



National Council of SPCAs

Leaders in Animal Welfare in Africa



ANNUAL REPORT

October 2017 to September 2018

Promoting the welfare of all animals and preventing cruelty since 1955.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(Chairman) Thea Smit
(Vice Chairman) Dr Jane Marston
(Executive Director) Marcelle Meredith
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Heather Church
Bryan Hirsch
Collette Mang
(Resigned Feb 2018) Dr M Mathonsi
Mary Nicolaou
Barbara Patrick
Annette Rademeyer
David Taylor
Hannes van den Berg
Tarryn Wright

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2017/2018

H Church, A Rademeyer, H van den Berg, Dr M Mathonsi,
T Smit C Mang, M Meredith, Dr J Marston

Not in photograph:

Dr A Banderker, B Hirsch, M Nicolaou, B Patrick,
D Taylor, T Wright

MANAGEMENT TEAM

The Management Team is made up of personnel with specialist skills and experience who manage their respective Units.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Marcelle Meredith

DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Esté Kotzé

ANIMAL ETHICS

Erika Vercuiel

FARM ANIMAL PROTECTION

Grace de Lange

SOCIETY LIAISON

Douglas Wolhuter

SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS

Wendy Willson

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Arno de Klerk

TRAINING AND DONKEY UPLIFTMENT

Morgane James

VETERINARIAN

Dr Bryce Marock

WILDLIFE PROTECTION

Martie Rossouw

WILDLIFE TRADE AND TRAFFICKING

Karen Trendler

Administrative and communications staff collectively handle bookkeeping, public relations, website, social media and fundraising functions.



**National Council
of SPCAs**

We are a certified
B-BBEE contributor:
Level 2.
B-BBEE procurement
recognition: 125%.

All donations are tax
deductible.

Copies of the Audited
Financial Statements
are available on
request from our
offices.

For enquiries
regarding bequests or
partnering with us on
various life changing
projects, please
contact the Public
Relations Officer
on 011 907 3590
or write to
comms@nspca.co.za

REGISTRATION NO.

003-189 NPO

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Email: nspca@nspca.co.za
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BANKING DETAILS

CURRENT ACCOUNT

Account Name	National Council of SPCAs
Account Type	Current
Account No.	201 032 015
Bank	Standard Bank
Branch Name	Alberton
Branch Code	006 405 00

INTERNET SPECIFIC ACCOUNT

Account Name	SPCA National Council of SA
Account Type	Current
Account No.	220 639 744
Bank	Standard Bank
Branch Name	Alberton
Branch Code	102 342 00



Chairman's

REPORT

HEROES WHO ARE DEDICATED TO ANIMAL WELFARE

Growing up in various Provinces of South Africa, my dream as a little girl was to one day become a Veterinarian. That did not work out for me. Yet many years later, in 2010, I found myself in what I can easily call "sacred space".

I joined forces with the National Council of SPCAs (NSPCA). Elected as a member on the Board of Directors and representative of the Free State Societies, I found myself amongst amazing animal warriors and colleagues.

We live in a beautiful world with animals enhancing our own existence. Yet, sadly, there are some people who do not recognise the sentience and importance of our animal kingdom.

Various racing practices, the Donkey Skin Trade, the Lion Bone Trade, wild animals traded and kept in captivity and dog fighting join a list of animals exploited to soothe egos or financially benefit participants.

More animals still, are those raised to produce food and animal products. Animals are also used for scientific purposes to enhance the lives of people. Those animals caught in fires and other forces of nature, or those injured in traffic accidents, also need attention. Someone needs to step in and attend to the needs of the suffering. The "someone" in all of these scenarios is an NSPCA Hero.

Preventing cruelty and ensuring high standards of animal care is the combined vision of all who work for the NSPCA. In situations where animals are abused, neglected or abandoned, you will find a Hero who is prepared to stand up and be counted. Every single NSPCA employee, be it the Chief Executive Officer, Unit Manager or an Inspector, is the Hero who steps in on behalf of animals.

The Inspectors of the NSPCA are the everyday heroes. These are the people on the ground who deal with a variety of animal issues. They sacrifice what more than most in this world would dare to. They often miss important family occasions, have cold meals alone somewhere in a room while out on the road travelling, but they rise to face the new day. They often face aggression in the line of duty. A driven sense of compassion and adrenaline pumps through their veins

and takes them to sights that mostly break their spirit, for a moment, because they too are only human.

Ongoing days spent in court to ensure that perpetrators of cruelty are brought to justice often result in disappointment with yet another postponement. But they don't give up. They follow through and meet the challenges.

More often judged, rather than appreciated, is our Society Liaison Unit. These are the people who hold the Societies together countrywide – more than 80 Societies! This Unit has a job with very little, to no glamour, yet they do amazing work under very difficult circumstances with little resources.

Our Training Unit is responsible for making sure that we have only the best warriors in uniform. The accomplishments of this Unit have lasting benefits to animals.

Our Communications team does a sterling job in furthering the aims and objectives of the NSPCA and plays a vital role in the organisation's functioning. What a privilege it is to work with and for such an amazing Organisation!

While I speak from a base of knowledge and am able to sing the praises of the NSPCA's unsung heroes, I invite you to read through the various sections of this Report to see for yourself how much has been accomplished for animals during the past year. I encourage every person to support NSPCA. It is the right thing to do!

To my colleagues on the Board of Directors – I look forward to another year in which, together, we will make a difference in an often broken world.

To the Chief Executive Officer, Marcelle Meredith, the intellect and power behind the organisation – it is an honour to work with you and your team.

Let us never be afraid to do what is right, especially when the wellbeing of an animal is at stake. The wounds inflicted on our souls when we look the other way, are far greater than the criticism and punishment of society.

**THEA SMIT
CHAIRMAN**



Introduction

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Respect for the quality of life of the individual animal is the most important principle of ethics.

Morally it is the responsibility of Man to protect all animals. It is not the sole responsibility of the National Council of SPCAs to take up the task and address the challenges to ensure the protection of all animals.

The economy of our country is in dire straits. As this worsens, animals suffer more than usual. Animal related industries cut corners. Veterinary and related costs soar. The escalating price of fuel, which is a vital factor influencing our effective functioning, affects us badly. This year we travelled in excess of a million kilometres across the country. Maintaining a fleet of vehicles also comes at a price.

In a nutshell we have more work to undertake with less funding. Often the funding we do receive, and for which we are grateful, comes with stipulations – “The money must be spent directly on the animals”. How is this possible when the very nature of our business (yes, it is a business) is reliant on the expertise and compassion of people – our Inspectors, veterinary personnel and administration staff. The National Council of SPCAs cannot function without people if we are to reach animals and assist them.

There is no doubt that the public has far less disposable income and fewer people can afford to be charitable. Corporates and large retailers are clear with regards to their policy on funding. They fund people driven projects and **NOT** animals. Ironically, in some circumstances, the use of animals or the sale of animal products form part of their core business.

The National Council of SPCAs is the only organisation in the country (and Africa) that addresses the welfare of **all** species of animals. **We receive NO Government funding.** However, in many cases the Government depends on us. The horses held by the SA National Defence Force which required our intervention, are an example. There are many animal diseases which are

ravaging our country and when it comes to the culling of these animals – we take on the grim task, preferring humane euthanasia rather than killing. Even in death animals matter to us.

We are slowly making inroads against dog fighting but fear that we will not have the resources to continue. The training on Animal Welfare provided to the South African Police Services, Prosecutors, Universities and local government hangs in the balance. So does the horrific slaughter of donkeys for their skins, the plight of our captive wildlife which includes the breeding of lions for their bones. Animals used in racing and entertainment and animals in farming (traditional, wild animals, aquaculture, rabbits and even snails), too face diminished assistance when resources are not available. The National Council of SPCAs has already attempted to cut work by 20% but sometimes this is just not possible. When calls for help come in and there is no one else to assist those animals, we have to act.

An urgent appeal for financial assistance is made to help us to “be there” for animals. I invite you to align your kind consideration of animals with the committed efforts of the National Council of SPCAs as outlined in this report. For the sake of animals, please add your voice to ensure their protection.

MARCELLE MEREDITH
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The NSPCA team

VISION AND MISSION

Our Mission

is to prevent cruelty and promote the welfare of all animals.

Our Vision

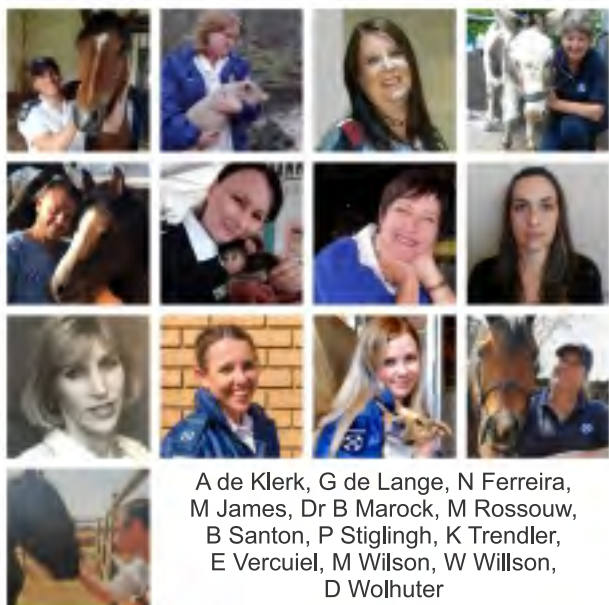
is to end animal cruelty in South Africa and engender compassion for all animals.



Marcelle Meredith
Chief Executive Officer

Esté Kotzé
Deputy Chief
Executive Officer

SENIOR PERSONNEL



A de Klerk, G de Lange, N Ferreira,
M James, Dr B Marock, M Rossouw,
B Santon, P Stiglingh, K Trendler,
E Vercuiel, M Wilson, W Willson,
D Wolhuter

GOING THE EXTRA MILE FOR ANIMALS

INSPECTORATE STAFF



N Appalsamy, A Baartman, A Engelbrecht, N Hansa
W Hector, Z Mabena, P MacCallum, M Madonsela
M Mokoena, J Muller, A Ngcofe, I Schröder
M Semanya, L Sentele, N Singh, V Strachan
C Theart, J van der Merwe, V van der Merwe, N Venter

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF



W Erkens, L Lungwane, S Mbelwa,
M Mofokeng, A Morgan, G Moswele,
B Runeli, A Smal, M Wybrow

Law Enforcement

SEEKING JUSTICE FOR ANIMALS



D Maangwale (Investigator AfriForum), Adv. G Nel, K Kriel (CEO AfriForum)
M Meredith (NSPCA Executive Director), G de Lange (Manager, Farm Animal Protection Unit)

The National Council of SPCAs works proactively to help uplift the welfare of animals in this country and ensures that the protection animals have under South African law is upheld and respected.

