

Thank fuck for Arleta Vakane

The Daily Mail



How & why would anyone want to hurt something so adorable?

Spivs Comment

I tell you what I have noticed. A lot of these Animal cruelty stories, especially the ones involving Dogs seem to be perpetrated by women. There is absolutely no need to mistreat animals. If you don't want your Dog or Cat any more (in which case you shouldn't have taken it on in the first place), then take it to the Pound. Why torture the fucking thing. Its sick, its evil and the penalty's are nowhere nearly tough enough. Until the courts start imposing proper sentences, then this type of shit isn't ever going to stop.

However, it isn't all gloom and doom. The 3rd story on this page, kinda restores my faith in England's reputation as being a nation of dog lovers. Arleta Vakane is my Hero of the day.

Tracey Barker on the other hand is my scumbag of the day.

Mother, 32, suffocated family dog with plastic bag because she didn't want to spend her benefits buying it food

- Tracy Barker starved her family's German Shepherd Milo for several weeks
- She then suffocated him with a bag before putting his body in a wheelie bin
- RSPCA officers found Milo in the bin outside Barker's Stoke-on-Trent home
- Barker was jailed for causing unnecessary suffering to an animal

By [SUZANNAH HILLS](#)

PUBLISHED: 11:06, 1 February 2013 | **UPDATED:** 13:03, 1 February 2013



Jailed: Tracy Barker, 32, was sentenced to 18 weeks in prison at Cannock Magistrates Court for causing unnecessary suffering to an animal. A mother who suffocated her family's dog with a plastic bag because she could not afford to feed it has been jailed.

Tracy Barker, 32, received an 18-week prison sentence after horrified RSPCA inspectors found the emaciated body of German Shepherd Milo stuffed into a wheelie bin outside her home.

A court heard that unemployed Barker refused to spend any of her benefits on food for the dog – and instead locked him outside and ignored his pleas to be fed.

She starved the dog for weeks before finally wrapping a carrier bag around his head and holding his jaw shut until he stopped breathing.

Cannock Magistrates Court heard RSPCA inspectors were called to Barker's home in Blythe Bridge, Stoke-on-Trent,

Staffordshire, following complaints from neighbours about dog mess in June last year.

When they asked where her dog was, she broke down, confessed what she had done and led the team to Milo's body.

The German Shepherd was found stuffed inside a black bin liner with the carrier bag Barker had used to kill him still tied around his head.

Kevin Worthington, prosecuting, told the court on Wednesday that Barker had placed a carrier bag around Milo's head and held its mouth shut until he died last June.

He said: 'The dog used to live in the house but the defendant claimed she did not have the money to feed him and it got to the point where she moved the animal outside, where it became more ill.

'The dog would have suffered physical feelings of hunger, lethargy along with being psychologically disturbed.

'It was used to being fed daily and it was placed outside, hungry and whimpering. It would have suffered serious trauma – this is a serious offence.'

More...

- [Fears for hundreds of birds on south coast as 'palm oil fell off passing ship' reacted with sea water create 'super-glue'](#)
- [Dog sentenced to death because he is 'gay' saved at the last minute...and his new owner calls him Elton!](#)
- [Mother of two spared jail after letting dog die slow and painful death over six weeks by leaving it in locked toilet](#)

Barker pleaded guilty to two counts of causing unnecessary suffering to an animal.

Her solicitor told the court that Barker had not been able to stretch her benefits to feed her family and the dog.

Lucy Taylor-Grime, defending, said: 'She is disgusted by her actions and regrets what has happened.

'She was trying to run a family home on benefits and cope with an animal – which is no excuse.

'She was trying to run a family home on benefits and cope with an animal – which is no excuse. She is disgusted by her actions and regrets what has happened.'

Lucy Taylor-Grime, defending solicitor

'Money was tight and she did not know where to turn to also deal with her depression.

'She got herself in such a mess and it went too far and she didn't put her hand up and say "help me".'

Inspector Natalie Perehovsky, from the RSPCA's North Staffordshire branch described the case as 'one of the most disgusting' she had ever seen.

She said: 'Seeing an animal with the bag still tied around its head was upsetting. Her actions were disturbing in the way she had the determination to suffocate.

'I am pleased with the sentence and the ban. It sends out a message that killing an animal is taking a life.'

Barker was also banned from keeping animals for 30 years with no chance to appeal.

An application from the RSPCA for £1,908 in vet's costs was rejected because Barker was jailed.



In court: Cannock Magistrates Court, pictured, heard how Barker suffocated the German Shepherd Milo after weeks of starvation because she didn't want to spend her benefits on dog food

Puppy 'lucky to be alive' after being discovered locked inside laptop bag when it was dumped under a bush

- Staffordshire Bull Terrier Apollo was found under a bush in Cambridge

By [ANTHONY BOND](#)

With his adorable little face and cute floppy ears, its hard to believe that anybody could be cruel to this young pup.

