

Intro: What the hell is an SCP

If you've been browsing the internet long enough you've probably seen the acronym SCP. Maybe you saw it on grainy footage of a pale figure crawling on the ground, maybe you saw it on the image of a terrifyingly warped person with a siren for a head, maybe you used it as a secure way to transfer files, but that's not the one we're talking about.

We're talking about the SCP Foundation. The acronym stands for Special Containment Procedures, and also references the organization's motto: Secure, Contain, Protect.

But what are the procedures, and what are they trying to contain?

Here's a description from the SCP Wiki:

Anomalies; items and critters that do not follow the rules of nature as we know them. Staircases that go on forever, mechanical gods from the beginning of time, otherwise regular humans who reshape reality with their mind: these are the kinds of things that, if known to the public, could cause mass hysteria and start wars on scales unprecedented. Due to that, there exists an organization called the SCP Foundation, whose job is to research paranormal activity, keep these creatures and objects concealed from the public, and protect humanity from the horrors of the dark.

So why do they have their own Wiki? Doesn't that put humanity at an existential risk? Well, it's really more of a creative writing collective. And they are very clear that everything on the website is fictional. The first SCP was described on 4Chan's /x/ paranormal board in 2007. In 2008 the SCP Foundation started its own Wiki Site, and it's come a long way from its 4Chan roots as evidenced by the fact they have an anti-harassment policy.

There are over 10,000 cases on the SCP Wiki, and while they don't ask contributors to adhere to a strict canon, because how could you? These are incomprehensible phenomena after all.

They do have a set of core terminology and a writing style they ask contributors to adhere to. Generally, they ask writers to maintain a scientific, clinical tone in their writing.

And here's some of the Foundation's terms:

- **Anomaly/Anomalous** – Anything that doesn't follow the rules of reality as we know them.
- **Object Classes** – Each anomaly contained by the Foundation has an assigned object class, which tell you how difficult something is to contain. The three most common classes are **Safe**, meaning containment is simple, **Euclid**, meaning containment is more complex, and **Keter**, meaning containment is very difficult to maintain.
- **Mobile Task Forces** (MTF) – Elite units for responding to and containing anomalies. Depending on the anomaly, these range from paramilitary teams to groups of specialized researchers.
- **Group of Interest:** Groups other than the Foundation that deal with or handle the anomalous.

But beyond that, writers have freedom to describe whatever they like, and the role of the foundation can be changed or altered to fit the needs of the storyteller.

But for our purposes, JD and I are breaking into the Foundation itself, dodging past Mobile Task Forces on our search for the most nefarious, terrifying SCPs imaginable.

Well, I got mine by clicking a random page link.

JD, did you pick yours out? And do you have anything else to add about what the SCP foundation is?

SCP-4964 : You wouldn't download a shaggy dog

The random page powers gave me SCP-4964, which has to do with a bootlegged copy of the 2006 Tim Allen film, *The Shaggy Dog*.

Which I had never seen, actually, I had never seen any of the Shaggy Dog films, I didn't even know that there were others.

The concept of the film, of the apparently many films, is, someone turns into a dog.

That seems like an idea most toddlers would come up with if you asked them for a story idea.

I had no idea how far the rabbit hole went.

Spoiler alert for the Shaggy Dog universe, like all of it.

Our story begins in 1923, with a little book called *The Hound of Florence* by the Austro-Hungarian author Felix Salten, who also wrote *Bambi*.

The Hound of Florence is the story of Lucas Grassi, a poor boy growing up on the hard streets of Vienna during the Renaissance.

Lucas is a special boy because while he's not the only broke ass kid on the streets he's the only one that feels poverty "as intolerable torture."

While all the other dirt farming peasants are happily wading through ankle deep shit.

Lucas has dreams baby, Lucas wants to go to Italy and become an artist, Florence, kid, that's where it's at.

One day, young Lucas is watching the procession of Archduke Ludwig, who was on his way to, where else, but Florence.

As you may have picked up, Lucas is a salty bitch, he has like two whole pages where he just talks about how none of these nobles appreciate Florence like he does.