PROSECUTION OF THANDI MODISE ON CHARGES OF ANIMAL CRUELTY TO GO AHEAD



On 19 July 2018 AfriForum and the National Council of SPCAs announced during a media conference that Advocate Gerrie Nel, Head of the civil rights organisation's Private Prosecution Unit, will privately prosecute Thandi Modise, Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces.

The National Council of SPCAs responded to a complaint received in July 2014 and came across one of the cruellest cases of animal abuse that the animal welfare organisation had ever seen. Modise's farm was littered with carcasses of over 50 pigs and other dead animals such as geese, ducks, sheep and goats. The surviving animals, including pigs, sheep, chickens and goats, were left without food and water and were in a state of desperation when they were discovered. The National Council of SPCAs had to euthanase 162 animals due to their deprived conditions.

The National Council of SPCAs has in terms of the Societies for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1993 (Act No. 169 of 1993) the statutory powers to privately prosecute offenders.

"AfriForum's Private Prosecution Unit investigated the matter and concluded that there is prima facie evidence to successfully prosecute Modise. It is essential to institute private prosecution to ensure that justice prevails," stated Advocate Nel.

"The National Council of SPCAs can prosecute in their own right should the Director of Public Prosecutions refuse to prosecute. The National Council of SPCAs has advised the National Prosecuting Authority that Advocate Gerrie Nel will act as the prosecutor on the private prosecution case on the charges of animal abuse against Modise. The animal abuse

Law Enforcement

on Modise's farm was some of the worst abuse that we ever had to deal with. The animals were left to their own mercy and many died of hunger," said Marcelle Meredith, Executive Director.

The National Council of SPCAs is grateful to AfriForum for providing the services of their legal team. Gerrie Nel will preside over our first private prosecution.

Advocate Gerrie Nel of AfriForum approached the National Council of SPCAs and offered his assistance and expertise in seeking justice for the animals that endured immeasurable suffering on a farm in the North West Province.

A legal team offered to us by AfriForum, especially of this calibre, is not only incredibly costly but also invaluable to the investigation; tracing of witnesses, verifying statements etc, particularly after the case has been in the hands of the State for two years. This is a cost which cannot be borne by the National Council of SPCAs. We are simply under resourced and the National Council of SPCAs is grateful for this generous support.

Our mission is the prevention of cruelty to animals and the situation in South Africa currently appears to be dire. Cruelty to animals seems to have escalated and the workload has increased beyond our resources. We need all our resources to concentrate on animal welfare and be able to undertake the work that our country so desperately needs. Without this specific support, we could not have pursued this private prosecution on our own.

EDUCATION BEFORE CRIMINAL PROSECUTION

In pursuit of the prevention of cruelty, the National Council of SPCAs operates on the principle of education before prosecution, unless the situation is such that immediate prosecution is warranted or a person rejects education.

Warnings and Notices

Inspectors of the National Council of SPCAs work proactively to improve the welfare of animals in the areas in which they operate.

Suggestions for improvements to living conditions and diets are provided, and warnings are issued when more serious issues are encountered, such as the need for improving hygiene or providing veterinary treatment.

During the period under review 420 warnings and notices were issued for improvements to living conditions and standards of care.

Prosecution Cases

In cases where blatant cruelty or deliberate neglect was

encountered, our Inspectors did not hesitate in laying criminal charges against the perpetrators of such acts. Justice for animals was achieved with 29 successful prosecutions during the past year. A further 76 cases are awaiting finalisation through the judicial system.

These cases related to domestic animals, farm animals, equine and wildlife.

RECOGNITION OF AN EXCEPTIONAL INDIVIDUAL

We are proud to confirm that Senior Inspector Morgane James was awarded the Leadership Award at the ITC 10th Annual Leadership for Women in Law Enforcement Awards held on 23 May 2018. Morgane James has carried various responsibilities within in the SPCA movement for over three decades.

Currently holding the position of Manager, Training Unit at the National Council of SPCAs, Morgane has a wealth of experience in the handling and care of all animal species, which knowledge she willingly shares with delegates who attend animal welfare training courses. Her contribution to upholding laws which protect animals is invaluable and the recognition is well deserved.



Previous National Council of SPCAs Winners at these awards:

Wendy Willson (Special Investigations) – 2017

Dr J Marston (Pro Bono Legal Rep/Board Member) – 2016

Grace de Lange (Farm Animal Protection) – 2015

Animal Cruelty Exposed

SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL DEFENCE FORCE HORSES

The National Council of SPCAs recognises the importance of working animals and the value of their service.

We do not stand opposed to working animals subject to welfare standards being met, which standards include appropriate housing, rest periods, equipment, nutrition, training and health.

The National Council of SPCAs has attempted to work with the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) for the past two years. This has not been successful. We express grave concerns regarding the apparent lack of interest by the SANDF in the welfare of animals that are in its service and care.

The serious animal welfare concerns, which have resulted in the National Council of SPCAs bringing two cases of cruelty against the SANDF and SAASIC members in the space of a few months, attests to this.



NEGLECT OF ARMY HORSES – OUR INTERVENTION

Starving Horses

In April 2018 National Inspectors from the National Council of SPCAs were horrified to discover that horses in the care of the South African Army Special Infantry Capability (SAASIC) unit of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) were starving. 25 horses on the army base were in such an emaciated condition or compromised state of health that to prevent their further suffering they had to be destroyed.

The failure of the SANDF to secure suitably qualified personnel or adequate facilities, combined with a non-empathetic infrastructure that has repeatedly failed the animals in their care, resulted in a complete breakdown in the welfare conditions afforded to the horses.

The main herd had no food. The horses had no other option but to eat soil and their own faeces. Food was only provided to the horses after the National Council of SPCAs forced the SAASIC unit into taking emergency action to secure adequate feed.

Further investigations revealed that prior to this inspection the Military Veterinary Institute (MVI) had already had to step in and euthanase starving horses and treat others as a result of ongoing neglect.

The National Council of SPCAs laid criminal charges in terms of the Animals Protection Act No. 71 of 1962 against the persons responsible for the suffering of these horses.



Additional Horses

A further 169 horses were kept on this Potchefstroom property in the North West Province which was overstocked, had inadequate shelter and constituted a hazardous environment for these animals.

Of further concern was the fact that the SANDF later publicly stated that 60 of these horses would be taken to Boekenhoutskloof, a Signals Base Camp. The area in which the camp is situated is noted for ticks and tick borne diseases in horses, particularly in summer months. This, in conjunction with the lack of equine facilities at the camp, raised questions regarding the ability of the SANDF to implement effective parasite control measures for these wild horses. Furthermore, there are no veterinarians or veterinary facilities belonging to the SANDF in the area.

We questioned the lack of consultation by the SANDF with the National Council of SPCAs since the findings of our

Animal Cruelty Exposed

inspections, as well as the decision taken to move 60 wild horses to an unsuitable area, where challenges existed in providing these animals with the care and attention they deserve.

After three months and with ongoing communication with the SANDF, the National Council of SPCAs was finally granted ownership of 69 horses.



On 23 and 24 July 2018, the National Council of SPCAs, with the assistance of New Turf Carriers, loaded and relocated the horses from Potchefstroom to a large farm in Gauteng where all their needs were adequately provided for. The loading and transportation of the horses went seamlessly and the horses were offloaded into a beautiful and spacious area – vastly different to the barren environment from which they had come. The horses are able to roam freely, have natural grazing and stables. Shaded with trees and water sources which facilitate cooling off, the property offers the horses an enriched environment.

Abused horses confiscated

When leaving the premises after loading the abovementioned horses, our Inspectors witnessed the brutal physical abuse of seven horses being ridden by the South African Army Special Infantry Capability Unit (SAASIC) members. The horses were beaten and kicked excessively. Our Inspectors immediately intervened and stopped all equine activities at the Potchefstroom base.

On 25 July 2018 the National Council of SPCAs obtained a warrant and removed the seven horses. These horses underwent veterinary assessments and two of the horses had to be euthanased. It was especially concerning that members of SAASIC Unit were aware of the National

Council of SPCAs presence on the base and yet the abuse took place. The question is raised as to whether this a daily occurrence and the general manner in which horses are treated.

Criminal charges in terms of the Animals Protection Act No. 71 of 1962 were laid against the SANDF and the persons responsible for cruelty to these horses.

The National Council of SPCAs took a total of 76 horses from the army into its care and custody. Many of the horses were wild and unused to human touch, and not all of the horses were in good condition. Aside from feeding, the care they required, which included veterinary and behavioural treatment as well as farrier care, was costly and placed a huge strain on our already limited resources. An appeal was made for assistance. The response was generous.

We express our sincere gratitude to Meadow Feeds, a subsidiary of Astral, for the provision of feed, lick blocks and expertise from their experienced nutritionist to ensure that the condition of the horses would improve and that their nutritional needs were met.



We are most grateful for the professional assistance provided by the following:

- Dr Kyle Lowery from North Rand Animal Clinic
- Dr Elize Van Vollenhoven and Dr Mickaël Robert from the Faculty of Veterinary Science at Onderstepoort.

We also acknowledge and extend our appreciation to the people who assisted with the care and housing of these horses and the many donors for their financial contributions.

We are pleased to report that healthy and adoptable horses were made available for adoption. Our appreciative thanks to all those people who offered these horses permanent safe havens. The National Council of SPCAs will continue to ensure that these horses are adequately provided for and that they receive the care that is not only required but also deserved.

International Liaison

INTERACTION HELPS TO IMPROVE ANIMAL WELFARE



Attending conferences and interacting with other professionals in the field of animal welfare enables the National Council of SPCAs to stay abreast of both challenges and solutions.

AFRICA ANIMAL WELFARE CONFERENCE - ACTION 2017

Late in 2017, Deputy CEO, Esté Kotzé, and Senior Inspector Morgane James attended the Africa Animal Welfare Conference in Kenya themed “The Nexus between Animal Welfare, Environment and Development: Safeguarding our Common Destiny”. The conference, being presented at the UN office in Nairobi elevated the importance of animal welfare and environmental issues and was attended by various government officials and policy makers as well as animal welfare organisations from: - Kenya, Zimbabwe, Senegal, Ethiopia, Gabon, Cameroon, Ghana, Liberia, Morocco, Malawi, Rwanda, Mauritius, Sierra Leone, Botswana, Mozambique, Uganda, Tanzania, Dubai, Czech Republic, Ivory Coast, Libya, Egypt, DRC, Zambia, USA, UK, Catalonia.

