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## Hallswood Animal Sanctuary Updates on Police Investigation and Site Improvements

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Nearly a year after a high-profile police raid rocked Hallswood Animal Sanctuary in Stratton Strawless, near Horsford, the organisation has confirmed that no charges have been brought against it or its staff. The absence of legal action, coupled with a lack of communication from Norfolk Constabulary for months, has left the sanctuary questioning the direction of the ongoing investigation.

The raids, conducted between 5 and 17 September last year in collaboration with the RSPCA, were prompted by concerns over animal welfare. Several animals were seized under Section 18 of the Animal Welfare Act, with some sadly euthanised due to their condition. The operation drew significant attention and led to the resignation of the sanctuary's former director, Lyz Hall. However, the organisation has been clear that no wrongdoing has been attributed to her or anyone else involved.

In a recent interview, Alys Wyatt of Hallswood Animal Sanctuary stated, "We can confirm that nobody involved with the sanctuary site, or the business as a whole, has faced any charges. Furthermore, there has been no contact at all from Norfolk Constabulary in months. We have also had no further visits or communication from the RSPCA, despite our openness to both announced and unannounced inspections."

A police spokesperson, meanwhile, maintained that inquiries into multiple incidents at the sanctuary are ongoing, describing the investigation as complex with several lines of enquiry still active. This lack of clarity has raised concerns among supporters about the fairness and transparency of the process, with some questioning whether the authorities are overreaching without sufficient evidence.

Despite the shadow of the investigation, Hallswood has focused on rebuilding and moving forward. Earlier this year, a spokesperson for the sanctuary shared that significant efforts have been made to improve facilities, including a major refurbishment of the main hospital building. These upgrades have paved the way for the successful reopening of the sanctuary's adoption programme, which has seen numerous cats, dogs, and small animals find loving homes.

The sanctuary's commitment to animal welfare and community engagement remains unwavering. Alys Wyatt added, "The large community that Hallswood has fostered over the years continues to thrive, and public support has not dwindled." This resilience reflects the dedication of the staff and volunteers who have worked tirelessly to restore confidence in the sanctuary's mission.

As the investigation lingers without resolution, Hallswood's focus on transparency and improvement stands in contrast to the uncertainty surrounding the authorities' actions. For now, the sanctuary continues to operate, serving as a vital resource for animals in need while navigating the challenges of unresolved legal scrutiny.