



KILLER PROSECUTIONS Animal Hoarding

AIAM 16 October 2015
Townsville

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Team Leader Local Laws

City of Casey

Animal Hoarding

- » More than the typical number of companion **animals**. Inability to provide even minimal standards of nutrition, sanitation, shelter and veterinary care, with this neglect often resulting in starvation, illness and death.

Animal Hoarding

- » City of Casey – Located South East of Melbourne CBD
- » Population 290,000
- » Growth Rate – 140 per week approx
- » Approx 400sq Km
- » Projected Population of 459,000 by 2036

Animal Hoarding

Investigative Process

- ❖ Establishing ID of offender
- ❖ Establishment of relevant offences
- ❖ Background checking, prior offence history
- ❖ Evidence and Intelligence gathering
- ❖ Development of operational order/briefing
- ❖ Obtaining Search Warrant
- ❖ Execution of Search Warrant



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Animal Hoarding

- » 14 cats (none registered or chipped)
- » 15 dogs (none registered, some chipped)
- » 10 rabbits
- » 10 guinea pigs
- » 6 ponies (dead pony found in barn)
- » 5 sheep
- » 9 goats, 2 pigs
- » 1 alpaca
- » 300-400 poultry (chooks, ducks, geese etc)



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Animal Hoarding

Who was involved in the Search?

- 7 x Animal Management Officers
- 1 x Environmental Health Officer
- 1 x Town Planning Enforcement Officer
- 2 x RSPCA Inspectors
- 2 x Police Officers
- 1 x Veterinarian

Animal Hoarding

What was found upon execution of search warrant?

- » Many dead, diseased and injured animals
- » Major infestation of vermin (rats, mice)
- » Many animals suffering serious malnutrition and dehydration
- » Added bonus of Cannabis crop (hydroponic set up)



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Animal Hoarding

- » What was seized, removed, impounded?
 - » All dogs and cats were seized.
 - » Poultry – Dozens required immediate destruction due to advanced state of serious disease
 - » Several ponies, sheep and goats required immediate vet treatment with ongoing treatment also required (1 goat destroyed)
 - » Hydroponic Set Up (By Police)



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Animal Hoarding

- » Unfortunately we were unable to remove all animals
- » Follow up visit undertaken 1 week later found the property to be vacant with all animals removed
- » All attempts to locate proved fruitless

Animal Hoarding

- » There is a god – Call received from rural Council seeking information about Council Mobile Rubbish Bin – approx 1 month after search
- » Serial number matched up with address of our animal hoarder 😊
- » GOT HER!!!!!!

Animal Hoarding

List of Charges

- » 19 POCTA Offences (Including Aggravated Cruelty)
- » 29 Domestic Animals Act
- » 6 City of Casey Community Local Law

- » Total 54 charges

Animal Hoarding

Prosecution Outcome

- Matter Proven
- Offender Convicted
- Animal Banning Order put in place (2.5 years) effective immediately
- Fine \$5000
- Offender had several previous animal cruelty convictions and 1 banning order

Local Laws and FV prevention

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