

Noisy buddy

By Melanie Hall

1 A pet owner has been threatened with an anti-social behaviour order (ASBO) because his parrot will not stop singing Old MacDonald Had a Farm and other songs. Stephen White's 12-year-old African Grey, Buddy, has been annoying the neighbours for two years. As well as the nursery rhyme, it likes to squawk "Hello, who's that then?" when it hears a mobile ring. Neighbours in King's Lynn, Norfolk, reported Mr White and his pet to West Norfolk Council for noise pollution.



2 One woman noted down every squawk the parrot made for two months and the council fitted noise monitoring equipment in her home. Mr White, 62, a handyman, has been threatened with legal action if he cannot silence Buddy. But he said it was impossible to keep Buddy quiet and he would fight any legal action. Mr White, who lives with his wife Glynnis, 58, said: "It's a complete waste of taxpayers' money and the council has fallen for it. What do they expect me to do – cut his vocal cords?" The council said it might have to prosecute Mr White, meaning that he could receive an 'ASBO'. A spokesman added that this complaint is being investigated in the normal way and while this is ongoing, no formal action will be taken.

Daily Telegraph, 2013