Issues relating directly and indirectly to animal welfare were discussed – pollution being a key point of concern. Pollution of seas, rivers and air is growing as industry in Africa expands and this obviously affects the welfare of animals. Other concerns included the promotion of intensive farming systems (already well established in South Africa) and the dramatically increasing threat to wildlife as poaching increases. This was a valuable opportunity to share our experiences, offer guidance and support to animal welfare organisations struggling in some very challenging countries.

AFRICA ANIMAL WELFARE CONFERENCE - ACTION 2018



In September 2018 Veterinary Consultant, Dr Bryce Marock, attended the Africa Animal Welfare Conference 2018 in Kenya. The annual conference, co-hosted by Africa Network for Animal Welfare in collaboration with UN Environment, is aimed at professionals and practitioners who come together to discuss issues that cut across animal welfare, wildlife and environmental conservation. The theme for the 2018 conference was “People, Animals and Planet: One Health, One Welfare”.

The broad focus of the conference encompassed all animals but it was pleasing to note that law was the overall theme; wildlife trafficking, animal cruelty legislation and the development of strategies to prevent or control unsustainable “factory farming”. Two parallel sessions were run at the conference. One focused on animal

International Liaison

welfare principles and the other on applied legal experiences in Africa and abroad.

Presenters included National Directors of Public Prosecutions, High Court Judges and law professors from the Centre for Animal Law Studies at the Lewis and Clark Law School in the United States of America. The latter has asked to be in further contact with the National Council of SPCAs. They were very impressed with the National Council of SPCAs victory in the Constitutional Court of South Africa 2016.

CITES CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES

South Africa is signatory to CITES, the international organisation that regulates trade in listed species. International CITES resolutions impact on the welfare and utilisation of wildlife on a local level. The National Council of SPCAs is participating in the CITES processes both at a local level and at an international level, engaging with the Department of Environmental Affairs CITES stakeholder processes, with CITES International Secretariat and observer groups.

INTERNATIONAL COALITION FOR ANIMAL WELFARE (ICFAW)

ICFAW was formed in 2001 to represent non-governmental animal welfare organisations from all over the world at the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). The National Council of SPCAs is one of its earliest members. There are currently 17 organisations represented, working in more than 150 countries and representing millions of supporters. Together with these other member organisations, the National Council of SPCAs is able to contribute to the decision making process in drawing up guidelines by having experts on the working groups, and offering comments, advice and information.

During the period under review the National Council of SPCAs has submitted comment and suggestions for improved animal welfare in various farming practices. Among them, the now published "Animal welfare and pig production systems". The current standards under development include "Animal welfare and layer chicken production systems", "Killing of reptiles for their skin, meat and other products", as well as a revision of other chapters. ICFAW also contributed to the chapter on the revision of "Rabies infection".

In 2018 ICFAW signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the OIE (similar to those signed with the World Health Organisation, United Nations, among others). To quote Matthew Stone, the Deputy Director General of the OIE:

"I would like to recognize the important role of the ICFAW coalition and each of its members and the contribution they make to the implementation of the OIE Global Strategy on Animal Welfare. This has been recognized by the cooperation agreement adopted by the Delegates at the OIE 86th General Session."

ONDERSTEPSPOORT OIE CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR THE SADC REGION

The National Council of SPCAs took part in a month long training workshop for a twinning programme between the OIE accredited Teramo Institute in Italy and the Faculty of Veterinary Science at Onderstepoort as well as the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. Assistance was given to the workshop by the National Council of SPCAs and further assistance has been offered should this project succeed in order to capacitate stakeholders in the SADC region on all matters related to animal welfare. Presenters were sent by the OIE as it is a project to improve welfare in countries throughout the world, particularly those with little or no animal welfare legislation. ICFAW literature was also used by the international presenters.

AFRICA AND HER ANIMALS



Africa and Her Animals challenges the common view that animals are essentially inferior to human beings: it is both the start of a long overdue conversation and a call to action. Non-human animals, essential to the everyday lives and well-being of Africans, impact on and are affected by African societies in diverse ways.

The National Council of SPCAs is proud to have shared in bringing the book to life with the following chapter submissions –

- **Changing times: Animal Experimentation in Africa**
Submitted by Esté Kotzé (Deputy Chief Executive Officer)
- **The welfare of domestic dogs and cats in disadvantaged communities in Southern Africa**
Submitted by Morgane James (Manager, Training and Donkey Upliftment)
- **Animal cruelty and law enforcement challenges in Southern Africa**
Submitted by Wendy Willson (Manager, Special Investigations)

The book is available from UNISA Press.

Community Outreach

HELPING COMMUNITIES AND THEIR ANIMALS



Through outreach programmes the National Council of SPCAs is able to promote animal welfare and prevent suffering by sterilising as many animals as possible, provide primary health care to domestic and farm animals and encourage satisfactory standards of care.

UPINGTON COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Assisting the Upington SPCA in April 2018, the National Council of SPCAs conducted a community outreach in the low income area of Paballelo, Upington, Northern Cape. A very large number of homes in this area have dogs and/or cats but people have little access (due largely to finances) to medical care for their animals.



The outreach team was inundated with requests for assistance with sick and unwanted domestic animals. Welfare issues included underweight animals, diseased animals, chaining of dogs and uncontrolled breeding of animals. Animals breeding frequently puts strain on the resources available and many families indicated that they could not afford to keep feeding all the puppies, and that there were not enough homes for all the animals. Dogs have an important role to play in this community as they protect their families and property and owners were

grateful for the assistance and especially for the chance to have their animals sterilised.

Sterilising and vaccinating animals is not enough to ensure the good welfare of the animals. Our projects



Community Outreach

always stress the importance of living conditions and owners are shown and assisted to make proper running chains (only where dogs absolutely have to be confined for their own/community safety) so that dogs can move about to express normal behavior and exercise. They are also advised on suitable shelter for confined dogs to ensure comfort and legal compliance.

Welfare concerns were addressed and bookings were made for sterilisations. Some owners were close enough to walk to the clinic we had set up, but our teams spent a great deal of time on the roads, collecting and delivering animals for families. When not transporting animals, the teams were responding to ongoing calls from people needing help with sick and unwanted animals.

Dogs and cats were sterilised, vaccinated against rabies, vaccinated against dread diseases, dewormed against internal parasites and treated for external parasites.



Small scale farmers were assisted with their cattle, goats, sheep, pigs and poultry. Our team provided guidance



and information on basic animal husbandry, housing and management practices and key medication for the control and prevention of internal and external parasites and the basic treatment of injuries.

Sharing information and knowledge plays a major role in our community outreach programmes. Individual training sessions, small group and larger group education sessions were undertaken for owners and the youth. Educational material was widely distributed including:- Post operative care of pets, Animal Care Activity Books for the kids, Livestock Care and Management Leaflets and Dog Bite Prevention Leaflets.

The human and animal community of Paballelo and surrounds benefitted from this community outreach through an improvement in animal health and the reduction in health risks to humans and animals.

The community was left with a better understanding of the responsibilities in terms of keeping animals. Sterilisation effectively helped to reduce the number of animals so that available resources can be used to sustain animal welfare standards and the health of animals in the community.



Animal Ethics

PROMOTING THE ETHICAL TREATMENT OF ANIMALS



Animals used in research, teaching and training must receive humane and compassionate treatment at all times. The Animal Ethics Unit campaigns for and promotes measures that will replace animals, reduce the number of animals used for research, and refine experimental methods and procedures to ensure the most humane treatment possible for animals in research environments.

CHANGE IN ATTITUDES TOWARDS ANIMAL RESEARCH ETHICS IN SOUTH AFRICA

Major mindset shifts have occurred over the past few months with regards to ethics in animal research.

Many of these changes have to do with the registration of animal research institutions with the National Health Research Ethics Committee (NHREC) of the Department of Health. Animal ethics committees involved with health research (research on animals for the benefit of humans) are required to register with the NHREC.

Audits of the committees commenced last year and the results were published in an open access domain. Because of the competitive nature of universities, attitudes toward compliance have changed for the better. Institutions willingly follow the South African National Standards (SANS) in order to become fully compliant. This type of self-regulation by institutions is a positive move towards more ethical animal research.

The Animal Ethics Unit has played a significant role in contributing to the change in attitude being observed at institutions.

SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL STANDARD: SANS 10386 : THE CARE AND USE OF ANIMALS FOR SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES

For the past five years the Animal Ethics Unit has been involved with the revision of the above standard which is reaching finalisation. Following circulation for public comment, the standard is expected to be published mid 2019.

The National Council of SPCAs is hoping to see the National Standard published as soon as possible so that the new additions, which are intended to benefit animals used for scientific purposes, can be implemented.

ANIMAL ETHICS COMMITTEES

Staff members of the Animals Ethics Unit play an integral part in the negotiation, guidance and training of members of ethics committees. The Unit represents the National Council of SPCAs as the Category C (welfare representative) member of 47 Animal Ethics Committees.

181 Animal Ethics Meetings were attended during the period under review.

REVIEW OF RESEARCH PROTOCOLS

The Animal Ethics Unit continues to use a rigorous review process to evaluate research protocol applications to ensure that research is ethical, justifiable and reproducible.

The Unit uses national and international standards to constantly improve the review processes. Research protocol applications, standard operating procedures, terms of reference and other additional documentation are under constant review, and most of the Unit's time is spent reviewing these documents to ensure best animal welfare practices for animals that are used for scientific purposes.

1,836 animal research protocols were reviewed during the reporting period. This represented 1,081 man hours.

Animal Ethics

INSPECTIONS

Inspections form an integral part of the Animal Ethics Unit's duties and focus on the welfare of animals kept in or at facilities where animals are used for scientific purposes. A comprehensive inspection checklist is used to ensure that all aspects of animal welfare are addressed. During the period under review 105 inspections were undertaken. These include routine inspections and follow-ups, pre and post ethical approval inspections and complaints.

The Animal Ethics Unit issued nine warnings and notices and 54 letters of requirements during the review period.

The Animal Ethics Unit has seen deterioration of facilities in the past year, and this can largely be attributed to financial constraints and managerial under-performance.

During this reporting period the Animal Ethics Unit refused to approve research at two facilities where minimum welfare standards were not being met.

During the past few months the Animal Ethics Unit started requesting self-evaluations which implies that research animal facilities are required to conduct their own inspections. The Unit has assisted facilities by supplying the templates and information as needed, but many have taken their own initiative and are either conducting animal ethics committee inspections or appointing members of their committees to conduct unannounced or unscheduled inspections. This approach is proving successful in assisting our Unit in terms of ensuring that inspections are done more often and that improvements are made more frequently.