"And what will it mean to them, to be in Florence? Oh, I suppose they'll find it attractive and entertaining enough, and the climate most agreeable, but otherwise it will mean nothing! Absolutely nothing! What can they do there, which they could not do just as well here? ... And I must stay here - I whose home is there, I who ..."

It goes on like this for another way too long.

But then Lucas says something fateful.

"I even envy that dog!" he says and he starts pounding a magic windowsill with his fist

"If I were allowed to be myself every other day , only every other day, I wouldn't mind a bit ... I shouldn't mind being that dog if I could go with them on their journey."

Thanks to the magical windowsill Lucas's weirdly specific wish comes true.

Generally when someone wishes in a story they're unintentionally vague and that leads to unintended consequences, but Lucas just wishes for a situation that sucks.

Because Lucas spends every other day as a human he gets in trouble as a dog for being missing half the time.

He gets the shit kicked out of him by the archduke and his goons on the reg.

But then when he's a human he's able to study art and is bangin' a courtesan named Claudia.

When he's a dog he's still hanging out with Claudia cause Archduke Ludwig also has a thing for her.

So overall, Lucas feels like the constant beatings are pretty much worth it.

There's like 250 pages of Lucas hanging out.

Then it ends with a scene of Lucas in dog form, the dog's name is Cambyses, for the record, getting into a jealous fight with the Archduke Ludwig over Claudia.

This is where we get two different endings, in the original German story, Lucas is stabbed to death and "his body is disposed of."

Very German.

German listener, I'd love to hear how they disposed of the body, let me know what it says.

In the English translation they lightened the ending by adding six pages where after being stabbed Lucas is put into Claudia's bed and never wakes up. Maybe he dies, maybe he doesn't, you decide, also there's some old-timey racism.

Very English.

I can't recommend that anyone read *The Hound of Florence*. Nothing really happens, Lucas sucks, Ludwig sucks, and then Lucas either gets killed immediately or gradually dies of an infection in a vegetative state.

I mean medicine at the time was like bleeding him out to balance his humors so he's dying one way or another, the English rewrite really doesn't make it better.

But speaking of rewrites, Disney bought the production rights to *The Hound of Florence* and five other Salten novels in 1941 because they anticipated *Bambi* being a hit, and they were right.

But *The Hound of Florence* was not film ready, and it wasn't until 1955 that I really got reappraised and eventually rewritten as *The Shaggy Dog*.

The only real throughline between the two stories is that there's a boy who turns into a dog who is eventually stabbed.

Okay, so the only throughline is the dog transformation.

In the 1959 film the transformation was caused by a magical ring with the latin phrase "*In canis corpore transmutato*" which means 'Into a dog my body will change.'

The victim is one Wilbur "Wilby" Daniels.

Wilby has a crush on a girl, Francesca Andrassé, and goes with her and his rival to a local museum.

While there Wilby runs into Professor Plumcutt, who dumps hot exposition all over him by telling him there's an ancient mystical Italian family called the Borgia's who used the power of animal transformation as a secret weapon against their enemies.

This was the 1950s when Italians were still considered mysterious.

Anyway, Wilby accidentally bumps into a Jewelry case and one of the ancient Borgia's rings falls into the cuff of his pants.

When he realizes what happened he reads the magic words and is immediately transformed into a dog.

Not just any dog, Francesca's dog Chiffon, now if you think back to *the Hound of Florence* you might assume this is where the pervert shit starts as Wilby takes advantage of being Chiffon to be a nasty little freak.

But it's not, similarly to the *Hound of Florence*, Wilby transforms back and forth between dog and human, and learns from Professor Plumcutt that the only way to permanently rid himself of the dog curse is to perform a selfless act.

Does it make sense? Wasn't the ability to turn into an animal supposed to be a secret Italian Weapon? It's a curse now? Don't overthink it, I've got like four more Shaggy Dogs to get to.

Wilby does hijinks as a dog and as a boy and he's turning into that bigass sheep dog left and right. Shit is going sideways in a way the movie promotes as:

"A new kind of horror movie... horribly **funny**."

