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Advertiser



WEATHER
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PUPPY HELL

EXPOSED: Dogs suffer and die on filthy farm

KERRI-ANN HOBBS and JEFF WHALLEY

THIS is puppy hell.

A damning report by council rangers reveals a puppy farm selling dogs to Geelong families is housing animals in horrendous conditions.

Dogs are kept in cramped cages, are covered in faeces and have been found dead on their chains in areas with no access to shelter or water, the Moorabool Shire investigation has found.

The council is now seeking an order from the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal to end the abhorrent conditions.

Animal Liberation Victoria secretly visited the farm on Monday to film the pens and sent images to the *Geelong Advertiser*.

Shire mayor Pat Toohey said last night rangers also had photographic evidence but it was too disturbing for the public to see.

The shire rangers' report revealed: **ANIMAL** carcasses were left to rot on the ground throughout the property;

ANIMALS were kept in small cages littered with faeces;

DOGS were chained to wrecked cars, and

SOME animals died needlessly.

In the past year up to 59 dogs were discovered on the Beremboke property, north of Anakie, despite the owners, Les and Melinda Paxton, not having permits for so many animals, the report said.

Mr Paxton last night called the council report a lie and said he was considering legal action before declining to comment further.

The RSPCA last night supported the council's stance but said there were no grounds to prosecute the Paxtons under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.

Animal Liberation Victoria investigator Debra Tranter said she feared for the safety of two huskies who appeared to be sick and were in a cage with a floor covered in faeces.

"There were no feed bowls, there were chunks of raw meat in this filth," she said.



SHOCKING: A pug sits in a small cage in this photo taken by Animal Liberation Victoria on a secret visit this week to the puppy farm north of Anakie.

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MURDERER WAS ON BAIL WHEN HE KILLED: P3