

The Cruel North East

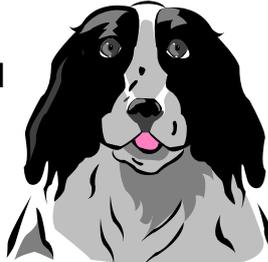


The number of convictions for cruelty to animals and neglect of pets soared by more than a third in 2012, to reach record levels. And the North East is still the animal cruelty capital of Britain!

The RSPCA has warned it is struggling to cope with rising abuse and some of the worst cases of cruelty it has ever seen.

Last year, the charity rescued and rabbits and other pets - a 10%

Its inspectors investigated more secured 4,184 convictions - 34%



collected almost 131,000 dogs, cats, horses, increase on the previous year.

than 150,000 cases of suspected cruelty and more than 2011. Some 86 people were jailed.

The shocking catalogue of deliberate cruelty and neglect included:

- Two Jack Russell puppies that had to be put to sleep after they were buried alive in a shallow grave.
- More than 30 rabbits and guinea pigs found clambering over dead companions in slurry filled hutches.
- A springer spaniel whose owner slashed him with a knife more than 30 times.

RSPCA chief executive, Gavin Grant, called on judges to take the offences far more seriously. A spokesman for the charity added, "It may cause surprise for some who think of the UK as a nation of animal lovers."

"Some people out there think it is acceptable to beat, kick, kill starve or neglect an animal. These are the people we are trying to re-educate and, if necessary, prosecute.

In badger-baiting, even the cubs are cruelly killed.

The time has come to consider what you have learned today, and to discuss it with your group.

Text researched from the *Daily Mail* of 30th April 2013.



<http://www.diggingout.org/news/badger-abuse/badger-baiting-rife-in-ireland>

Task:

Think for yourself. (Write some notes to help your memory later.)

- 1. Why do you think the number of convictions for cruelty to animals and neglect of pets soared by more than a third in 2012, to reach record levels?**

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- 2. Look at the three examples of cruelty to pets. Why do you think some people subject their pets to such acts of cruelty?**

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- 3. What are your thoughts on badger-baiting?**

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- 4. What do you think should happen to people who are cruel to animals? (Sensible answers only please!)**

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- 5. What can YOU do to cut animal cruelty?**

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Now discuss these issues with your group.

Scroll down for whiteboard poster.



PEOPLE WHO ARE
VIOLENT
TO ANIMALS
RARELY STOP THERE

Think carefully about the poster from PETA. Discuss the implications of it. How would you react if you discovered that a friend of yours was implicated in animal cruelty? How would it affect your choice of friends/boyfriends/girlfriends/partners?