# Man banned for 30 years after defying court to keep 50 pets in squalor



A man convicted of animal cruelty has once again been brought before the court after being discovered keeping more than 50 pets in appalling conditions. Liam Reynolds, aged 34, from Plymouth, was found to be in breach of a court order prohibiting him from owning animals. His history of neglect and cruelty toward animals dates back several years, culminating in a staggering 30-year ban from animal ownership imposed by the magistrates.

In a disturbing report, the RSPCA detailed how Reynolds was found living alongside a chaotic menagerie of animals, including cats, dogs, fish, and birds, within a filthy home. Photographs released during the investigation reveal a distressing scene: piles of rubbish cluttering the floors, a kitchen sink filled with debris, and a bath collecting dust-covered fish tanks. The rear garden, similarly unkempt, was littered with rubbish and animal faeces, contributing to a truly squalid living environment.

The court was informed that Reynolds had previously admitted to charges of causing unnecessary suffering to animals, particularly in connection to neglect that led to the deaths of at least three dogs in 2019. During that earlier incident, authorities discovered the skeletons of dogs in his property, highlighting a pattern of egregious animal welfare violations. A beagle named Sam was found to have died from malnutrition, which underscored the severity of his previous offences. As a consequence, he was sentenced to 16 weeks in prison and barred from keeping animals.

The current case unfolded when RSPCA Inspector Jim Farr authorised a warrant to search Reynolds' premises after receiving credible reports that he was handling animals despite his disqualification. “The interior of the property can only be described as very chaotic,” Inspector Farr stated, adding, “The clutter and rubbish were overwhelming and pervasive across the entire home.” Such conditions represent not only a disregard for animal welfare but pose health risks to both the animals and the humans residing there.

Reynolds' partner, Emily Dart, 42, who lived with him, was also implicated and previously served a jointly-issued ban. Both faced charges for failing to meet the basic needs of their pets. The court's decision to extend Reynolds' ban to 30 years, with a prohibition on any chance of appeal for the first 20 years, reflects a growing recognition of the urgency to prevent such acts of cruelty from recurring.

Over the years, Reynolds has displayed a flagrant disregard for the law. He had faced legal action on multiple occasions for similar breaches, including one incident where he was found with a variety of prohibited animals, including ferrets and quails. Such persistent offending raises pressing questions about the efficacy of existing bans and how to ensure they are enforced rigorously.

Animal welfare advocates continue to call for stronger measures to protect vulnerable creatures from individuals like Reynolds, whose actions paint a grim picture of neglect and abuse. The ongoing investigation by the RSPCA serves as a reminder of the need for vigilance and compassion in the face of animal suffering, as well as the importance of providing adequate support for rescue organisations tasked with caring for animals that have endured harsh conditions.

In light of Reynolds' disturbing pattern of animal cruelty, the legal system appears to be taking significant steps to prevent future transgressions, signalling a critical shift toward a more humane treatment of animals within society.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraphs 1, 2, 3
2. Paragraphs 4, 5, 6
3. Paragraphs 7, 8, 9
4. Paragraph 10
5. Paragraph 11
6. Paragraph 12

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14733033/horror-home-suffering-animals-lived-squalor.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.cornwalllive.com/news/cornwall-news/owner-liam-reynolds-jailed-after-3398884> - In February 2019, Liam Reynolds, 28, was jailed after appalling conditions led to the deaths of at least three dogs. Police and RSPCA officers discovered the bodies of two dogs, one decomposed inside a plastic bag and another found dead inside a makeshift kennel. A postmortem examination revealed that one dog, a beagle named Sam, had died from malnutrition due to starvation. Reynolds pleaded guilty to two counts of causing unnecessary suffering and one count of failing to ensure the needs of six dogs. He was disqualified from owning animals for 20 years and sentenced to 16 weeks in prison. ([cornwalllive.com](https://www.cornwalllive.com/news/cornwall-news/cornwalls-worst-animal-cruelty-cases-3398884?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.cornwalllive.com/news/cornwall-news/animal-abuser-among-criminals-cornwalls-5670997> - Liam Reynolds, 30, appeared before Truro Magistrates’ Court on July 12, 2021, for breaching a 20-year animal disqualification order for the second time. The RSPCA had previously investigated and prosecuted him for animal welfare offences. This breach followed an earlier incident in February 2020, where Reynolds was sentenced for a breach of his disqualification concerning snakes and ferrets. ([cornwalllive.com](https://www.cornwalllive.com/news/cornwall-news/animal-abuser-among-criminals-cornwalls-5670997?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.falmouthpacket.co.uk/news/19449003.rspca-court-case-cornwall-means-prison-animal-disqualification/> - In October 2020, police contacted the RSPCA after CCTV footage showed Liam Reynolds handling ferrets, despite his 20-year animal disqualification order. The footage, spanning from September 22 to October 13, 2020, depicted Reynolds feeding, moving, and cleaning ferret pens. Additionally, he had acquired approximately 40 quails. In response, Reynolds was sentenced to 34 weeks in custody, with 20 weeks concurrent for each offence and a 14-week sentence to run consecutively for breaching his ban. The court also reset his 20-year-long disqualification order for keeping animals. ([falmouthpacket.co.uk](https://www.falmouthpacket.co.uk/news/19449003.rspca-court-case-cornwall-means-prison-animal-disqualification/?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.falmouthpacket.co.uk/news/17410214.liam-reynolds-sent-prison-animal-cruelty/> - In February 2019, Liam Reynolds, 28, was jailed and banned from keeping animals for 20 years after admitting to two counts of causing unnecessary suffering and one count of failing to ensure the needs of six dogs. The RSPCA and police discovered five dogs in a caravan in St Just, Cornwall, surrounded by filth and excrement. Two dogs were found dead, one decomposed inside a plastic bag and another inside a kennel. A postmortem examination revealed that one dog, a beagle named Sam, had died from malnutrition due to starvation. ([falmouthpacket.co.uk](https://www.falmouthpacket.co.uk/news/17410214.liam-reynolds-sent-prison-animal-cruelty/?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.cornwalllive.com/news/cornwall-news/dog-horrific-animal-cruelty-case-3377345> - A lurcher named Ben, rescued from horrific conditions in March 2018, was still waiting for a forever home 18 months later. Ben was found by police and RSPCA inspectors underweight, suffering from an untreated facial injury, and surrounded by decomposing bodies of around five other dogs. His owner, Liam Reynolds, was jailed and banned from keeping animals for 20 years after admitting to animal cruelty charges. Despite his recovery, Ben continued to be overlooked by potential adopters. ([cornwalllive.com](https://www.cornwalllive.com/news/cornwall-news/dog-horrific-animal-cruelty-case-3377345?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://www.cornwalllive.com/news/cornwall-news/dog-centre-horrific-cornwall-animal-2512444> - Ben, a lurcher rescued from horrific conditions in March 2018, spent 11 months waiting for a new home. Found underweight with an untreated facial injury and surrounded by decomposing bodies of other dogs, Ben's owner, Liam Reynolds, was jailed and banned from keeping animals for 20 years. Despite his recovery, Ben continued to be overlooked by potential adopters. ([cornwalllive.com](https://www.cornwalllive.com/news/cornwall-news/dog-centre-horrific-cornwall-animal-2512444?utm_source=openai))