I disagree.

But anyway, back to Wilby, who has to do a selfless act.

What could a good 50s boy do?

Rat out foreign spies.

That's right, Wilby, as Chiffon, overhears Francesca's sneaky European adopted father's plans to steal Government secrets.

Wilby obviously will not let this stand and it leads to a high speed car chase with the spies chasing Wilby, and then the police chasing the spies.

The spies jump onto a boat with Francesca and before you know it Wilby's on the damn boat.

He fights the men and then Francesca gets shoved off the boat and he goes to rescue her.

After saving Francesca and apprehending the spies, the curse is cured.

We can assume that the spies were executed shortly after.

Francesca goes back to Paris and she leaves Chiffon with Wilby and his family.

As a side note, Wilby has a brother named Moochie who always wanted a dog, this will be relevant later.

End of movie.

So, already a lot more happened, and naturally Disney dropped the dog being stabbed to death, which was probably for the best.

We now have a wacky young teen comedy with some standard patriotic duty mixed in.

Most importantly, the Shaggy Dog did numbers, becoming Disney's most successful film at the time.

It set Disney up with a formula which they would not break from for decades, the "gimmick comedy."

These were live action comedies where they added in a magical or fantastical element in a middle class American setting.

They absolutely pumped movies like this out throughout the 1960s and 70s.

I'm sure Disney getting a formula for a genre film and pounding it into the ground won't sound familiar to anyone.

But unlike today, there wasn't a three stage Shaggy Dog Cinematic universe mapped out.

It wasn't until 1976 that we were blessed by the return of that Shaggy Dog.

This time it was in a film called, *The Shaggy D.A.*

Wilby is back, and as you might have guessed from the name, the cop energy is too.

The story picks up with Wilby in his 40s heading back from vacation with his family.

Wilby is now a lawyer.

But oh no, their house has been burglarized.

It's probably that lousy lib District Attorney, John Slade's fault for being so soft on Crime, Wilby thinks.

Then boom, first night back, Wilby's house gets robbed again, and now he's had enough of these crooked demon-rats, he's gonna run for DA and make Medfield great again, I mean, safe again.

Meanwhile, the dudes that robbed Wilby's house decide to rob the museum and steal the Borgia's ring, which they pawn off on a local man who just happens to own a shaggy dog of his own named Elwood.

Wilby hears the news that the ring has been stolen and spills his dark secret to his wife. And now the mechanic is that if anyone reads the inscription out loud it's dog time.

Again, don't think about it, don't worry about it, we've still got a lot of ground to cover before we get to the SCP.

Who would have guessed, the guy who bought the ring reads the inscription right before Wilby has a TV appearance for his campaign.

Ruh-roh.

So Wilby transforms into Elwood who disappeared from his owners house, but then comes back in but now it's really Wilby and Elwood can speak, so that's a new feature too.

But anyway, the inconsistent ring magic wears off and Wilby realizes he has to find the ring if he has any hope of running a successful campaign.

So now it only works when someone reads the inscription, and oh no, someone reads the inscription while Wilby is in front of an audience.

So we've got a lot of moving parts, apparently Wilby doesn't know how to shut the fuck up, because he keeps talking when he's Elwood and Elwoods owner is seeing dollar signs.

Meanwhile the John Slade, evil DA, is getting suspicious that Wilby keeps disappearing from public appearances.

The police eventually get the ring and give it back to the museum.

And the nerd museum guy reads the inscription while they're all at the police station.

So Wilby starts turning into a dog and runs off and the museum nerd tells Slade's goons the plot of the first Shaggy Dog movie, which is enough for them to figure out what's going on.

So Slade gets the ring and brings Wilby into his office and makes him transform into a dog, and apparently saying the inscription repeatedly makes the curse last longer, but if you say it too much the curse transfers to you.

So Wilby is stuck as a dog for an undetermined amount of time and gets sent to the pound.

But with the help of the other dog's Wilby is able to escape the pound.

Then Wilby manages to catch Slade admitting to being involved in organized crime on tape.

