



CROSSED WIRES . . . Veterinary surgeon Morris Kirk outside Cardiff Magistrates' Court yesterday with the length of embriotomy wire that got him into trouble with the police
Picture by ROB STRATTON

By **MATTHEW CHAPMAN**

SHOULD never happen to a vet, especially not one treating animals by royal appointment. A veterinary surgeon who treats animals on farms belonging to the Prince of Wales has to sue South Wales Police after spending three days in Cardiff Prison.

Maurice Kirk was arrested by Cardiff police on suspicion of possessing an offensive weapon after they found a garrotte in his motorcycle. All the charges have been dropped but Mr Kirk, 48, claims the incident is part of a campaign of harassment against him by South Wales Police.

Tools of trade land vet in jail

Yesterday he was at Cardiff Magistrates' Court to clear his name but the case was dropped.

Mr Kirk, who said hell-raiser Oliver Reed was one of his best friends, is furious at the police.

His troubles began as he returned to his Cardiff practice one night in May from making a complaint of harassment to a local police station.

"I was walking through the park then the police jumped on

me. I decided to keep my right to silence and I didn't say anything."

Police searched his motorcycle at his Ely surgery and found a garrotte. He was then charged with possessing an offensive weapon.

Mr Kirk said the garrotte was a length of embriotomy wire which was used to dehorn 16 Welsh Black Cattle on a Duchy of Cornwall-owned farm at

Boverton, South Glamorgan.

"They kept me in Cardiff prison for three days because the police told the magistrates they didn't know who I was.

"That's absolute rubbish. A policeman came from Barry police station and identified me."

A spokesman for the Crown Prosecution Service said yesterday the charges of assaulting a police officer and possessing an offensive weapon were dropped because of lack of evidence.

A police spokeswoman said no comment could be made on Mr Kirk's case until his complaints were officially recorded.