But 10-week-old Staffordshire Bull Terrier Apollo is lucky to be alive after being found abandoned in a zipped-up laptop bag.

The playful pooch was found by a member of the public under a bush in Cambridge city centre.



© Lee Sanders / SWNS.com

Cruel: Ten-week-old Staffordshire Bull Terrier Apollo was found abandoned in a laptop computer bag in Cambridge. She noticed the bulging bag moving as she walked through the city and was shocked when the whimpering pup emerged.

The abandoned dog was then taken to Wood Green Animal Shelter in Godmanchester, Cambridgeshire, where he is now being cared for by staff.

More...

- [Mother, 32, suffocated family dog with plastic bag because she didn't want to spend her benefits buying it food](#)
- [This is bound to raise a few eyebrows! Meet Sam the cat whose funny black hair has made him an internet hit](#)
- [Fears for hundreds of birds on south coast as 'palm oil fell off passing ship' reacted with sea water create 'super-glue'](#)

Linda Cantle, deputy head of animal welfare, said: 'This little dog is lucky to be alive. Apollo would have been hot and barely able to move or even breathe.'

'We would urge anyone no longer able to care for their pet to act responsibly and call a rescue centre like Wood Green.'



Cu
te: A member of the public noticed the bulging bag moving as

she walked through the city and was stunned when the whimpering pup emerged



Support: The abandoned dog was then taken to Wood Green Animal Shelter in Cambridgeshire where he is now being cared for by staff

The pup has been named after the Greek god of healing and will now live with a member of the care centre's staff until he is ready to be rehomed.

Apollo is one of thousands of animals that have been helped by the shelter in the past year.

Since January 2012 the total number of dogs rescued by the centre is a staggering 3,881.

Animal lover jumps into freezing canal to save drowning puppy after spotting just its nose in water

- Arleta Vakane jumped into the Oxford Canal to save seven-week-old Chilly
- She heard the dog's call for help and spotted its nose above the water
- Unless she is claimed, Arleta plans to adopt the dog and rename her Hope

By [SARA MALM](#)

PUBLISHED: 17:59, 1 February 2013 | **UPDATED:** 20:24, 1 February 2013

A woman braved freezing temperatures when she jumped into a canal to save a drowning puppy.

Arleta Vakane, 38, spotted the seven-week-old cross-breed which has fallen into the Oxford Canal during last week's cold snap, and did not hesitate to go in after it.

Ms Vakane was crossing a bridge near Banbury, Oxon when she heard loud whimpers and saw the helpless dog with only its nose above the water.

After trying to get hold of the terrier from shore, she jumped into the canal to come to its rescue.



© News Team International – NTI

Puppy love: Arleta Vakane jumped into a freezing canal to save drowning puppy Chilly

Print operator Arleta rushed the dog to a nearby veterinary clinic where staff have now named the puppy Chilly, after its cold ordeal.

Ms Vakane said: 'I heard this screaming, crying noise and when I looked I saw something moving in the middle of the canal.

'As I got nearer I saw it was a puppy paddling in the water and trying to keep her nose out of the water – everything else, including her ears, had gone under.

'The noise she was making was so loud – she was fighting for her life.

'I laid in the snow and tried to grab her but the gap between us was too big, so I got into the water to reach her.'

More...

- [Puppy 'lucky to be alive' after being discovered locked inside laptop bag when it was dumped under a bush](#)
- [Aw can I go running too dad? Super cute puppy is determined to get on the treadmill \(but why is the pit bull jogging in the first place?\)](#)
- [True doggie devotion: Owner prints 15,000 posters, sends out 35,000 business cards, offers £10,000 reward and REMORTGAGES in hunt for stolen pet](#)

Two days after last week's rescue, Arleta and Chilly were reunited and she says plans to keep the puppy, unless the owners come forward to claim her.

She said: 'When I saw her again I couldn't believe it was the same dog. Her eyes are so bright but when I last saw them they looked half dead.

'If I keep her I'll rename her Hope – because we all hoped she

would survive.'



Ch
eekeky Chilly: The seven-week-old puppy takes a nibble of a
carer's finger as she recovers from her ordeal



Saving grace: Arleta was crossing the Oxford Canal near Banbury when she heard the helpless whimpers of the puppy and came to her rescue

Veterinary surgeon Will Oldham, from Hawthorne Lodge Veterinary Practice, added: 'When the puppy arrived she was shivering and barely conscious.

'She was so cold it took an hour-and-a-half to read her temperature.

'Given how cold it was she would not have survived another few minutes in that water.

'She is a very, very lucky puppy – Arleta undoubtedly saved her life.

'The area of the canal she went into is not very nice at all but her brave actions mean this story had a very happy

ending.'