Slade says the inscription to turn Wilby back into a dog but he's said it too many times and Slade turns into another, random dog.

Wilby winds up winning the election and Slade get's a ticket?

At least that part is realistic.

End of story.

We see in *the Shaggy D.A.* a further enrichment of the curse and the mechanisms therein.

We also learn that while the ability to shift into a Shaggy Dog does always require a dog "host" to shift into, the dog host can be inherited when the original dog dies.

And we've learned that the Shaggy Dog only understands law, order and the sting of justice.

But let's move on to the fourth iteration of the Shaggy Dog, the often forgotten 1987 made-for-television two part movie *The Return of the Shaggy Dog*.

This time, Wilby is back, but he's midway between the events of the original film and *The Shaggy D.A.*, basically in his 30s.

So we've gone back in time as far as the story goes but this is the third film to be made.

Wilby at this point is a successful lawyer.

Professor Plumcutt is also back, on his deathbed.

Before he dies he leaves his dog to his cockney servants, which is a real rich guy move.

But we learn that his dog is a direct descendent of the Borgias' original Shaggy dog.

Which means that these dogs which serve as vessels to ring holders are inherited by blood.

Anyway, Plumcutt also says that the ring, which I guess he took from the museum, has to go to Wilby.

Wilby's brother, Moochie, is a dog casting director and is searching for the perfect actor for a dog food commercial.

Professor Plumcutt dropped the ring as he died but when the servants found it they were like "wha's all this then?" and immediately read the inscription, which turned Wilby into Professor Plumcutt's dog.

Wilby plans to have Professor Plumcutt read the inscription to undo the curse.

But uh-oh, Moochie's boss, the producer, sees Wilby and is like, we've found our star and takes Wilby home with her? Is this a Weinstein situation?

Wilby escapes when the cockneys take the ring to a pawn store owner who reads the inscription.

The cockneys are hiding Plumcutt's death from Wilby so they can rob his estate, and they have a real Punch and Judy vibe, real puppet heads know.

Due to calling the dog Wilby, Wilby's fiance thinks that Wilby is fucking the producer, while the producer thinks that the fiance is fucking a dog.

Hijinks ensue.

But Wilby crushes it in the dog food commercial, which makes the cockneys think they can make money off the magic dog.

They do this by kidnapping Wilby, and telling him they will keep him as a dog forever and ransom him out to the producer.

Anyway, the producer, fiancée and Moochie work together and get the ring and read the inscription.

Wilby turns back into a human, the cockneys get arrested, and Wilby gets married.

End of movie. End of the Wilby saga.

Let's take a minute to unpack, so we've now learned that the Shaggy Dog is a bloodline thing, so all Shaggy Dogs are descended from an original Shaggy Dog.

Reading the inscription is a surefire way to make the curse activate, but once you've read the inscription you can use it as much as you want.

The next Shaggy dog was another made-for-TV movie in 1994, but this one was a straightforward remake of the 1959 original.

This brings us to 2006 and the Tim "Toolman" Allen remake.

This film is the subject of our SCP, in case you forgot that's what I'm doing because I've just been laying the groundwork on the Shaggy Dog universe for 15 minutes.

Now, Tim Allen does not play Wilby.

But I watched four Shaggy Dog movies and read the source material so you're gonna hear about them all goddamnit.

Tim Allen plays a deputy *district attorney* named Dave Douglas. Is that anything JD???

Dave Douglas is prosecuting his daughter's social science teacher who is accused of firebombing a pharmaceutical company.

It's a pretty based move, and the teacher says it's because the company, Grant and Strickland, have been engaged in illegal animal experimentation.

Are they?

Of course, the movie cold opens with a black ops raid kidnapping a 300-year-old sacred dog named Khyi Yang Po (which they say means the Dog of Ageless Wonder) from a Tibetan monastery.

The scientists learn that Khyi Yang Po's DNA can be turned into a viralized vaccine against old age, but there's a side effect, anything that gets the vaccine starts acting like a dog.

David Douglas's Daughter, Carly, is an animal rights activist and all-around Lib.

Fuck it, from here on out its just Tim Allen.