4R PRINCIPLE

The Animal Ethics Unit consistently promotes the 4R Principle to benefit animals. Replacement, reduction, refinement and responsibility are the key words.

While some institutions embrace this principle there are others which still use animals for dissection purposes – these are mostly for 3rd year students in an advanced level of education and there are currently no suitable replacements available.

The Animal Ethics Unit strives to replace all dissections with applicable alternatives but budget constraints and a small staff complement hinder progress. The project remains one of the Unit's long-term objectives.

INTERNATIONAL BEST PRACTICES IN THE CARE AND USE OF RODENTS AND RABBITS

In May 2018 two staff members of the Animal Ethics Unit attended a course presented by the South African Association for Laboratory Animal Sciences in conjunction with the Leeds University, United Kingdom.

The course, entitled "Current international best practices in the care and use of rodents and rabbits", was the first of its kind hosted at the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa. The benefit of attending the course was immediately apparent, as the knowledge gained could be implemented on a practical level during inspections.

POSITIVE OUTCOMES FOR ANIMALS

The Animal Ethics Unit is very influential on many levels and our involvement has directly contributed to improving the wellbeing of animals used for scientific purposes. We believe that under many circumstances animals would have suffered were it not for our intervention.



Training

TOWARDS SECURING A KINDER WORLD



Specialised training courses presented by the Training Unit are designed to ensure that SPCA staff around the country are highly trained, skilled and compassionate in dealing with both people and animals. Other training programmes provided by the Training Unit assist in equipping law enforcement officials and service providers with a better understanding of challenges and the ability to address animal welfare concerns in their varied work environments.

INTERNAL TRAINING

Inspectors and Senior Inspectors are at the heart of Animal Protection. Providing education and guidance on animal care and, where necessary, enforcing national legislation ensures the best possible care for all animals and that animal abusers are held accountable.

The National Council of SPCAs Training Unit strives to ensure that delegates receive specialised training on animal care, investigations, legislation, application of legislation, laying of charges and the preparation of dockets and evidence.

Refresher Training Course for National Council of SPCAs' Inspectors

27 delegates attended this training. The internal refresher course theory sections were run from 15 to 19 January 2018 with the practical sessions being held in November 2017.



National Council of SPCAs to share their knowledge, insights and opinions on various aspects of the work done by the National Council of SPCAs. This is especially valuable in light of the specialised nature of the work.

The constructive and highly participative interactions provided cross-pollination of knowledge and ideas, allowing Unit members to upskill and expand their knowledge.

Committee Training Courses

Committee Training courses provide SPCA committee members with guidance and training so that they are in a position to provide sound governance to their SPCAs across the country. A total of 68 delegates representing 35 SPCAs in all provinces received training, equipping them to function effectively within their respective communities.

Cadet Training Programme

The framework for the pilot Cadet Training Programme was finalised during the period under review and involves



Training

supervision and mentoring. The career path for Cadets is to first become Trainee Inspectors and then to qualify as Inspectors.

Cadets undertake special training (similar to an internship) with the National Council of SPCAs and are released once their contracts expire. Cadets work in all the Units of the National Council of SPCAs to ensure that they obtain sound all-round knowledge of animal welfare.

National Court Case Data Base

The Training Unit also manages the National Court Case Data Base where animal cruelty cases are stored. This data base forms part of the history of the SPCA movement and the legal achievements in terms of national animal protection legislation. It is an important resource that (once complete) will be able to be utilised for improved sentencing of offenders, compilation of cases and recording of animal cruelty trends.

Field Officer Training Course



Field Officer Training is a foundational course to provide support to SPCA staff who perform critical education and rescues largely in poorer communities. They do not enforce the law but are able to bring about significant change and improve animal welfare through education. The Field Officer course is also a bridging course for those who do not have matric to qualify for attendance on the Inspectors' Course.

Field Officer Training : 12-16 February 2018

19 delegates attended – Gauteng (8); Eastern Cape (2); KwaZulu-Natal (4); Limpopo (2); North West (1); Western Cape (2)

Refresher/Inspectors' Training Course

Providing training to personnel to protect animals and enforce the law is a vital component of the work of the National Council of SPCAs. Inspectors receive ongoing training throughout their careers and the National Council



of SPCAs ensures that courses for Inspectors and Senior Inspectors are regularly updated, reviewed and revised in order to ensure that high standards are maintained.

The course material was reviewed in 2018 and some significant changes were made to enhance the learning experience of delegates and to attempt to close gaps in their learning. Mock up cruelty scene investigations, evidence collection, docket preparation and court proceedings were undertaken. The delegates worked diligently in this exercise and indicated that they learned a great deal – both in skills, techniques and confidence.

Refresher/Inspectors' Training Course:

6-17 November 2017

14 delegates attended – 8 Refreshers - Gauteng (4); Mpumalanga (1); Eastern Cape (1); KwaZulu Natal (1); Limpopo (1), 4 Trainees – Gauteng (4); Western Cape (2).

Inspectors' Training Course : 5-16 March 2018

14 delegates attended – Gauteng (4); Western Cape (1); KwaZulu Natal (4); Limpopo (3); Free State (3).

Refresher Training Course : 28 May to 8 June 2018

11 delegates attended – Gauteng (3); Eastern Cape (1); KwaZulu Natal (3); Limpopo (1); Free State (2); Western Cape (1)

Inspectors' Training Course : 20-31 August 2018

16 delegates attended – Gauteng (5); Western Cape (4); KwaZulu Natal (3); Eastern Cape (3); North West (1).



EXTERNAL TRAINING

Department of Justice and Constitutional Development

We continue to provide animal legislation lectures for the Justice College and this year we have the pleasure of presenting to delegates in Gauteng, KwaZulu Natal and the Free State.

Training Course at North West University

Training staff presented a very successful four-day training course to Animal Health Technicians at the North West University in November 2017. The course covered animal protection legislation, domestic animals, working donkeys and farm animal welfare. Practical sessions on working donkeys and farm animals were very popular and these were valuable learning experiences.

International Veterinary Students Association

In December 2017 delegates at the International Veterinary Students Association 66th Symposium were addressed on welfare issues related to working donkeys and dog fighting.

Onderstepoort (University of Pretoria)

In February 2018 animal welfare lectures relating specifically to legislation and working donkeys were presented to 280 course delegates.

State Vet Services

In July 2018 a very successful training day was undertaken for Animal Health Technicians in KwaZulu Natal. We hope this is the first of many localised training sessions.

Twining Programme

The National Council of SPCAs was invited by the University of Pretoria, Faculty of Veterinary Science, to attend an Animal Welfare Training Programme in November 2017. This programme was undertaken in conjunction with an Italian University (who largely provided the training) and funded by the World Health Organisation (OIE). Various topics were addressed and our main purpose in the programme is to improve and upskill South Africa to ensure OIE animal welfare compliance.

Health and Welfare Sector Education and Training Authority (HWSETA)

This SETA appears to be the most suitable to house the needs of the animal welfare sector. Representatives from the Training Unit attended a stakeholder collaboration session on Skills Development Needs in August 2018 and gave a very well received presentation. The HWSETA has been reviewing much of their scope and now are in a position to engage with the National Council of SPCAs in order to explore a beneficial working relationship.

GUIDES

The compilation of a variety of guides was undertaken during the period under review. These guides are designed to assist Inspectors, Field Officers and veterinarians during inspections.

The compilation of material into these guides is a significant undertaking and the task is normally outsourced to professional specialised companies with the necessary computer programs and staff to complete these. The National Council of SPCAs is proud to have completed these guides 'in house'.

The guides, as a "Hand Held Teacher", are designed to empower the reader to understand the problems and act appropriately to assist the animals.

Veldfire Guide

The first of the guides to be compiled and printed in 2015 was revised and reprinted due to demand.

Qurbani Guide

In 2014 we compiled a training manual for Inspectors to assist them with Qurbani inspections. Due to the demand for more information the information was revised, updated and a full colour Qurbani Guide has now been published and widely distributed by the Farm Animal Protection Unit of the National Council of SPCAs.

Pit Bull Terrier Inspection Guide

Due to the increasing number of investigations relating to Pit Bulls and the massive increase in dog numbers there has been a demand for specific information on how to address the welfare concerns related to this. There is a significant lack of understanding and knowledge about these dogs and the specific welfare challenges they face. A full colour, detailed guide has been compiled and printed to be used by SPCA Inspectors and veterinarians to guide them in protecting these animals.

Guides under Development

It is hoped that the Security Animal Welfare Guide will be finalised by the end of 2019.



Border Training

A pack of handouts and posters was compiled and prepared for the Special Projects and Farm Animal Protection Units who undertake education/training at South Africa's land border posts.

Special Projects

ALL ANIMALS DESERVE KIND CONSIDERATION



The Special Projects Unit's animal welfare focus is varied and includes a diverse range of issues not covered by the other operational units of the National Council of SPCAs.

SERVICE ANIMALS

Special Projects Unit Inspectors monitor the welfare standards of dogs used in the private security industry as well as welfare standards for detector dogs utilised by SARS Custom and Excise. Inspections are also undertaken at South African Police Services bases where dogs and horses are utilised.

South African Police Services K9 and Mounted Units

The Special Projects Unit continues to monitor and inspect the South African Police Services (SAPS) K9 Dog and Mounted Units around the country. Welfare concerns observed by the Unit are addressed with the relevant persons at the Units. Extensive feedback is received from all Units where Warnings and Notices have been issued, which indicates a willingness to improve husbandry conditions and directly improve the welfare of the animals.

In August 2018 the Unit was assisted by the Executive Director of the National Council of SPCAs and the Society Liaison Unit Manager with conducting an inspection at the SAPS Mounted Unit Training Academy situated in Potchefstroom. Personnel from the National Council of SPCAs were pleased to find excellent husbandry conditions for all 370 horses in the care of the academy. The animals were in good condition and were managed by a team of professional and caring individuals. It was hard to believe that this academy was situated adjacent to the South African National Defence Force base where horses were found in horrendous conditions.

Letters of recognition were sent to Brigadiers Magane and Phele as well as to Minister Cele giving credit to the

academy for looking after the animals.

The Unit was invited to present at the SAPS Annual K9 and Mounted Units Animal Welfare Conference which was held in Pretoria on 20 September 2018. The Manager of the Special Projects Unit represented the National Council of SPCAs at the conference and his presentation covered optimum welfare standards required and the responsibility of the South African Police Services in the utilisation of working animals.

South African Revenue Services and Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Customs Detection Dogs

The Unit continues to inspect the welfare of detection dogs at the South African Revenue Services (SARS) and the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries facilities at ports of entry and exit.

A sound working relationship has been established with SARS and, through continued inspections and communication from the Special Projects Unit, SARS has undertaken to prioritise the welfare of the animals.

