

Community fears led to cops raid on flat

SUSPECTED pit bull dogs were recovered and a man arrested after police raided a flat. Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNT) from Stonebridge, Harlesden and Willesden, used a battering ram on the flat in Pitfield Way, St Raphael's Estate, before the resident opened the door at

around 9am on Friday. Two pit bull type dogs were found inside the flat and a Metropolitan Police dog team and RSPCA officer helped take them away. Tests later revealed one of the dogs to be a pit bull and a 34-year-old man was arrested for possession of section one dangerous

dogs. He was further arrested for being wanted on warrant for breach of ASBO in Camden. Police decided to do the raid following a number of complaints from residents. Sgt Michelle Ruane from Stonebridge Safer Neighbourhoods Team said: "This raid is an excellent example of the strong relationship between the Safer Neighbourhood Teams and the community. "I would like to reassure the public that we take reports of dangerous dogs very seriously and will not tolerate animals being mistreated or being used for criminal purposes. "We will continue to make Brent safer for residents and visitors."



Rescued: The dogs are led away during the raid
If you know of dangerous dogs call your Safer Neighbourhoods Team in confidence on 0300 123 1212, visit www.met.police.uk/safeneighbourhoods or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Search to find ruthless owner

BY ALEX WELLMAN

A HEARTLESS dog owner put their pet through 'inhuman' pain and then left it to wander the street.

Daffy, an eight-month-old Rotweiler, was left with gangrene and burst glands after someone attempted to dock his tail using wire.

The puppy was found by a man, who lives in Willesden, wandering in Kensington and took him to a vet in Paddington, who then alerted the Mayhew Animal Home in Tremnar Gardens, Kensal Green.

Gillian Scott, animal care manager, Mayhew Animal Home, said: "He came to us from the vet but was still in a bad way so we stabilised him on fluids and had to operate the next day.

"Unfortunately, the tail was too far gone to save so we had to amputate it but after that he got lots and lots of the as he was feeling very sorry for himself.



Safe: Daffy is now recovering after his ordeal

"Tail docking has gone down since the Animal Welfare Act came to force, which made it illegal but if people do still do it they tend to do it when a puppy is a few days old.

"On a dog this age it is extremely inhumane as the tail is an extension of the spinal column."

Things are now looking up for Daffy, who was found abandoned on April 16, though after he was adopted by a family who are committed to giving him a fresh start.

The RSPCA is now calling for people who may be able to identify the dog's owner to come forward and help bring any possible prosecutions.

Annie Simmonds, RSPCA inspector, said: "We would like to know who this dog belonged to. He was clearly suffering and should have had vet treatment.

"If he has been abandoned then that is an offence." Anyone with any information is asked to contact the RSPCA in confidence on 03001234999. alex.wellman@archant.co.uk

Mutilated pup found in park

A PUPPY was found in a park with its head bitten off in what animal welfare officers believe to be an appalling case of dog fighting, writes *Nadia Sam-Daliri*. Mayhew Animal Home, in Harrow Road, Kensal Green, was alerted to the incident by horrified resident Cath Brady, who found the mutilated pup wrapped in a newspaper in Gladstone Park, Dollis Hill.

Ms Brady, of Aberdeen Road, Dollis Hill, said: "It was so badly mutilated I didn't even recognise it was a puppy at first. I was in tears.

"I've seen people training dogs to make them more aggressive." The Jack Russell Terrier had most of its face bitten off, a ruptured anus and a docked tail, which is illegal in this country.

Claire Harper, the animal welfare officer who dealt with the incident, said: "I've never seen a case as bad as this. My most educated guess is that the puppy was used as bait so another dog would get a taste of blood."

Brent Police said they have not received any reports of dog fighting in the area but the safer neighbourhood team has contacted Ms Brady.

A spokeswoman said: "If you have any concerns about dog fighting call 0300 123 1212 for your local safer neighbourhood team." Brent Council, the police and the Mayhew work together on joint project Brent Action for Responsible K9s (BARK), which was set up in 2007.