Tim Allen hates his daughter and all her hippy bullshit.

Carly is protesting the pharmaceutical company, and Tim Allen mercifully doesn't set the cops on her because he doesn't want to make the protestors martyrs.

Carly decides to sneak into the company and runs into Khyi Yang Po, and helps break him out of the lab.

Tim Allen also hates dogs, and he tries to kick Khyi Yang Po (who Carly has named Shaggy) out of the house.

Khyi Yang Po tries to communicate with Tim Allen, and then bites him, and infects Tim Allen with the Shaggy Virus.

Tim Allen begins to exhibit dog-like behavior, which is mainly a lot of sniffing things, slurping directly out of bowls, and licking his wifes face. It's like the worst ASMR video I can imagine.

It takes way longer for him to turn into a dog than the other Shaggy dog films, because when you've got the Toolman, you gotta let him run with it baby.

But when he turns into a dog it's triggered situationally.

By which I mean, if he sees a cat, if someone throws a ball, if he wants to drag his asshole on the ground.

It's completely vibes based when he turns into a dog.

The way he turns back into a person is going to sleep.

Also, he turns into a dog that looks exactly like Khyi Yang Po, but is not Khyi Yang Po.

So just like that, eight decades of carefully-crafted Shaggy dog lore are completely out the window.

The intricate magical swapping of dog and man is lost, the delicate balance of morality and selflessness required to break the curse are forgotten, even the magical Italians are gone, all so that Tim Allen can pant and groan and growl for 90 minutes.

Anyway, Tim Allen gets taken off the case because he's acting like a dog in court.

But the social studies teacher mentions that he saw a monkey acting like a dog at the lab.

So Tim Allen decides to go to the pharmaceutical company to figure out what's going on.

He sneaks in as a dog and transforms back to human and sees Dr. Kozak injecting the president of the company with a drug that will "paralyze him for several months" so that Kozak can take control of the company.

At that point, just kill him dude.

Dr. Kozak sees him transforming on the security cameras and realizes he could ruin everything.

Anyway, Tim Allen winds up getting kidnapped and Kozak takes my advice because he's planning on euthanizing Tim Allen.

But Tim Allen can talk to other animals, and while he's waiting to be put down all the other animals tell him to meditate to transform back into a human.

He does, and then he rushes back to the courthouse to prove that the pharmaceutical company is bad.

He gets to the courtroom, and he's got Kozak on the stand, but Kozak is denying it, until... Tim Allen throws a baton which causes Kozak to turn into a dog.

This proves that evil dog science exists and Tim Allen wins, but uh-oh, there's still a little dog in him, if you know what I mean.

Okay, now, I can finally get to the SCP in question, SCP-4964.

SCP-4964 is containment class Euclid, meaning that containment is complex.

I don't see how, because the anomaly in question is a bootleg copy of the Tim Allen Shaggy Dog.

The anomaly is kept in a standard case, and is watched daily by a researcher.

Making someone watch this every day must be what makes the containment complex.

But the SCP is in place because this DVD does something strange.

Every so often, the ending of the film will change.

The Foundation has contacted people involved in the production and confirmed that none of these alternate endings were ever filmed or conceived.

All of the alternate endings start at the point where Tim Allen is about to be euthanized.

In the first alternate ending, which played on the anomaly from May 3rd, 2006 to August 31, 2008 is relatively simple:

Instead of leaving David alone, Kozak immediately injects him with a syringe and David collapses. The movie zooms in on David's lifeless body for 10 minutes, then cuts to black and ends.

From September 1st, to September 14th the ending was this:

Kozak leaves David alone as in the original film, but shortly thereafter a man in a white lab coat and a black hood enters the frame. Remarking that David and the mutated animals are anomalies, he directs several other figures to contain them and transport them to "a secure location". Each of these other figures is wearing a lab coat and no hood; unlike the hooded figure, all of their lab coats bear the Foundation's logo. Facial analysis reveals that each is a known Foundation researcher.

