

For immediate release

# media release

## **ANIMAL CRUELTY OFFENCES – WOLLONGONG LOCAL COURT**

Dr Adrianna Scheibner of Jamberoo was found guilty of two animal cruelty charges at Wollongong Local Court on Friday 27 January 2012. This followed a second Hearing of these charges which were initially before the Court on 1 September 2011. Dr Scheibner failed to appear on that occasion and later made a successful application for the prosecution to be annulled and re-heard.

Following her self-represented Hearing, Dr Scheibner was found guilty of failing to provide veterinary care to three of her Maltese Terrier dogs for advanced dental disease. She was also found guilty of failing to exercise reasonable care to prevent an act of cruelty in relation to the matted coats of her eight Maltese Terrier dogs.

RSPCA Inspectors responded to a request for assistance from Kiama Municipal Council Rangers to help capture numerous stray Maltese Terrier dogs. Nine dogs were seized on 7 June 2011 in the vicinity of a property in Jamberoo. Eight of the dogs were severely matted with the examining veterinarian estimating that the minimum time to develop such extensive matting would be at least six months. Six of the dogs required a general anaesthetic to treat their severe dental problems (3 of 6) and remove their matted fur (6 of 6). One of the dogs required extraction of most of her teeth due to her advanced dental disease.

Dr Scheibner was convicted and fined \$2,000 for each charge. She was ordered to pay \$81 Court costs, \$19,104.70 veterinary/boarding costs and \$10,700 professional costs. She has been prohibited from owning animals for five years. Dr Scheibner was further ordered to present to NSW Police for fingerprinting (total fines \$4,000; total costs \$29,885.70).

The Court had previously ordered that custody of the nine dogs be given to the RSPCA.

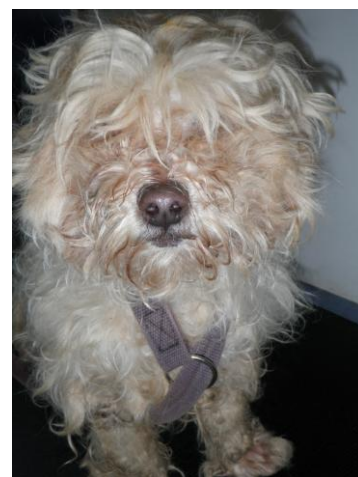


Photo of male Maltese Terrier dog  
Taken day of seizure - 7 June 2011

**All charges are under NSW Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act and Regulations**