Private Security Industry

The Special Projects Unit continues to work with the Security Industry Regulatory Authority (PSIRA). An Inspector from PSIRA's law enforcement division has been accompanying the Unit Inspectors on Inspections at problem facilities. These joint Inspections will assist in improving the welfare of the animals used.

The draft regulations in terms of the PSIRA Act have been signed by the Minister for publication. Welfare standards for working horses, drafted by the Special Projects Unit will also be included in these regulations. The consultation programme is being finalised and the regulations will be

Special Projects

published for comments during October 2018 with consultations for the regulations taking place in November 2018. The Unit believes that these regulations will assist with standardising conditions at facilities where working animals are being utilised.

LAND BORDER INSPECTIONS

One of the objectives of the Special Projects Unit is to monitor the movement of live animal cargo at land border posts to ensure animal welfare is not compromised. To this end, we continue to build and maintain good working relations with border post authorities who in turn collaborate with us when suspect cargo is detected.



The Special Projects Unit also continues to conduct inspections of any working animals at our land borders. During inspections border officials are educated on animal husbandry and the Animals Protection Act through the distribution of animal welfare guides.

Intervention relieves suffering

During the early morning hours of 21 January 2018 one of our Inspectors received a call to respond to a shipment of aquatic animals that had been seized at the Kopfontein border post by SARS officials after they had searched a truck that was crossing the South African/Botswanan border. The driver did not have the required permits and the shipment was possibly smuggled. The driver was subsequently arrested on charges of unlawful possession and exportation of marine species.



It could not be determined where the shipment had originated from nor how long the animals had been in transit. The following marine species were found in the boxes:

- 468 crabs of which 27 were found dead
- A number of other deceased marine species
- 7 x 10 kg frozen squid
- 20 kg red snappers
- 20 kg box of prawns
- 6 x giant silver fish
- 5 kg oysters
- 5 kg of sea snails
- 5 kg of mussels
- 20 kg of shrimps

Unfortunately not every story has a happy ending. Due to the fact that these animals were suffering and could not be released back to their natural environment as the area they originated from was unknown, and because no suitable quarantine facility was located close enough to accommodate them, a decision had to be made to end their unnecessary suffering. The remaining crabs and oysters were humanely euthanased.

The unnecessary suffering that animals have to endure because of the illegal trade in live cargo remains a challenge. We extend our appreciation to South African Revenue Services' and South African Police Services' officials for their collaboration in this case.

AIRPORT INSPECTIONS

The Special Projects Unit continues to inspect airline cargo companies and handling facilities at airports. During the period under review, The Special Projects Unit undertook 156 airport cargo facilities inspections and 45 animal shipments were inspected.

A sound working relationship is being established with the majority of the airlines at all the airports to ensure that they are compliant with regards to specifications of transport crates for live animals referred to as AVI (Animal Vivante). While some owners become annoyed when they are turned away due to non-compliance of animal crates, generally positive feedback is received from the public who are grateful that their animals are being taken care of and monitored whilst in transit. The Special Projects Unit uses the International Air Transport Association regulations as the minimum requirements for live animals in air travel in conjunction with the Animals Protection Act No. 71 of 1962 to ensure the welfare of animals.

One of the major welfare concerns at airports remains the length of time live animal cargo spends in holding areas due to delays which are primarily due to documentation not being in order. Staff of the Special Projects Unit are on

Special Projects

standby 24/7 should animals require assistance when major delays are experienced.

Customs' working dogs as well as Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries runway dogs, Airport Company South Africa runway dogs, South African Police Services' working animals and Security companies utilising dogs at airports are also inspected.



PIGEON RACING



The Special Projects Unit is preparing to conduct loft inspections in preparation for the Million Dollar pigeon race which takes place on 2 February 2019. The Units Inspectors, with assistance of local SPCAs, will be ready to monitor the race and lofts.

The Unit has received numerous complaints from anonymous pigeon fanciers about pigeons being flown in inclement weather conditions. This has been addressed by the Unit with warnings and letters of concern issued to the different clubs as well as to the South African National Pigeon Organisation. Although these concerns are brought to the attention of the Unit, the fanciers are not

willing to submit these concerns in writing or to provide proof of such concerns for fear of being labelled "traitors".

The welfare of these birds will always remain an area of concern to the Unit. Liberation of pigeons in inclement weather contributes to the birds having to face an even bigger challenge apart from being in unfamiliar territory, hunted by predators, suffering from thirst and hunger and being shot by farmers while trying to find their way home.

ENDURANCE RACING

Special Projects Unit Inspectors, accompanied by the National Council of SPCAs' veterinarian and other national Inspectors, attended the Fauresmith endurance race which was held from 2 to 6 July 2018.

From the time of arrival and during the pre-race inspections the National Council of SPCAs was received professionally and had full co-operation of the Endurance Riders Association of South Africa (ERASA) organisers and riders.

Inspectors braved the winter cold and started their days at 4 a.m. to monitor the three-day race. The Inspectors were strategically stationed to monitor the race from all aspects. Direct cruelty was immediately addressed where necessary, and debriefing meetings were held after all races where concerns that had been observed during the day were discussed with race officials. These concerns were attended to and feedback was provided where necessary.

The National Council of SPCAs endeavours to establish sound working relationships with the event organisers, participants and veterinary personnel involved with the endurance racing/riding industry and continues to attend and monitor endurance events to benefit horses.

Two other endurance races were also monitored by the Special Projects Unit, viz Kroonstad and Tosca Endurance Rides. These rides had a combined distance of approximately 500 km and various welfare concerns were addressed and the horses inspected.

Donkey Upliftment

FOR THE LOVE OF DONKEYS



The Donkey Upliftment Project was initiated to uplift the lives of people and their working donkeys. Many communities rely on donkeys for assistance in transporting people and goods such as water and wood and also for agricultural purposes such as ploughing. Donkeys have vital roles to play in supporting communities and their welfare has to be safeguarded.

HANDS-ON ASSISTANCE

During the period under review 1,393 donkeys and mules were physically assisted through an active presence in communities. For each animal assisted not only are the owners educated and upskilled but each animal is individually assessed and specific action taken to improve the welfare of the individual.



Typically this intervention would include primary health care (wound treatment), parasite control (dipping or application of tick grease) and upskilling owners by training and guiding them in the making of humane harnessing and provision of humane bits.

1,233 owners and drivers have been specifically trained on different aspects of donkey care, welfare management, health and harnessing. This training is tailored to meet the specific challenges faced by individuals to ensure that they have the awareness and skills necessary to improve the lives of their animals.

Education where possible and Law Enforcement is a

simplified view of our approach. There are cases where animals are deliberately harmed and then the necessary legal action is taken to protect them and ensure their safety

VISIT TO THE DONKEY SANCTUARY, UK

Staff from the Donkey Upliftment Project were invited to visit the Donkey Sanctuary during International Donkey Week in May 2018. Staff of the National Council of SPCAs had the opportunity to meet rescued donkeys and the individuals who care for them, as well as participate in numerous activities.



Donkey Upliftment



Donkey supporters from across the country visited the sanctuary, listened to presentations and came to meet some of the donkeys. The National Council of SPCAs also presented on the work for donkeys being undertaken in South Africa.

A large part of our time at the Donkey Sanctuary was spent with the different teams and on different farms learning more about specialised donkey care.

The Donkey Sanctuary is the world authority on donkey care and have specialised teams of vets, farriers, care givers and grooms who are dedicated to providing the donkeys with the care they need. It was an incredible learning experience and a privilege to have been afforded this opportunity.

The National Council of SPCAs thanks the Donkey Sanctuary for covering the costs for our Inspectors to attend this event. We are also sincerely appreciative of the financial support, guidance and encouragement received from the Donkey Sanctuary over the years.

Without the Donkey Sanctuary this work would not have been possible

EMPOWERING ROLEPLAYERS TO BETTER ASSIST ANIMALS

Staff of the Donkey Project have spent time working with other service providers and roleplayers to empower them to assist the animals and people in their areas. The South African Police Services, in particular, is such a significant role player and we welcome opportunities to assist them in resolving animal problems.



Donkey Upliftment



Sharing some
funfilled
activities and
reaching the
youth through
**Larry, the
Kindness
Ambassador**



YOUTH PROGRAMMES

The annual Youth Day Donkey Show in the Waterberg took place in June 2018. The show is the moment for the youth in the area to demonstrate, not only how they care for their donkeys on a daily basis, but how well they handle and work with them using kindness, voice commands and patience.

It is encouraging to see how educating the youth has made such a positive impact on the welfare of the donkeys. Despite many challenges they continue to be well cared for and handled humanely.

Our final Youth Day Donkey Show was undertaken in Skrikfontein with over 70 participants. We have worked with our youth club in this area sporadically over the past five years and we continue to see good results. Many of the youth we started training have now left the area to continue schooling in the cities but their younger siblings continue to care for the family donkeys.



SCHOOL VISITS

During the period under review 20 schools were visited in the North West and Limpopo Provinces, and 16,702 learners were addressed on key animal welfare issues and animal protection.



Farm Animal Protection

FARM ANIMALS DESERVE TO BE TREATED KINDLY



Inspectors working in the Farm Animal Protection Unit share a simple common purpose – to ensure that farm animals are treated kindly. The determined action on behalf of these animals is undertaken on a daily basis, bringing physical relief to many individuals and progressive change in the farming industry to ensure the future wellbeing of farm animals. The National Council of SPCAs is opposed to farming practices which cause suffering or distress to animals.

MISLEADING LABELLING

The Crating of Pigs is not “Sow Friendly”

Farm Animal Protection Unit Inspectors continue to raise pig welfare concerns with the South African Pork Producers' Association. Individual pig farms are inspected and warnings are issued for sows being kept in crates. Thus far, farmers have been complying with the warnings to remove pigs from gestation crates.

The Unit will continue to fight against the claims made by top retailers who label their pork as “sow friendly pork” or “kinder to sows”. Pigs are still kept in crates and are unable to express normal behaviour. This confinement in metal crates, usually with bare floors, denies pigs their freedom of movement, interaction with other pigs and the opportunity to forage or root.

The National Council of SPCAs stands by the belief that sows should be out of crates and able to behave naturally in environments that are conducive to their welfare.

Kosher

The tails and hind quarters of cattle slaughtered in the Kosher manner are processed and packaged without a trade description label. This means that consumers are unknowingly buying meat originating from animals not rendered unconscious prior to death. We believe that consumers have a right to know. The matter is pending feedback from the wholesalers and retailers who buy Kosher slaughtered hindquarters from abattoirs, which will then influence whether or not we lodge a complaint with the National Consumer Commission for non-compliance in terms of the Consumer Protection Act.

