People for Proper Policing in North Wales

Chief Constable's Dog blog - 15/02/2007. http://www.north-wales.police.uk/en/blogs/

I'm back in the office today after spending yesterday morning in London speaking at a Westminster Briefing on the Animal Welfare Act 2006, which comes into force in April - I deal with most animal related matters on behalf of the police service throughout England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Parliament has deliberately (and rightly) broadened the law, initially by the creation of a new offence of failing to safeguard the welfare of an animal. We in the police have been given the powers we need to deal with the most serious cruelty cases, and with the still-present problem of dog fighting and badger baiting. There will also be an effective and growing regulatory regime over the years to come with Codes of Practice to ensure that standards of animal keeping rise and then remain high. All concerned in Defra should be proud of themselves.

The PPP comments....yet another time consuming distraction OR could it actually protect us from pandemics like bird flu and F&M?. How do the RSPCA feel about the changes?

Defra failed miserably with Bernard Mathews' factory where appalling standards of animal welfare & hygiene were known to DEFRA Inspectors and several 'warnings' had been issued. The story in the Daily Mail is here ... http://www.dailymail.co.uk/pages/live/articles/news/news.html?in article id=436648&in page id=1770

The ministry and ministers made ridiculous statements such as....thorough cooking kills the virus BUT cold damp conditions allow it to thrive. It is well known that poorly cooked poultry is a major source of Salmonella food poisoning and 'fresh' contaminated Turkey stored in a fridge and then handled by cooks during preparation MUST put us all at risk.

This situation almost exactly MIRRORS the appalling state of the pigs on the North East farm where the F&M outbreak originated. This farmer had also received and ignored several warnings from DEFRA inspectors.