it was either that afternoon or the next morning when I had gone into [REDACTED].

Yeah

I can't be exactly sure.

When I have have spoken to [REDACTED] and to [REDACTED] they said that the reason the girls were out there was the morning because they had come out Friday morning so they had come out to clean the kennels for [REDACTED].

Yes, yeah. And that's when we got to discussing about it and why they had decided because while I was at [REDACTED] was when that text came through - because everyone thought [REDACTED] was going to do it because the complaint had come in from it. The inspector that had gone past had seen it.

Yeah

So when you drove past, well the day that you went to [REDACTED] you had obviously seen the horse

Oh yes, yeah

Yeah

And you know that's why they were trying strung up which was better than leaving it lying down and at least it had shelter but I had confirmed to them that the horse is still really, really distressed, the swelling was a lot bigger

Yeah

You know the head had swelled more and I said there is damage beyond damage, you know, put the horse down.

Yeah.

Because it was very distressed and obviously suffering.

So when did - when you saw [REDACTED]

So I am trying to think, it was that afternoon or the next morning I had gone into [REDACTED]
It was within 24 hours you know of being

Right

Going – it would have been within the 24 hours

OK and you are at [REDACTED] place and you get this text

And the text comes through, yeah. Because [REDACTED] had already told me because I had
said to [REDACTED] about it, talked to her about it.

Yeah.

And I said you "You know what we can do about it because they don't listen".

Yeah.

Um, and she said well there has already been a complaint, an inspector on holiday
from the [REDACTED] has been past, seen it and rung it through so it's been rung through.

Yeah

And so that's how the texting started. I had actually texted [REDACTED] to ask how the horse
was.

Right

And so I thought she may tell me if someone has been out.

Yes

She said still bad, [REDACTED] rang.

Yeah

To let us know there has been a complaint.

Yes

So at that stage no inspectors had been out there until the girls went.

Right, so texted there, horse no better, [REDACTED] had rung and said about the complaint.

There was a complaint yeah.

And you actually told [REDACTED]

I showed her the text.

Right.

I also showed the text to [REDACTED] Um and texted a copy of it. She gave me the cell phone number to text a copy of it too so that she could download it and print it out.

Sure

Yeah. Because that was directly from the horse's mouth so.

Yeah, yeah. OK. So though [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] texted they made their way out there.

Yes and they got hold of the vet teamed up with the vet, arranged to meet [REDACTED] and to go out. In the meantime the vet had rung them and let them know they were coming. <laughter> Well to see if it was all right if they come.

They called the vet - which vet was that.

[REDACTED] at [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] rang [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] shot the horse, right.

Yeah

Right

So that horse was suffering for three or four days.

Easily.

Right

Easily, yeah.

And when you say that the marks on its head.

[REDACTED] Yeah you can see them on the photos. Haven't actually got the photos to show but because she was sort of so swollen they are not as vivid as when you see them in person but it was consistent with what [REDACTED] had said.

[REDACTED] That [REDACTED] had slapped it over the head with a batten.

[REDACTED] Yeah.

[REDACTED] Trying to break it.

OK. Excellent. OK so there was another case, I believe, tell me about that one.

[REDACTED] OK that was at the end of January.

[REDACTED] Yeah

[REDACTED] So that would have been about the 29th

[REDACTED] Yes

[REDACTED] My motor vehicle had been, had the side mirrors all smashed and that at a horse event that I was at. And I managed to track down the culprit to [REDACTED]

So I had gone out there and one particular place that I had called into going down the driveway I had seen two shocking and emaciated dogs on the end of a chain. They had no water obviously couldn't have known what food was. The skin was drawn so tight. They were like something that had been taxidermied you know.

[REDACTED] Yeah

[REDACTED] Every bone like including sort of cheek bones and that sort of thing was really, really distinct. It was, and they weren't well you couldn't even call it trying to walk on the end of the chain. So I had

[REDACTED] What sort of dogs do you think they were?

[REDACTED] Well they were both black and white.

[REDACTED] Yeah.

[REDACTED] So they looked, it's pretty hard to tell when you are in that poorer condition, they looked to me like heading dog [REDACTED] type.

Yeah

So I had gone, I was absolutely shocked and I had gone into [REDACTED] that day.

Yeah.

That evening actually and told her about it she said to ring, she gave me [REDACTED] number but I made the call from her phone in her presence.

Yeah

I got no reply so I left a very detailed message of where it was, the condition of the dogs, my name and my telephone number.

Yeah

So that probably would have been the 30th I would say it was the next day so it was probably the 30th January.

Yeah

So you gave the address

Yeah

The details of what it was for the dogs, the address where the dogs were, at that time I think I even gave a rapid number

Yes

Because I had taken the rapid number but I can't remember it now.

Sure, no worries.

Um, yeah and my telephone number and name.

And you never heard anything more about it.

I never had any, there was no more contact, no questions asked, no one ever got hold of me.

Yeah

And then I heard or it was only a couple – three months ago when I was at another ranch horse day it was at [REDACTED] Someone had said about one of those dogs had died,

had actually died at the end of the chain because someone else had been there and seen the dead dog there.

Yeah.

I had sort of asked them whereabouts that was and they said [REDACTED] it was, you know that I complained about that back in January. Those dogs were bad then. Someone had gone there to look at a horse or something, and seen a dead dog.

And it was still on the end of a chain.

Still on the end of the chain. So, yeah. They are pretty rough up that way.

And you don't know who that was.

Oh it was one of the [REDACTED]. There is a big family of [REDACTED] and the sense is that they had inter-married and it was one of the [REDACTED]. They are wellknown sort of a [REDACTED] family, sort of quite hostile.

So they won't want to help them

Oh they won't help anyone but it's not my colour.

Sorry.

I actually got told I was mad going in there. People said you are insane.

Sounds like it.

They weren't getting away with it. I thought you are not getting away with this.

OK

Any other occasions or incidents that you can think of at all

No not off hand because I have actually never met [REDACTED] in person.

Mm

You know I have never as a person I have never met [REDACTED]

So I can't really ask you what you think about [REDACTED] or anything like that.

● No um I don't think very much of because I have read of course things that have been in the paper and everything and it's sort of not been in keeping in what I have seen.

● Sure

● You know there was I think recently an article about you know the – out of the way to care for animals and that but you know having not got., actually I was very disappointed and quite disillusioned and I sort of thought, um and actually did stop me doing donations to SPCA because I thought well here's two incidences that I know of um where nothing gets done.

● Yeah. OK I really appreciate your time to come and see me again

● That's no problem.

Just sorry I was so late.

● No worries at all. I appreciate that. Coming up to 10 past 11. I am stopping the tape.

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