



NATIONWIDE MEMBERSHIP

Association of Private Pet Cemeteries & Crematoria

www.appcc.org.uk

01252 844478

www.cremationcodeforvets.org

Notes to Editors

1. Cooper's 2011 court appearance followed a two year trading standards investigation prompted by the suspicions of horse owner Sharon Widdows. She was surprised to receive a smaller than expected casket of ashes back from Bushy Equine vets following the death of her horse Otto. The ashes weighed only 8kg, when for a horse Otto's size the cremated remains should have weighed 20-22kg. When she failed to get answers she raised a complaint with Gloucestershire trading standards and the initial investigation began. She had paid £920 for an individual cremation but her horse Otto had been taken to a render plant in Exeter at a disposal cost of £35 per tonne.

She said: "After Mr Cooper was originally convicted I felt justice had been done. It sickens me to know there are other horse owners out there that have been preyed upon by him. I still feel very angry and guilty that I trusted Bushy Equine to arrange for my beloved Otto to be taken away by this man. I still have tears for poor Otto and try not to think about what Cooper did with him as it's just too upsetting. Although I'm glad Cooper has been brought to justice once again, I will never get back not being able to give Otto the send-off he deserved. I wouldn't let a vet arrange such an important service for me again".

2. Trading standards press release can be found here:

<http://www.tradingstandards.gov.uk/cgi-bin/glos/newsitem.cgi?file=prss0560.txt>

3. DEFRA regulations cover the disposal of dead animals only and do not protect the consumer as to how cremation services are carried out:- <http://animalhealth.defra.gov.uk/managing-disease/animalbyproducts/incineration-rendering/approval-operation-of-incineration-plants.htm#6>

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