



2019 List of Shame

2018 was a particularly cruel year for some of New Zealand's animals, with SPCA Inspectors seeing many cases of intense neglect and extreme violence towards animals. The List of Shame is the culmination of these – the very worst cases the SPCA has investigated and prosecuted over the last year.

1 Two Poodles “didn’t look like dogs anymore”

Two elderly poodle cross dogs were found in a garage. Daisy and Lola's coats were so matted and overgrown, they didn't even look like dogs anymore. They should have been groomed every 6 to 8 weeks, instead their owner had neglected them for the better part of two years.

Once rescued by an SPCA Inspector, it took a team of six vets and nurses an hour on each dog to get the matted fur off. Both dogs had arthritis, extensive dental disease, were deaf from multiple ear infections, and were nearly blind. SPCA gave them dental surgery, cleaned their ears, treated infections, and administered pain relief. They have been adopted together into their loving forever home and are thriving in their golden years.



2 German Shepherds rescued from puppy mill

SPCA seized 40 German Shepherds from a prolific puppy farm, where dogs and puppies were tethered on short leashes, tangled up in urine-sodden newspaper and living amongst their own waste.

SPCA Inspectors have spent months and over \$300,000 investigating this ongoing case, and a court ruling allowed SPCA to adopt out the German Shepherds. After being rescued, these dogs are now living happily with new families. This case is current, with 79 Animal Welfare Act charges laid against the breeders, who deny any wrongdoing.



3 Dog beaten with weapons, shot at, and strangled

In a shocking case of violent abuse, George was regularly beaten by his owner over eight months. His owner was sentenced after witnesses reported George being kicked, punched, strangled, beaten with weapons, shot at with a BB gun, and verbally abused.

The case set a legal precedent for SPCA, as there was no physical evidence of the abuse such as photo or video proof, but he was convicted on the accounts of many witnesses. Thanks to the hard work of the Inspectors involved in the case, SPCA was able to achieve justice for George and rescue him from a life of abuse. He has now been adopted into a loving family.



4 Kitten dumped in rubbish bin, left to die

A five-week old kitten was found by a man deep in a rubbish bin in a park. SPCA Inspectors rescued Westy from the bin, and found she had severe cat-flu, runny eyes, and was underweight. Unfortunately, even under the care of SPCA staff, Westy was extremely sick and didn't survive.



5 Chronic neglect leaves pony unable to stand

A former pony club president and repeat animal offender was convicted after failing to provide medical care for his pony, Cashew.

Cashew was suffering from chronic laminitis and he was found rocking left to right on his limbs. He often laid on the ground to alleviate his pain, which was assessed at the **highest end of recognised pain scales** applied in veterinarian practice. Sadly, there was no choice but to humanely euthanise Cashew.



6 Dog found starving, another dead in nearby grave

SPCA Inspectors found Nellie chained to a house and living amongst debris. She was very thin and had open sores on her legs and body. **The emaciated carcass of another dog called Buster, was in a shallow grave nearby.**

SPCA seized Nellie and prosecuted her owners. Under our care, she gained 5.9 kilograms. A veterinary pathologist found that Buster underwent weeks of starvation, his stomach and large intestines containing leaves and yellow fluid. These conditions, along with the dog's broken and worn teeth, would have caused him prolonged pain and agony. While Nellie physically recovered, she psychologically did not, and she was euthanised due to aggressive behaviour.



7 Pet shop fails to care for animals in their store

A pet shop failed to provide veterinarian treatment for a kitten, and neglected three reptiles in their care. The kitten was left with a ruptured cornea without pain relief. Additionally, two geckos and a water dragon were kept in enclosures that lacked items essential for their welfare, putting them at risk of long term health problems.

This prosecution was lengthy, going through the courts for two years until the pet shop finalised their guilty plea. This is the first time SPCA has prosecuted a pet shop, setting a legal precedent.



8 Puppy's throat slit in attack

Staffy-kelpie puppy **Turbo's throat was slit in an attack** by the housemate of his owner. He died in a pool of his blood while being held by his owner, wagging his tail as he took his last breath. Police laid charges against the flatmate with possessing an offensive weapon and SPCA laid charges of wilful ill-treatment of an animal. The offender is currently on electronic bail while awaiting trial.



9 Puppy left with untreated leg fractures from beatings

Sky, a Rottweiler puppy, was seen limping due to an untreated leg fracture. SPCA investigations revealed that Sky had been beaten by her owner when he was angry. During prosecution, the defendant's flatmate witnessed seeing him **dragging Sky to her kennel and holding his hands over her snout so she couldn't breathe.** The flatmate then heard "punching", followed by loud yelping. The flatmate said that Sky was panting as if having a panic attack, and not moving. Sky was given vet treatment and cared for by the SPCA until she was adopted by a loving family.



10 Sparrows suffer and die from 'neck trinkets'

Sparrows, pigeons and other **birds were found with trinkets and tinsel around their necks**, causing some of them to die. The 'decorations' restricted the birds' movement, causing many to die of starvation. Unfortunately, despite extensive efforts to locate the person responsible, they have not been found.



2019 List of Shame



11 Horse found starving and covered in insects

SPCA Inspectors found a chestnut gelding in emaciated condition with all skeletal features visible and covered in insects. The horse was struggling to stay upright, and could barely walk.

The vet said the horse's condition was caused by missing teeth and oral pain, due to sharp teeth edges ulcerating the gums. He had struggled to eat for several months, and was also suffering from parasite infestation.

The vet concluded that **the horse wouldn't have survived more than another week**, and he was euthanised on humane grounds.

SPCA laid charges and the owner was charged with reckless ill-treatment of an animal.



12 Dog stabbed with knife 'as a joke'

A dog **underwent major surgery** after being stabbed with a filleting knife. Skipper, an elderly Jack Russell, was stabbed in the right side of his neck and shoulder by a person known to his owner, after he had joked about euthanising Skipper due to his age and health.

Skipper was immediately taken to a vet and was given pain relief and antibiotics. He made a full physical recovery, but his owner says Skipper is now wary around other dogs and people. SPCA laid charges against the offender.



13 Dog chained with no water, a picnic table for shelter

A woman was prosecuted by SPCA after her dog was found emaciated. Neapolitan mastiff cross Goliath was chained to a running wire with no access to water, his only shelter a picnic table tilted on its side. He had **hair loss over all four legs**, and fly bitten ears.

SPCA fed him four meals a day, and in weeks he had reached his ideal body weight. He became a 'staff favourite', receiving lots of extra attention and treats. Unfortunately, after a year in SPCA's care, Goliath developed several malignant tumours throughout his body. On a veterinarian's recommendation, Goliath was euthanised.



14 Starving dogs chained, exposed to extreme weather

Two dogs, Tank and Sass, were found in extremely thin body condition. Tank was chained to a carport post and was cowering, **completely exposed to the torrential rain**. Sass was curled up, shivering inside a kennel and run. Both dogs were assessed with a body condition score of just 1 out of 9, and both were infected with intestinal worms and fleas.

After being rescued by an SPCA Inspector, both dogs flourished. SPCA charged the owner for the ill treatment of the dogs. Both dogs were adopted to new loving families and are happy and healthy.



15 Dogs deliberately starved, with bones visible

Three dogs were deliberately starved by their owner. After being rescued by SPCA, veterinary examination showed that Tama, Big Boy and Haze **were all emaciated with bones visible and loss of muscle mass**. The vet said the dogs were suffering severe pain due to starvation, likely for several weeks.

Under the care of SPCA, all dogs reached their ideal weight. Unfortunately, although Tama and Big Boy healed physically, the trauma of their experience left them aggressive. Despite the best efforts of SPCA, they were unable to be rehabilitated and vets had no choice but to euthanise them. Haze was adopted by a loving family. The owner was prosecuted by SPCA.

