



MEDIA RELEASE

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WOMAN FINED \$8000 FOR “PREVENTABLE” CRUELTY

A South Australian woman, who formerly lived in Maida Vale in WA, was today sentenced in her absence for animal cruelty in Midland Magistrates Court and fined \$8000.

Nicole Peta Easter, 38-years-old, was also ordered to pay RSPCA costs of approximately \$7500 after being found guilty of one count of animal cruelty.

The court heard that Easter was the owner of a four-year-old male Staffordshire bull terrier known as “Dawg”.

A council ranger from the Shire of Kalamunda attended a Maida Vale address and observed that the dog had a choker chain embedded in its neck. He also observed that the skin surrounding that part of the choker chain around the animal’s neck was red and inflamed and was emitting an abnormal smell.

The dog was immediately taken to the nearest veterinary hospital for treatment and the ranger then contacted the RSPCA. An RSPCA Inspector attended the veterinary hospital and noted that approximately 4cms of the choker chain was embedded in the animal’s neck and that skin had grown over that part of the choker chain embedded in the animal’s neck.

The RSPCA Inspector subsequently charged Ms Easter with animal cruelty under the Animal Welfare Act 2002.

In his sentencing remarks, Magistrate Benn said that “this offence involves suffering which could have been very easily prevented.” He also stated that “the penalty needs to act as a general deterrent, given the dog is entirely at the mercy of its owner.”

RSPCA Chief Inspector Amanda Swift said the RSPCA does not recommend the use of choker chains for any reason, particularly for tethering animals, as this is the end result.

“If people need to contain their dog for a short period of time, RSPCA recommends an enclosure with adequate food, shelter and water, with appropriate toys and items to keep the dog occupied,” Chief Inspector Swift said.

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