

VILLAGE LEFT IN SHOCK AFTER DOGS HANGED FROM BRIDGE

Police continue the search for the barbaric killers

By BEN HALL

A VILLAGE has been left shaken after two young dogs were found hanging dead from a bridge.

The lurchers, which were 12 and 18 months old, were discovered on canal bridge 46 of Bosworth Road in Congerstone on Thursday, December 30.

Results from a post-mortem carried out by the RSPCA, the authority investigating the matter, have since proved inconclusive.

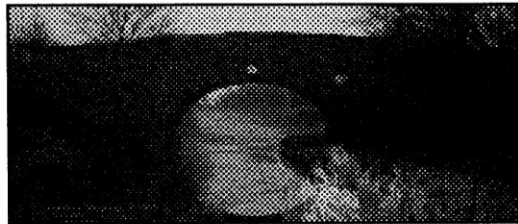
Officials are now stressing the importance of public information to help catch those who committed the crime, which has been widely publicised in national press.

A spokesman for the RSPCA said: "Because the post-mortem didn't give any more clues we are really relying on people coming forward with evidence.

"There is absolutely no excuse to treat any animal in such a way. What happened is too awful to imagine (and) we must find whoever is responsible."

Steven Havers, a Markfield dog training expert, was appalled by the crime.

He told the *Times*: "I think whoever did this should have the same thing done to them.



The bridge where the dogs found, located on a farm track off Bosworth Road, Congerstone

"To destroy a dog at the end of its life for its own good is hard enough in itself but to do this to two dogs who are both at the start of their life is nothing short of barbaric."

Mr Havers emphasised that lurchers are characteristically nice, well behaved dogs and make fantastic pets.

He added that he rarely has to deal with them in his behavioural classes.

Mr Havers continued: "I can only conclude that the person who did this must not be all there."

He also stressed that a crime such as this highlights the need for compulsory identification on all dogs: "Because these dogs didn't have any microchips or tattoos it is proving difficult to find anything out about them."

The disturbing crime has shocked Congerstone residents,

leaving some dog owners fearing for their pets' safety.

Jessica Harding, 24, whose parents live in the village, said: "My mum usually lets her dogs out into the back garden but now she's keeping them inside; no one is sure of anything after all this.

"It's a scary thing so everyone has tightened security on their dogs.

"You always think nothing will happen in a place like that, which is what makes it all the more shocking."

Andrew Wright, chairman of Shackerstone Parish Council and Congerstone resident, urged anyone with information to get in touch with the RSPCA or Leicestershire Constabulary.

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