

# media release

## **ANIMAL CRUELTY OFFENCES – MOUNT DRUITT LOCAL COURT**

Ms Deborah Kirkman of Blackett pleaded guilty to five charges of animal cruelty at Mount Druitt Local Court yesterday, Thursday 19 January 2012. She was charged with three counts of failure to provide proper and sufficient food and two counts of failure to provide exercise to a confined animal. The charges related to three Pomeranian dogs.

RSPCA Inspectors responded to a complaint about the poor condition of the dogs on 12 September 2011. Two were found tethered on a tangled chain with no access to clean water or shelter. All were seized for veterinary examination. One of the dogs was scored as emaciated and two as very underweight. The examining veterinarian estimated that the emaciated dog had not been provided with proper and sufficient food for at least 28 days. The other dogs were estimated as not having received adequate nutrition for at least 21 days. After 17 days in RSPCA care the emaciated dog gained 65% of her presenting weight. The other two dogs gained 35% and 29% of their presenting body weights. Ms Kirkman surrendered the dogs to the RSPCA in November 2011.

Ms Kirkman was convicted and placed on a Section 9 good behaviour bond for two years. She was fined \$200 for each charge and has been prohibited from owning dogs for two years. She was also ordered to pay \$81 Court costs and \$3,683.74 veterinary/boarding costs [total fines \$1,000; total costs \$3,764.74].



Photograph taken on day of seizure - 12 September 2011

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