None of the Foundation researchers identified in the clip had any knowledge of the clip or how they could have been there. But there wasn't a whole lot of time to figure it out because from September 15th to December 22nd the ending was:

David makes his way to the courtroom as in the original film, but midway through his speech the ground under him suddenly opens up, swallowing the courtroom whole. One of the jurors has additionally been replaced by a hooded figure in a white lab coat.

According to SCP this ending coincided with an earthquake on September 18th which destroyed the small San Bernardino Courthouse where the Shaggy Dog was filmed.

Film historians wept.

From December 23rd to January 9th, 2009 the ending was new again.

The film proceeds up to the point where David is supposed to throw the bailiff's baton, at which point David says "Wait. This is... this isn't..." and then the scene cuts to the mystical Tibetan collie waking up from a nap. It yawns and then, in Tim Allen's voice, says "What a weird dream", before getting up and trotting towards a hooded figure in a lab coat standing in stone archway. The camera zooms onto the archway to show a Serpent's Hand insignia carved on its side, then zooms far out to show a large mountain range; based on this shot, it was determined that the scene takes place on the peak of Kanchenjunga, a mountain in the Himalayas. As the camera stays on this shot, one of the mountains cracks in two.

This ending led the Foundation to discover a previously unknown Serpent's Hand base in the Himalayas. For clarity, the Serpent's Hand is a group that aims to release knowledge and use anomalies for their own purposes and are a rival group to the SCP Foundation. Sort of a Team Rocket deal.

But let's keep it rockin': from January 10th, to February 21st the ending changed again:

After Kozak leaves David in the lab, a hooded figure in a lab coat enters by himself. The figure sedates David, then moves him into a travel cage he has brought. It is then tracked in real-time as it drives David to a beachfront shore, takes him onto a waiting boat, and then steers the boat out to sea. After 27 hours of uninterrupted footage - during which time the figure does not eat or sleep - he stops the boat and begins to lower David into the water, at which point a large tidal wave swamps the boat and the movie ends.

This led the Foundation to calculate where the boat reached and send reconnaissance missions to the site, but seismic activity forced the expedition to end.

And then from February 22nd to March 31st, 2010, the ending changed again:

In the courtroom scene, the bailiff has been replaced by the hooded figure in the lab coat. When David attempts to take his baton, the figure easily wrests it back, then pulls off his hood and turns directly towards the camera; his uncovered face matches that of Dr. Anton Forrester, a known high-level Serpent's Hand operative. In Tim Allen's voice, Forrester says, "Stop this. Your incompetent meddling is making this all worse for everyone. We're doing the right thing, here, and if you can't see that... well, you'll see soon enough. They deserve to be free. All of them. And we'll crack the Earth to get them out, if we have to." The movie then ends.

This ending inspired the capture and interrogation of Dr. Forrester, who denied having any knowledge of the seismic activity or the film.

But shortly after the interrogation, the most recent ending, which first played April 1st, 2010, and has played 4,581 days since then was aired.

In the courtroom scene, as David throws the bailiff's baton in order to induce Kozak's transformation, the judge instead transforms into a member of *Anser anser* (the greylag or "wild" goose). All characters immediately abandon what they were doing in favor of a frantic and futile attempt to chase down and capture this goose; this lasts for 36 minutes and is all a single continuous shot, which slowly fades to black at the end. Then the following text appears: "Sometimes a shaggy dog is just a convenient scapegoat. Are we cool yet?"

This is the end of the case file of SCP-4964, which turns a film where Tim Allen is naked 40 times into the basis for a deeper Lore for the SCP foundation and the world it inhabits.

So why the 2006 Shaggy Dog?

Is it a coincidence that the Shaggy Dog, drawn from a book with multiple endings, was the choice for an SCP where the ending changes with dire consequences?

Well, to quote Tim Allen in Shaggy Dog, "Just because something looks ridiculous doesn't mean it's not true. Just takes more courage to believe in it."

I think there's still room for more endings, so I propose one where Tim Allen gets stabbed by a man from the Italian Renaissance. But we can leave it tastefully vague as to whether or not he dies.

References

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Tim Allen asked his wife if she's in heat. Idk what to do with that but it's nasty.