

West Lothian horse owner convicted following a Scottish SPCA investigation



SONY DSC

A West Lothian horse owner has been convicted following a Scottish SPCA investigation.

Julie Aitken, 23, of Raeburn Rig, Livingston, was sentenced at the town's sheriff court on Tuesday (7 July).

At a previous appearance, Aitken pled guilty to failing to provide veterinary attention and adequate nutrition for her 18 year old horse named Zack.

Aitken was ordered to pay a £1,000 compensation order to cover veterinary fees and given an 80 hour Community Payback Order, to be completed within five months.

Commenting on the investigation and court case, Inspector Tracy McNaughton said, "An independent veterinary examination revealed Zack was in extremely poor body condition, with a body score of one out of five.

"Zack had a high heart rate, rain scald over his body, bleeding heels and withers and was severely lame.

"He was taken into our care where his condition greatly improved.

"While we are pleased Aitken has admitted this offence, we are disappointed she has not been banned from owning animals and that Zack will be returned to her.

"We have agreed to monitor Zack to ensure his welfare."

Photo by Scottish SPCA