Free Range

The National Council of SPCAs continues to raise free range labelling and advertising with the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in an effort to ensure that products are

correctly labelled without misleading the consumer.

We closely monitor media platforms and products in order to address any false claims made.

GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Farm Animal Protection Unit Inspectors operate nationally and undertake random, proactive inspections. All complaints received are also fully investigated. During the year under review 1,030 inspections were undertaken around South Africa to ensure that the welfare of the animals was not compromised.

Facilities inspected included intensive and small scale farming operations (covering cattle, sheep, pigs, poultry,



ostriches and emus, rabbits, alpacas, crocodiles), pounds, abattoirs, sale yards, hatcheries, petting farms, prisons, hawking sites, agricultural facilities, agricultural shows and farm animals used in entertainment

Farm Animal Protection

Appropriate action was taken to address any welfare concerns encountered during inspections. This action included recommendations for improvements as well as warnings to correct shortcomings.

The transportation and export of animals was also monitored at ports of entry/exit.

EXPORT OF LIVE ANIMALS

Export of livestock via sea continues. There have been several consignments during the year with more expected. Two warrants had to be obtained. The National Council of SPCAs remains opposed to the export of live animals by sea and is endeavouring to have practice banned or having strict regulations with welfare conditions implemented through the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

LEGAL ACTIONS

Criminal charges were laid in instances where serious contraventions of the Animals Protection Act No. 71 of 1962 were encountered. Three successful prosecutions were recorded for the period under review. The Farm Animal Protection Unit has a further 30 cases pending finalisation through the legal system. This includes the Thandi Modise case which is being addressed by way of a private prosecution. See page 4 for further details.

Some of the pending cases include –

Charges Laid Against Mohair Farmers

In August 2018 the National Council of SPCAs laid charges against four mohair farmers following an exposé by the animal rights group, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), who uncovered brutal abuse on farms in the Eastern Cape and Western Cape of South Africa. The graphic footage received was shocking. The agony and distress that these animals endured was both horrendous and unacceptable and the National Council of SPCAs is determined to pursue justice for these animals subjected to tremendous suffering.

Our Inspectors continue to inspect these farms and intervene when necessary.

Ukwanda Farm

On 12 October 2018 the National Council of SPCAs' Farm Animal Protection Unit obtained a warrant to remove all the pigs from the award winning farm, Ukwanda Farm, in Winterton, Kwa Zulu Natal, following major animal welfare concerns found during previous inspections.

During a previous inspection conducted, the conditions found on the Ukwanda Farm were so severe that 18 sows had to be humanely euthanased to end their suffering. Furthermore water samples were taken from the farm and tested, proved positive for E.coli. Warnings in terms of the

Animals Protection Act No 71 of 1962 were issued, to which the owner failed to comply, resulting in the removal of all the remaining pigs. Additional charges in terms of the Animals Protection Act will be laid against the owner and/or other responsible persons.

The farm in question is owned by South Africa's top commercial woman farmer for 2015 (Top Entrepreneur in the Commercial Sector). The National Council of SPCAs contacted the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries to advise them of the pending criminal case after she was given the award, however the award was not retracted. Additional charges in terms of the Animals Protection Act will be laid against the owner and/or other responsible persons.

Malati Dairy

Charges in terms of the Animals Protection Act 71 of 1962 were laid against the Malati Dairy in 2016 for the confinement of calves by chaining them in metal crates with no bedding. Calves often become entangled in the chain. The local State Prosecutor and the Director of Public Prosecutions responsible for the Limpopo Province have declined to prosecute. The Farm Animal Protection Unit has escalated the case to the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) for response. A successful meeting was held with the NPA and the matter is pending.

ILLEGAL DONKEY SLAUGHTER

The Farm Animal Protection Unit has spent many days during the past year in investigations and following up on leads relating to the donkey skin trade. Since there have been fewer instances of illegal slaughter, it is believed that the skin trade has gone underground. We suspect that this is due to exposure from the media, awareness campaigns and the Farm Animal Protection Unit's investigations and prosecutions. This does not necessarily mean that slaughtering has been reduced, but simply that offenders have become more vigilant and aware of the crimes they perpetrate.

The Farm Animal Protection Unit continues to remain in close contact with the South African Police Stock Theft Units to highlight the criminal element involved in the donkey skin trade which is often overlooked since it does not fall under the Criminal Procedures Act. The Unit has also developed a strong working relationship with the South African Revenue Services and Customs who deal with the export of hides. The issue of cross border crime has also been addressed with the South African Defence Force where patrols of South Africa's borders take place. Instances of attempted smuggling are being fed through to the Farm Animal Protection Unit enabling them to conduct investigations.

Farm Animal Protection Unit Inspectors have met with several traditional leaders in remote parts of the country, making them aware of the exploitation of these beautiful, sentient animals within their townships.

Farm Animal Protection

ENSURING THE WELFARE OF FARM ANIMALS

Ensuring the welfare of farm animals involves more than just conducting physical inspections around the country. Meeting and discussing relevant issues with various parties to address problems and find acceptable solutions demands hours of work. This “behind-the-scenes” work equated to 136 meetings being attended during the past year.

Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

The Farm Animal Protection Unit is in regular contact with the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. In March 2018 a meeting was held with Acting Director Veterinary Public Health to discuss concerns relating to the Red Meat Regulations, live animal export by sea and the donkey skin trade.

Livestock Welfare Co-ordinating Committee

In order to further the best interests and the humane treatment of farm animals, the National Council of SPCAs is actively involved in serving on the Livestock Welfare Co-ordinating Committee. This long-standing organisation promotes the responsible, humane and compassionate use and treatment of livestock in every phase of the production process. The National Council of SPCAs plays an important role in providing welfare input into standards of care documents, codes and training manuals ensuring that farmers are equipped with information promoting farm animal welfare.

Humane Slaughter

The National Council of SPCAs also continues to address the humane slaughter of animals with the relevant authorities, both in abattoirs and in culling operations when outbreaks of Avian Influenza, for example, occur. The National Council of SPCAs continues to oppose a method of slaughter using CO₂ at the Pork Packers Abattoir. The matter is with our legal team.

South African National Standards

To ensure that the best welfare practices are accepted as standard, it is important the National Council of SPCAs remains involved in the development and review of National Standards.

After years of material review and following due process, the Dairy Welfare Standard (SANS: 1694) has been published and is available for purchase from the South African Bureau of Standards.

The following three National Standards are in the process of being developed through the South African Bureau of Standards.

- SANS: 1758 - **Poultry Welfare Standard.**
- SABS/TC1094 – **Rabbit Welfare Standard.** SABS have informed us that the decision not to approve projects that belong to SABS/TC 1040-01 and other committees was taken by Standards Approval Committee (SAC). SAC has instructed SABS to wait until the committees are properly reconstituted. Without committee members all animal welfare standards have been placed on hold.

- SANS: 631:2009 – **Crocodiles in Captivity Standard**

The project has been recommended by SABS to their Economic Impact Department.

A submission is being sent for the Standards Approval Committee (SAC). If SAC approval is granted, a working group meeting will be set up. However, in the interim, the standard has been placed on hold until such time that committees have been reconstituted.

Regulations

Over the past few years the Farm Animal Protection Unit has submitted written comments and proposed amendments to Regulations in respect of rabbits, crocodiles and red meat being developed through the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. These are pending and the Unit is pressing for implementation of these Regulations.

SUFFERING CROCODILES IN MOZAMBIQUE

In March 2018 notification was received from the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) regarding the cruel treatment and death of animals at several crocodile farms in Mozambique. Since there is no animal protection legislation in Mozambique, the National Council of SPCAs undertook to investigate the matter. Inspectors from the National Council of SPCAs spent two days in Mozambique where crocodiles were found to be sick, injured and dying of starvation. Some 324 crocodiles were humanely slaughtered by our Inspectors to prevent further suffering. Intervention by the National Council of SPCAs resulted in the purchase of sufficient food and a procedure was set in place to address further illness and the necessity to humanely euthanase animals.

We extend our appreciation to PETA who provided the National Council of SPCAs with financial support in respect of this intervention.

TRADITIONAL HORSE RACING

The following races were monitored - Harry Gwala Summer Cup (KwaZulu Natal), Berlin Rural Race (Eastern Cape), Nkandla May Rural Race (KwaZulu Natal), Dundee July (KwaZulu Natal).

This is a growing sport, supported and funded by the racing industry and local government with over 200 horses competing in events. Numerous welfare concerns were identified and several warnings were issued to riders, organisers, municipalities and the provincial departments of Sport and Recreation.

Wildlife Protection

WILD ANIMALS CHOOSE FREEDOM



The Wildlife Protection Unit is an important player in bringing the welfare aspect into focus when national and provincial legislation relating to wildlife is reviewed or introduced. The Unit monitors conditions in zoos, sanctuaries and rehabilitation centres, elephant-back safari operations, captive predator facilities et al, through proactive inspections and complaint investigations, and takes corrective action to address animal welfare concerns. Also included under this portfolio are wildlife rescue operations and the development of standards within the wildlife industry to ensure longterm benefits for wildlife.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AVOID RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE WELFARE OF CAPTIVE WILDLIFE

In May 2018, coverage in the media highlighted a problem with communication between the Department of Environmental Affairs and the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries regarding which department is responsible for the welfare of captive lions. The National Council of SPCAs wishes to clarify that this is an issue that has been ongoing for a number of years and does not only impact lions but all captive wild animals.

The National Council of SPCAs has continually attempted to obtain clarity from both departments about which department is responsible for the humane management of captive wildlife in South Africa, to no avail. This has hindered the National Council of SPCAs in achieving its objectives as neither department is being held accountable. It is a classic case of passing the buck.

Despite high level meetings and much correspondence over the past four years, light remains to be shed. Neither department is taking responsibility for the welfare of wild animals in captivity.

The Wildlife Protection Unit conducts proactive and reactive inspections at captive wildlife facilities throughout South Africa. Common welfare concerns found at these facilities include poor hygiene protocols, dietary requirements not sufficiently met, inadequate enclosure designs, barren environments with little to no enrichment, inadequate shelter and lack of veterinary treatment for sick and injured animals.

The National Council of SPCAs will continue to undertake

these inspections and intervene when suffering is encountered.

Meanwhile the government continues to disregard the well being of animals and continually avoids the responsibility of ensuring that optimal welfare standards are upheld at captive wildlife facilities in South Africa.

NATIONAL LION TASK TEAM FORUM

The Wildlife Protection Unit serves on the Lion Task Team Forum which is made up of representatives from Provincial Nature Conservation Departments, the Department of Environmental Affairs, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, South African National Biodiversity Institute and the South African Predator Association.

