Why should the animal cruelty charge against the SPCA Tampa Bay be handled seriously?

From <mail@sendfoxmail.com>
To <info@pinellascountycoverup.org>
Reply-To info@pinellascountycoverup.org <info@pinellascountycoverup.org>

Date 2026-07-22 15:01

Why should the animal cruelty charge against the SPCA Tampa Bay be handled seriously?

RE: Case No. 25-11699-CO
State of Florida vs. SPCA Tampa Bay

Review

The SPCA Tampa Bay court hearing to dismiss the animal cruelty citation regarding Waddles the pig was held on July 17, 2026, in Pinellas County, FL. The shelter argued it is immune to the citation because it employs licensed veterinarians; however, this motion was heavily opposed by animal justice advocates. Those present in the court room reported that attorneys from both sides appeared uninterested in taking the case seriously.

The judge has been weighing this motion, while the underlying bench trial is currently scheduled for July 29, 2026.

Outcome results

Anna Cooke, Editor in Chief of THE NEW BARKER magazine, explains below the consequences if this case handling is trivialized.

> If this case is dismissed, it will send a loud and clear message that animal cruelty cases are not important; that they are a waste of time on the judicial system, or worse: a joke.
>
> It could set back all the work animal advocates [i.e. Rescue Pink Animal Justice Task Force] have been doing to research and track other animal cruelty cases. This important work is generating public interest and news coverage across the state. Realizing the public is paying closer attention, prosecutors are stepping up and coming to court better prepared. Judges are now actually hearing the cases. Stronger sentences are be handed down on some of those cruelty cases as a result.
>
> I hope Judge Hessinger understands that this isn't just about a pig.
>
> It is about an animal shelter not taking responsibility for the animals in their care.
>
> Waddles is the impetus that finally exposed the systemic failure of a donor-funded 501(c)(3) animal shelter.

How are we going to continue holding the public accountable on animal cruelty charges, while an animal shelter is allowed to operate in spite of the cruelty charges against them?

How are animal control agencies going to do their job, investigating animal cruelty cases, while the SPCA Tampa Bay continues to operate with known animal cruelty charges against them?

How can the oversight ordinance on the pet retail sale of puppies in Pinellas County be upheld when the SPCA Tampa Bay, located in Largo, Florida (Pinellas County) has animal cruelty charges against them?

If the case against the SPCA Tampa Bay is dismissed and/or the animal cruelty charges against the SPCA Tampa Bay are dropped, will this be precedent setting for future animal cruelty cases? If the SPCA Tampa Bay can get away with animal cruelty, will that be used as a defense in future animal cruelty cases here in Florida?

We cannot have it both ways.

Animal cruelty - no matter who has committed it - whether intentional or gross negligence or both - should not be tolerated.

- Anna Cooke
Editor in Chief
The New Barker
TheNewBarker.com
The New Barker Facebook
The New Barker Instagram
TheNewBarker.dog

"This pig is the national symbol for the corruption and abuse that has overtaken our shelters by criminal multi-million-dollar predatory nonprofits EVERYWHERE."

- TAILS END

Stay tuned for more news concerning Waddle's Battle with the SPCA here.

-Respectfully,
Concerned Pinellas County Taxpayers

P.S. You can also take a look at each communication directly from below ;)

Email 1: Request for Clarification on Several Matters of Public Concern

Email 2: Donor Dollars, Political Connections, and Questions that won't Go Away

Email 3: The Umbrella Effect

Email 4: Meet the SPCA TB Board

Email 5: Pulling Back the Curtain

Email 6: Waddle's Mother Speaks Up

Email 7: Waddle's Cruelty Journey Through the SPCA Tampa Bay and Recovery

Broadcast 1: Community Update

Broadcast 2: National Spotlight Continues to Grow

Broadcast 3: Do Lawmakers Really Listen to Their Constituents?

101 Central Park Dr Largo, FL 33771 United States

Unsubscribe

POWERED BY SENDFOX