



NATIONWIDE MEMBERSHIP

Association of Private Pet Cemeteries & Crematoria

www.appcc.org.uk

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www.cremationcodeforvets.org

Statement made by APPCC Director Kevin Spurgeon, on behalf of the Association of Private Pet Cemeteries & Crematoria (APPCC) following the sentencing of Emma Bent

Having been in contact with some of the pet owners affected by this case for over 18 months I know how they have struggled to come to terms with the actions of Emma Bent. They have also been immensely brave and of great support to one another during the long legal process, especially given the graphic and horrendous information that has been uncovered about Emma Bent's activities.

It deeply saddens me that both the authorities and the veterinary group offering Bent's services seemingly failed to protect the public from her fraudulent activities. Although damaging the public's trust in both the Pet Bereavement Industry and the Veterinary Profession this case has at least highlighted the need to address a national Trading Standards issue concerning the selling of after death care services for pets.

Pet cremation is currently completely unregulated. Licensing only applies to animal disposal which leaves the handling of the pet, the way the cremation is carried out and the way the ashes are collected down to the individual pet crematorium. The system is open to fraud and every day veterinary businesses put themselves in dangerous positions by selling these unregulated cremations. Quite simply, people are currently paying high prices for cremation services that often do not meet their expectations.

The APPCC would like to work with the authorities and the Veterinary Profession to ensure pet owners get more protection by clearly defining the cremation choices that are being offered to them. Our members already adhere to a strict Code of Practice that offers these definitions, but until all the UK pet crematoria and the Veterinary Profession agree to sell cremation services according to standard descriptions pet owners will continue to be misled.

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