The South African Predator Association's (SAPA) Norms and Standards were circulated to the members of the Forum for comment.

Written comment from the Wildlife Protection Unit to these Norms and Standards included the following:

- The welfare standards included in this document are modified and adapted to suit the purposes of the industry.
- The internationally recognised and accepted Five Freedoms listed in the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) have been modified in the SAPA document. The addition of 'undue' substantially changes the legal meaning as cited in the SAPA standards.
- This document makes contradictory statements about being guidelines as opposed to norms and standards.

Wildlife Protection

- Definitions included in the document are not in line with internationally recognised definitions.
- The document is divided into Ranching and Working but fails to address the issues of what happens to lion that can no longer be used for petting.
- The handling and management of working lion is not adequately addressed.
- The SAPA Norms and Standards appear to make the hunting of captive lion more acceptable by classifying them as "ranching" animals but do not provide genuine welfare regulation.
- Slaughter, processing and euthanasia are not adequately addressed and, with the industry moving towards lion bone as a primary product, proper regulation and standards are required.

At a National Lion Task Team Forum meeting held on 10 July 2018 the Wildlife Protection Unit raised concerns regarding the inhumane slaughter of lions, the lack of standards and regulations for captive lions, the quota for lion bone in 2018 and the outstanding list of captive lion facilities in South Africa awaited from the Department of Environmental Affairs.

The Norms and Standards for lions in captivity is still awaited from the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

WILDLIFE FORUM

The Wildlife Forum is hosted by the Department of Environmental Affairs and is comprised of representatives from the wildlife industry, provincial nature conservation authorities and the national Department of Environmental Affairs.

Despite numerous requests from the National Council of SPCAs and the submission of the credentials of the Wildlife Protection Unit to be included in discussions at this Forum, membership has repeatedly been declined. At each request for formal inclusion in the Forum, the Wildlife Protection Unit is advised of additional information which needs to be provided. In August 2018 additional information was again requested and submitted and feedback from the Forum is pending.

The Wildlife Protection Unit expresses concern at the apparent lack of interest by the Forum's membership regarding animal welfare input from the largest animal welfare organisation in South Africa. Since issues discussed at this Forum include provincial and national legislation relating to wildlife, the exclusion of the welfare component is disturbing.

WILDLIFE RESCUES

During the period under review 97 wild animals were rescued from a variety of situations. Indigenous species were taken to rehabilitation centres for rehabilitation and release back into the wild.



Honey Badgers Taste Freedom

After conducting an inspection at a facility, Wildlife Protection Unit Inspectors were informed of two young Honey Badgers that had been destined for an overseas zoo. These badgers were being kept in a small wire enclosure. Since the sale agreement had fallen through, the owner agreed to sign them over to the National Council of SPCAs for rehabilitation and release back into the wild.

The Honey Badgers were temporarily housed at the National Zoological Gardens (NZG) in Pretoria until a permit was obtained for their transportation to the Limpopo Province. The badgers were weighed and given vitamin boosters by the NZG hospital team, and with the assistance of the Johannesburg Wildlife Veterinarian Hospital they were loaded into transport crates for their journey to SANWILD, a rehabilitation centre in Limpopo.

The Honey Badgers welcomed the semi-wild natural enclosure which is to be their temporary home pending their release.

These animals are highly intelligent and we look forward to the day when the gates will be opened for their release into the freedom of the wild.

Wildlife Protection

INSPECTIONS

Inspectors from our Wildlife Protection Unit undertook 143 inspections of captive wildlife and other facilities during the period under review.

66 Warnings and Notices were issued for the period under review. Warnings were issued to some facilities on matters concerning hygiene, denial of food and water, animals needing veterinary treatments and parasitic conditions. Notices for improvements were also suggested in respect of the provision of appropriate social groupings, environmental enrichment, diets, uncontrolled breeding and human-animal interactions.

315 complaints were handled during the period under review. A number of these complaints fell outside of the Wildlife Protection Unit's mandate and related to the selling, breeding and hunting of wild animals, legally and illegally. Time and resources were spent forwarding these complaints to the relevant authorities with follow through to completion.

ILLEGAL HAWKING OF REPTILES

The Wildlife Protection Unit has established working relationships with South African Police Services constables who are responsible for investigating illegal wildlife hawking complaints in the Thlabane district of the North West Province. Links were also initiated with the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, Limpopo, Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and North West Department of Rural, Environment and Agricultural Development to ensure quick and efficient response to all complaints on the illegal sale of reptiles.

A standard operating procedure for responding to complaints relating to the hawking of reptiles has been compiled and sent to SPCAs in the areas.

Furthermore, the National Council of SPCAs has filed cases against perpetrators where sufficient evidence was available for prosecution.

Tarlton illegal selling of Chameleon

A case was heard in the Krugersdorp Court and the accused received a suspended sentence of six months imprisonment or a R6000 fine.

Tarlton illegal selling of Chameleon

A further case was heard in the Krugersdorp Court. This case was dismissed on merit. Due to the accused being a first time offender, the court found his statement to be reasonable. The accused was warned in court by the Magistrate that should he be caught again he would face imprisonment.

Sun City Road illegal selling of Chameleon and two Leopard Tortoises

In January 2018 charges were laid against an illegal wildlife trader for the sale of indigenous wild animals that had been poached from the wild. The case was first to be heard in the Bafokeng District Court but due to the serious nature of the crime the case was moved to the Bafokeng Regional Court. On 27 September 2018 in the Bafokeng Regional Court the accused pleaded guilty and received a sentence of six months imprisonment or a R6,000 fine, suspended for five years.

The Wildlife Protection Unit has a sound working relationship with the South African Police Services and the North West Department of Rural, Environment and Agricultural Development and will be collaborating on a further raid in the the area before the end of 2018.

In August 2018 the Wildlife Protection Unit conducted an information sharing session at the Bafokeng Court for all prosecutors regarding the inclusion of charges in terms of contraventions of the Animals Protection Act when charges are laid in terms of contraventions of Nature Conservation Ordinances. This will ensure more aggressive sentencing.

The Wildlife Protection Unit is running an ongoing public campaign urging tourists and the South African community alike not to buy tortoises, chameleons and other reptiles from roadside traders. People are also encouraged to report any sightings of this illegal trade to the conservation authorities.



**STOP THE ILLEGAL
REPTILE TRADE!**



When caring individuals see an animal in distress they are often compelled to try and intervene. However, the money these illegal traders receive fuels the trade. To stop the cycle it is necessary to stop the demand. Acts of kindness will then no longer result in the removal of more animals from the wild.

Wildlife Trade and Trafficking



In September 2017 the National Council of SPCAs established a new portfolio focusing on Wildlife Trade and Trafficking. The objective of this portfolio is to focus on local and international illegal trade and wildlife crimes. South Africa has one of the most commercialised wildlife industries and is recognised, along with Tanzania, as one of the largest exporters of wildlife in the world. Since 2015, there has been a significant increase in wildlife crime on a global scale.

OVERVIEW

South Africa, having one of the most industrialised and commercialised wildlife industries, is recognised as one of the largest exporters of wildlife and wildlife products globally. The aggressive promotion of sustainable utilisation of wildlife as a national environmental, government supported and promoted policy, and the inadequate lack of regulation and inclusion of animal welfare in conservation legislation contributes to major welfare concerns and cruelty. The unresolved conflict of mandate for welfare of captive wildlife between the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and the Department of Environmental Affairs, and the size of the wildlife industry, contributes directly to loopholes and increased levels of wildlife crime.

By focusing on, and strategically tackling local and international wildlife trade, trafficking and crime policy, legislation, enforcement, regulation and practices that directly impact on the welfare of wildlife and other animals in South Africa, the Wildlife Trade and Trafficking Unit aims to reduce/stop cruel and unethical practices and improve welfare. This will lead to the longer term improved enforcement and prosecution of wildlife crime.

CAPTIVE LIONS

There has been an alarming increase in the slaughter of captive lion for the trade of bone as a primary product, illegal activities and laundering of tiger bone from captive bred tiger. Cruelty charges and Animal Protection Act infringements are being processed. The increase in poaching of captive lion has increased and there have been further injuries and deaths linked to captive carnivores. This industry is completely unregulated.

Internal industry driven standards have been developed by the South African Predator Breeders Association that have been challenged by the National Council of SPCAs who is represented on the National Lion Task Team by the Wildlife Trade and Trafficking and Wildlife Protection Units.

Parliamentary Portfolio Colloquium



The Chair of the Parliamentary Committee on Environment called a two-day Colloquium in order to question members of the captive lion industry. This took place in August 2018 and was spurred by global opposition to the industry and the refusal of South Africa to put an end to the captive breeding of lion and tiger, despite global conservation and welfare appeals at the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), as well as the expulsion of some South African hunting organisations from international groups. Karen Trendler and Martie Rossouw represented the National Council of

Wildlife Trade and Trafficking

SPCAs at the Colloquium and participated in pre-colloquium strategy meetings. Karen Trendler presented along with Dr Mark Jones (Born Free Foundation) at a public feedback meeting and participated in a post colloquium workshop at which a NGO Coalition was formed.

Urgent Legal Appeal Launched for Lions



In September 2018 the National Council of SPCAs lodged an urgent interdict against the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) to suspend the DEA's authorisation of lion bone exports.

The National Council has long been actively involved in addressing the cruelty in the captive lion industry; starting with lion cubs for petting to 'canned lion' hunting to slaughter for lion bone and has several cruelty cases pending.

Efforts to prevent this cruelty have been frustrated by the lack of regulation within the industry. Not only are there regulatory loopholes, but there is also generally a lack of co-operation and communication from both national and provincial authorities.

Following decisions taken at CITES CoP17, the Minister of Environmental Affairs established an export quota of 800 skeletons for 2017. The National Council of SPCAs requested a judicial review of the quota and with the review process still grinding through the Courts, the DEA announced a 1,500 quota for 2018.

The National Council of SPCAs has launched an urgent interdict based on welfare concerns. The National Council of SPCAs also believes, for both the review and interdict purposes that:

- there is inadequate regulation of lions' conditions of captivity and slaughter;

- the study on which the decision was based is incomplete;
- the DEA failed to comply with its statutory duty to consult;
- based on expert opinion and data available, consider the decision to be scientifically irrational;
- lion bone trade may threaten the viability of lion and other big cat populations globally encouraging consumers to utilise lion bone as a replacement for tiger bone in wine, tonics and traditional medicines and may increase demand;
- captive lion 'farming' is an industry that has no conservation value and poses a risk to both wild lion, tiger and other big cat populations globally;
- The lion bone trade has links to transnational wildlife crime syndicates and other wildlife crime.

