



**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Friday, 12 July 2013**

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## **WOMAN FINED \$48,000 AND BANNED FOR LIFE**

A woman was fined a total of \$48,000 and banned for life from ever owning pets after being sentenced in Mandurah Magistrates Court today.

Rosemary Muriel Donovan was convicted on 24 counts of animal cruelty under the Animal Welfare Act 2002. She was fined \$2000 on each count. She was also issued a permanent prohibition order from owning any animals. The order also permits the RSPCA Inspectors to visit her property every three months to inspect the property and seize any animals found there. RSPCA was awarded \$2780.75 in costs.

RSPCA Inspectors visited a property in Coodanup where a number of animals were found deceased and more than 70 animals were found to be living in unacceptable conditions. The animals included dogs, cats and kittens, rabbits, guinea pigs and birds.

The charges relate to the animals not being provided with proper and sufficient food or water and also that the animals were suffering harm which could have been alleviated by the taking of reasonable steps.

At the Trial the court heard that the cats were suffering from ringworm and riddled with mites and fleas, the guinea pig cage was dirty with dead pigs on the floor and some of the birds were confined to cages that were too small.

RSPCA Inspectors visited the property on Monday 4 July 2011 after allegations of animal cruelty and concerns from Mandurah City Council.

It was also alleged at the Trial that upon attending the Coodanup property, Inspectors sighted a number of animals including rabbits inside aviaries also containing budgies and weiros. The rabbits had no water. In another aviary, a rabbit was walking over five dead budgies that were lying on the floor.

RSPCA Inspectors also noted a lack of food and rancid water and a strong stench of ammonia and faeces on the floor. In her sentencing remarks

Magistrate Edwards said that Ms Donovan's actions fell "only marginally short of those which warrant a term of imprisonment."

RSPCA CEO David van Ooran "Today's result is a culmination of many months of hard work by RSPCA Inspectors.

"RSPCA is pleased to see a permanent prohibition order imposed. This sends a clear message to the community that animal cruelty won't be tolerated," he said.

**For more information call: Tim Mayne Media and Communications Manager, RSPCA WA (Inc.) Ph: 9209 9313 or 0437 069 853.**