

## RSPCA South Australia vs Richards & Richards

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RSPCA South Australia attended court today to present evidence against an Adelaide couple charged under the Animal Welfare Act with failing to mitigate harm suffered by their elderly dog.

It is alleged the dog had not been able to stand up for a period of approximately one month and had been lying in her own urine and faeces for that period of time. The charges relate to the owners allegedly refusing veterinary care for the dog, including refusing multiple offers for veterinarians to attend their home to examine the dog.

Upon attendance and examination by RSPCA South Australia Inspectors it was discovered that the dog had large areas of urine scalding and fur loss along her right hand side, was bleeding from pressure sores on her legs, was suffering from diarrhoea and was significantly distressed. Accordingly, she was removed by Inspectors for examination by an external emergency veterinarian. Given the dog's condition, inability to stand unaided and advanced age, the veterinarian recommended the dog be humanely euthanised.

This case serves as a reminder to pet owners that they have a duty of care to their animals and are legally obligated under the Animal Welfare Act to seek veterinary attention for any significant medical issues their pets may be suffering from.

The matter is still on going before the courts.

==ENDS==