

media release

ANIMAL CRUELTY OFFENCES – WINDSOR LOCAL COURT

Mr Norman Johnson and Mr Shawn Johnson of Oakville appeared at Windsor Local Court Monday 6 February 2012. After preparing for a defended Hearing, both pleaded guilty to a charge of animal cruelty relating to their aged Arabian horse.

An RSPCA Inspector responded to a complaint about the poor condition of the horse on 5 October 2010. The Inspector issued orders for a veterinarian to examine the aged gelding within seven days. The horse was seized for veterinary examination on 13 October 2010 after Shawn Johnson failed to comply with these instructions. The veterinarian scored the horse as in very poor body condition with a heavy intestinal worm burden and bacterial skin infection. The gelding's ribs, spine and hip bones were prominent through the skin and his mane, forelock and feet were unkempt.

The veterinarian concluded that the gelding's condition was consistent with inadequate nutrition for at least two months and that treatment was required for the heavy intestinal parasite burden. The gelding was later surrendered to the RSPCA.

Mr Norman Johnson pleaded guilty to a charge of failing to provide proper and adequate food for the horse. Mr Shawn Johnson pleaded guilty to failing to provide veterinary treatment. Both were convicted and placed on Section 9 good behaviour bonds for five years. The bonds have a condition requiring veterinary examination of their remaining horse every six months with a report to be supplied to the RSPCA upon request. They were each ordered to pay \$2,475 professional costs and \$2,221.43 veterinary costs (total costs \$9,392.86).



Photo 1: Arabian horse side view on day of seizure on 13 October 2010



Photo 2: Arabian horse back view on day of seizure on 13 October

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

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