

Cat shot with pellet gun, paralyzed
Roseville, CA (US)

Incident Date: Tuesday, Jun 30, 2009

County: Placer

Disposition: Open

Suspect(s) Unknown - We need your help!



Lodged between Big Ben the cat's vertebrae is a pellet fired from a gun -- perhaps quite a while ago -- that has now moved and paralyzed the sleek, cuddly kitty.

Now, the Placer Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in Roseville is appealing to animal lovers to provide the more than \$1,000 needed for delicate surgery by a veterinary specialist to remove the pellet.

"We are disgusted by this evidence of animal cruelty," said Placer SPCA chief Leilani Vierra. "We know animals don't have a voice to tell us what's happened to them before they come to us, but this experience really brings that fact home."

Big Ben was walking when he was taken to the shelter June 30. But recently an SPCA staffer notice the handsome cat

could not move his back legs. Rushed to Sunrise Boulevard Animal Hospital, X-rays confirmed that before coming to the SPCA Big Ben had been shot three times, one pellet wedging in his spinal column between vertebrae.

The attending veterinarian surmised that the pellets had been in the animal a long time and the one causing his paralysis had shifted perilously close to his spinal column.