

Statement of Barbara & Pete Lambert, owners of Nip, one of the pets found in the barn rented by Emma Bent after it was raided by the authorities

Our Little Jack Russell Nip (that we'd had from a 6 week old pup) was 16 and suffering with a heart condition when we had to make that awful decision of having him put to sleep by our vet (Ambivet) on August 3rd 2009. We received a phone call one week later from Ambivet to say that Nip's ashes were ready for collecting from them and we fetched him back home straight away.

We'd used Ambivet Vets for many years and as such trusted them and assumed that the cremation service they used (Peak Pet Cremations) was totally 100% legitimate in all aspects. We've since realised that this is not the case at all.

At the end of August 2009 we were watching the local BBC East Midlands Today news and saw a piece about 4 dogs being found in a field in Ripley, Derbyshire, that were supposed to have been cremated at the beginning of August by Peak Pet Cremations via Ambivet. David Stone, Manager of Ambivet, was being interviewed. Me and my husband Peter were absolutely shocked and immediately thought about our Nip. We tried to phone Ambivet at Heanor, Derbyshire but the line was constantly busy. Peter then decided he would go to Heanor and try and get an answer to see if Nip was one of them. He couldn't get an answer from the girls on reception and they said they'd get David Stone, the Business Manager, to phone us the following day, which he did. He assured us that Nip was not one of the dogs found in the field. We obviously had to take this as correct but we both had our niggling doubts about Nip's cremation and tried to forget about it as best we could.

Unfortunately in the middle of October 2009 I had a visit from PC Miriam Roche of Derbyshire Police to tell us that after a Police search of Bent's property in September Nip had been found in a shed along with other pets. I felt as if my world had collapsed and had to phone my husband, who came straight home from work. It was like we'd just lost him all over again. I still can't get the image out of my mind of our Nip lying in a shed totally neglected. He'd given us nothing but faithfulness and pleasure and he totally trusted us as we did him. This isn't what we'd wanted for our little dog and he didn't deserve it.

We can never forgive Emma Bent for what she's done and we can never forgive the management of Ambivet for not checking and regularly inspecting Bent after being given information about her practices long before Nip was found. The past 18 months have been horrendous and we are still grieving for our Nip. The cost to the taxpayer has also been enormous because of Bent dragging the case on an on when she could have admitted her guilt months ago.

Contact Details

Barbara Lambert Tel. 01158 496 887