

## Call for information - small dog in distress

*Little Maltese dog found severely matted and emaciated*

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RSPCA South Australia is seeking information about a young male Maltese who was found in terrible physical condition on Nelson Street in Kilburn on Tuesday this week. We are encouraging any members of the public that recognise him, or have any information that may help our investigation, to contact us on 1300 4 777 22, or visit our website to make a report online: [www.rspcasa.org.au/services/inspectorate/report-cruelty/](http://www.rspcasa.org.au/services/inspectorate/report-cruelty/)

He was picked up by an RSPCA Rescue Officer following a call to our 24-hour cruelty line, and was in so much fear he shrieked when people approached, until he could be calmed. He was found on an unoccupied property after being spotted by a tradesman who had been conducting renovations at the house. At this stage we believe he may have wandered onto the property - possibly looking for a source of food, water or shelter.

“Initial examinations by RSPCA South Australia’s veterinary team found that this poor dog - who we have affectionately name Merlin - was not only extremely matted, he was also severely emaciated,” RSPCA South Australia Chief Inspector Andrea Lewis said.

“He weighed just 3.4kg and had a body score of one out of nine - the lowest score a dog can have and still be alive. Our vet team believe it would have taken up to two to three months of inadequate food for him to be in this condition.

“Merlin’s fur was so matted that one of his ears had become fused to the fur on his shoulder. Our vets had no option other than to carefully clip all of his fur off. It was only then that the true extent of his emaciation was revealed. At this stage we believe that Merlin is approximately two years old.

“As our Inspectors begin their investigation into where Merlin came from and what has happened to him, our team of skilled veterinarians will continue to provide him with round-the-clock care to help him recover and gain weight slowly.”

If members of the public don’t have any information to assist our investigation, but would still like to help this poor little dog, a donation towards his care can be made on our

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website: [www.rspcasa.org.au/issues/merlin-the-maltese](http://www.rspcasa.org.au/issues/merlin-the-maltese)

These photographs show the condition Merlin was in when he came into RSPCA South Australia's Care, his condition after being clipped, and the amount of fur removed.



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For more information, or an interview with an RSPCA spokesperson, please contact:

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