

SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

(In association with R.S.P.C.A. England) Patroness: LADY Y.P. McNEICE



05 March 2010

Sunday Times

Dear Sir/Madam,

Poisoning birds an inhumane method

I refer to last Sunday's article, 'Shocked by pigeon culling? Then stop feeding them'.

The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) shares the views of concerned citizens that poisoning of the birds is an inhumane method of population control. Humane alternatives, such as the bird-proofing techniques pointed out in the article, exist.

However, if poisoning continues to be the preferred choice of the authorities, pest control companies and town councils must ensure that the welfare of the birds remains a high priority.

Under no circumstances should a live bird be placed into a bag for disposal. Even if a bird is exhibiting signs of distress or disorientation, it should not be assumed that the amount of poison ingested is sufficient to kill the animal.

In 2008, the SPCA attended a scene of pigeon poisoning, where we retrieved some birds that were having difficulty flying. After a few days under observation, the birds were back to normal.

Had they been left in their environment, they would have been susceptible to road accidents or been attacked by predators, and if they had been disposed of in bags, they would surely have endured much suffering before death.

It is evident that poisoning is an inhumane method which severely compromises the welfare of the birds. We hope the present method can be reviewed as soon as possible to prevent any further suffering.

Leaving dying birds in plain view of the public also serves to desensitise people to the act of killing and the suffering of the animals.

Deirdre Moss (Ms)
Executive Officer
Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals