

Crazy Cat Woman Fights Animal Sanctuary Foreclosure With Tooth And Nail. Bankers Get What's Coming.

Cat rescue volunteer and all-time cat lover, Shelly Hayling, is beaming like the proverbial "Cheshire cat" after a stroke of unexpected good fortune came knocking at her Suffolk pet sanctuary door. Less than two weeks ago her home of 16 years, which she had converted into an animal rescue centre, was threatened with closure and repossession by the bank, after she struggled to make the mortgage repayments.

Since her husband of 21 years tragically died from a rare form of cancer, just over a year ago, she has been relying on donations from well-wishers and the goodwill of friends, to help keep the animal sanctuary up and running. However, the expenditure involved in feeding and homing 97 cats, 11 dogs, 14 rabbits and several other smaller animals far exceeded the very small income she was receiving from charitable contributions.

Tried in vain to find homes for the animals...

Faced with closure she would have had to make arrangements for almost all of the animals to be put down, as other local animal rescue centres said they would be unable to accommodate the additional animals. Mrs Hayling had tried in vain to find homes for the animals but had only been able to find new homes for 8 of her younger cats. In a recent interview she said, "My worst nightmare was unfolding before me and there was absolutely nothing I could do."

She added, "I've always been an animal lover ever since I was a very young girl and cats have always been my favourite pet. I can't bear the thought of a cat going hungry or sleeping out in the cold so when I first found 2 emaciated stray cats wandering around outside my garden I took them in and looked after them. That was 19 years ago." When Mrs Hayling moved to her present home, she and her husband turned it into a cat sanctuary, taking in strays and injured cats along with a few other unwanted and neglected pets.

No life insurance and a mountain of bills to pay...

She is well-known in the town of Stowmarket, Suffolk, where local residents refer to her as the "Crazy Cat Woman". "Crazy" because she's just crazy about cats, she admits. All had been going well until her husband, a Landscape Gardener, died after a short illness, and with no life insurance and a mountain of bills to pay she found herself in a very difficult financial situation. She had told friends that the sanctuary was her life and that running it had helped her to cope with the grief and despair of losing her husband.

Finding herself in a situation, in which she could lose everything, Mrs Hayling decided to do something she has never done before in her life. A close friend, who asked not to be identified, told us, "Shelly is a very proud and determined woman. She is strong-minded and is not the kind of person who would easily give in to anything. She and Dave, her deceased husband, put everything into building this sanctuary, and I knew how much it meant to them both."

Was able to save the animal sanctuary from certain closure

He continued, "A few weeks ago I offered Shelly a substantial sum of money to help out but she point blank refused. I told her I could easily afford it because I had won the money at an online casino. At the time, I wasn't sure whether I should have told her that because she then wanted to know what casino, and how much did I win? She also asked, how much did I gamble? Of course I had to tell her everything. I think it was when I told her about the welcome bonus that **Dunder** casino was offering that she finally decided she would have a go herself."

Shelly Hayling went on to win a staggering tax free £98,226 in the **Dunder** online casino and was able to pay off her mortgage, and save the animal sanctuary from certain closure. She told us, "If my friend hadn't informed me about the huge welcome offer with **Dunder** casino then I wouldn't be having this conversation with you right now and all my animals would very likely be dead. I've never gambled in my life but when you're desperate, like I was, then you have to look at every possible opportunity. I was definitely lucky and my gamble paid off."

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