The National Council of SPCAs extends its heartfelt appreciation to the dedicated legal team (Adv Les Morison, Adv Thai Scott, Dr J Marston) and the various experts who have supported our efforts and cause.

The National Council of SPCAs is of the view that cruelty to lions is an inevitable consequence of the Department of Environmental Affairs' misguided actions and is therefore committed to fighting this decision in court to protect lions.

NETWORKING AND COLLABORATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS AND FORUMS

The Wildlife Trade and Trafficking Unit participates in relevant Forums including the regional and provincial Priority Crime Units and the National Stock Theft and Endangered Species Forum. These units and forums bring together law enforcement officials, security groups, South African Police Services, Directorate Priority Crime and conservation organisations.

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

The Wildlife Trade and Trafficking Unit works on International Trade policies and conventions and collaborates with international groups on wildlife welfare issues. The Wildlife Trade and Trafficking Unit is an active member of the Species Survival Network, Elephant Working Group, collaborates with international welfare groups such as Born Free Foundation, Environmental Investigation Agency, et al, sharing information, research and, where relevant, working jointly on submissions. In June 2018 Karen Trendler attended the China-Africa Wildlife Conference held in Johannesburg.

CITES Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species

South Africa is signatory to CITES, the international

Wildlife Trade and Trafficking

organisation that regulates trade in listed species. International CITES resolutions impact on the welfare and utilisation of wildlife on a local level. The Wildlife Trade and Trafficking Unit is participating in the CITES processes both at a local and at international levels, engaging with the Department of Environmental Affairs' CITES stakeholder processes, with CITES International Secretariat and observer groups. The Wildlife Trade and Trafficking Unit aims to participate in the CoP18 Convention in Sri Lanka in June 2019.

South Africa CITES Authority have indicated that some of the proposals that they will be submitting to CITES include trade in ivory, rhino horn, further lion bone quotas and maintenance of these species, as Appendix 2&3 to allow for trade in live animals and parts and captive breeding of large predators. The Wildlife Trade and Trafficking Unit will be working on a strategy on various levels leading up to CITES CoP18. The Unit has registered and been accepted as the National Council of SPCAs' representative on CITES in the stakeholder process with Department of Environmental Affairs.

POACHING

The Wildlife Trade and Trafficking Unit facilitates and provides support to the authorities to link wildlife crime and poaching acts to animal cruelty and possible contraventions of the Animals Protection Act. This has shown to be successful in one rhino case. The Unit is also working in close collaboration with the African Pangolin Working Group and has also joined Wildlife Priority Crime Forums.

Elephant

There has been a further increase in elephant poaching for ivory in SANParks with around 40 poached this year, this could escalate to 100 by the end of 2018. Poaching throughout Africa continues at high levels with increasing violence and risks to rangers. The global movement to ban ivory trade is growing but South Africa may push for once off ivory trade at CITES CoP18.

Rhino

There has been a spike in rhino poaching again with highest ever numbers recorded in KwaZulu Natal.

Concerns were raised about the release and deportation of Lemtongchai, a notorious syndicate member involved in pseudo-hunting, after serving only six years of a 13 year sentence (which had been reduced on appeal from 40 years). Bail for poaching offenders continues to be a concern, with repeat offences being committed whilst offenders are out on bail.



South Africa intends to propose opening international trade in rhino horn at CoP18 and continues to promote domestic trade with a concerning trend towards processing of horn in South Africa which, in turn, is facilitating laundering of horn on the international market. Purchasing of horn legally on domestic trade markets has been surprisingly poor. The National Council of SPCAs will be opposing the opening of trade in rhino horn internationally and also the associated activities including intensive farming for horn production.

BUSH MEAT TRADE AND HUNTING WITH DOGS

Bush meat trade and hunting with dogs on a highly organized, commercial and 'industrial' basis is growing. This practice is cruel for both wildlife and dogs, and is difficult to address. The Wildlife Trade and Trafficking Unit is engaging with Priority Crime and Stock Theft Units in this regard.

There has been an increase in snaring of elephant and general game in the Northern section of Kruger Park. This is believed to be for the organised bush meat trade. The Wildlife Trade and Trafficking Unit has a good working association with SANParks.

Special Investigations

CRIMES INVOLVING ANIMALS ADDRESSED



The Special Investigations Unit places its focus on both broad spectrum and specific investigations into the areas of animal fighting and the driving dynamics thereof. Working events and shows using power breeds of animals also fall under the Special Investigations Unit's portfolio.

JUSTICE FOR TSAKANE DOG FIGHTING VICTIMS

In 2013 eighteen people were arrested and 14 dogs rescued in Tsakane. Nearly five years later on 18 April 2018 justice was served in the Nigel Magistrates court.

"All it takes for the triumph of evil is for good people to do nothing; but in this case a lot of good people chose to do something". These were the words of Magistrate Juan Voogt before he sentenced four of the men found guilty of organised dog fighting to two years of direct imprisonment.

A further 12 men found guilty of being spectators at this dog fight were sentenced to two years under strict house arrest. All the convicted men were found unfit to possess firearms and found unfit to own dogs, and, if found in possession of a dog, would be liable to 12 months direct imprisonment. Further to the life changing conditions of house arrest, the ten spectators were also sentenced to 360 hours of community service and a total of R50 000 to be paid to the National Council of SPCAs. During the course of this trial one of the accused chose to plead guilty to being a spectator and was sentenced to R20 000 or 20 months imprisonment which was suspended for five years on condition that he did not reoffend.

Magistrate Voogt added that SPCA Inspectors are the guardians and protectors of these animals and yet were also victims that suffered from the trauma of having to deal with this horrendous crime. He went on to say that we, as the human race, have been entrusted to ensure that no harm will come to animals, a responsibility that we should exercise with humaneness and dignity. He concluded with a warning that dog fighting tears at the moral fibre of

society, exhibiting a level of violence that is abhorrent and reprehensible and anyone who wants to trivialise the offence of dog fighting is losing touch with reality.

Two of the accused in the Tsakane trial were arrested on similar charges shortly after their conviction and a further seven dogs were rescued and two new cases have been opened and are ongoing.

FURTHER CONVICTIONS

In a second case from Eden Park, eight dogs were rescued from horrific circumstances in 2016. Three of the dogs were Pit Bull Terriers used for organised dog fighting and then left to starve and succumb slowly to their infected wounds.



Special Investigations

teenage nephew, were found guilty of participating in organised dog fighting and were sentenced to two years imprisonment and two years house arrest respectively. Both were denied ownership of any animals. After this ruling National Inspectors returned to the property and removed a further 12 dogs.

In addition to these two outcomes, the Special Investigations Unit successfully raided an active dog fight in an Atteridgeville community of Pretoria on 22 June 2018. The dog fighters had gathered in an isolated area where they thought they were safe from detection. Two dogs were writhing on the grass in a bloody battle while the dog fighters and spectators laughed and shouted to the dogs. In this moment the National Inspectors and members of the South African Police Services stormed in.

14 dogs were rescued and nine people were arrested. The trial is pending.



22 people
were successfully prosecuted
in 2017/2018 for dog fighting and a further
61 people
are awaiting trial.

Undertaking successful dog fighting raids, rescuing the victims and progressing prosecutions against perpetrators of this heinous crime through the legal system, involves many hours of dedicated investigation and court appearances. During the year under review 69 days were spent in court ensuring that those charged with animal cruelty were convicted.

RAISING AWARENESS

The Special Investigations Unit's continued focus to increase awareness around animal abuse and organised animal crime amongst formal law enforcement and professional entities is steadily yielding results.

It is encouraging to see the South African Police Services (SAPS) identifying and apprehending perpetrators of these specific crimes and then making immediate contact with the Special Investigations Unit to guide them through the steps that follow. This was most recently displayed in the incident that occurred on the night of the 23 August 2018 when SAPS Flying Squad members apprehended street fighters in Brixton, Gauteng.

The past year has seen ongoing awareness initiatives. These have included collaborations with the Chief Prosecutor for the North West Province aimed at increasing awareness and addressing of the organised criminal activities involving animals taking place within this Province.

The Special Investigations Unit presented at the Woman in Law Enforcement Conference to delegates from all nine provinces from the Metro Police, South African Police Force, Correctional Services and National Prosecuting Authority. The area of focus was to increase the awareness around animal abuse and organised animal crime as well as identifying, apprehending and prosecuting the perpetrators of these specific crimes.

The International Veterinary Students Symposium was held in South Africa this year and hosted veterinary students from all over the world. The Special Investigations Unit was requested to speak on the links that exist between human and animal criminal activities as well as animals used in organised crime.

The Special Investigations Unit continues to present awareness workshops to communities identified as being at risk on the human/animal crime interface, recognizing animal abuse and the correct way to report it.

SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE TO SPCAs

Training and support to identified SPCAs around the country continued. SPCAs with suitable support structures, staff complement and willingness to confront this criminal element assist in widening the action pool around South Africa.

Special Investigations

SPONSORSHIP

In June 2018 the **DogsTrust Worldwide**, who works with local dog welfare organisations around the world to improve the lives of dogs, entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Council of SPCAs pledging assistance and support to the Special Investigations Unit for 12 months in their fight against Dog Fighting. We are truly appreciative of this generous support.

RESCUE AND REHABILITATION OF DOG FIGHTING VICTIMS

After each successful rescue the animal victims we save need to be cared for, rehabilitated and kept safe while we search for their forever homes. Thanks to the DogsTrust Worldwide, who has generously begun funding our ongoing efforts, we have been able to improve our kennels to facilitate the dogs' rehabilitation by building a new exercise run which will allow our rescues more time outside to relax and learn how to be real dogs again.



POWER PULLING AND PIT BULL WORKING EVENTS

During the year under review the Special Investigations Unit monitored 13 different Pit Bull working events held by a variety of organisations.

The compliance of the two oldest show organisations (United Pitbull Association and Pitbull Federation South Africa) to the new welfare standards resulted in the Special Investigations Unit withdrawing focused attention on their shows in order to monitor new and emerging show organisations. Initially this went well but by the end of 2017 a lax in enforcement became apparent and monitoring was again initiated.

The 2018 show season started in February with the United Pitbull Association adhering largely to the rules. There are still concerns pertaining to reported contraventions taking place when the shows are not monitored by staff of the National Council of SPCAs.

The Pitbull Federation of South Africa's non-compliance by their members during 2018 forced the National Council of SPCAs to apply for and execute a warrant at their May 2018 show, which resulted in the Pitbull Federation taking the responsible decision to close all working events and becoming a purely conformation showing entity.

A new organisation of deep concern held an opening show on the 9 December 2017. Calling themselves the South African Sporting Dog Association, they are comprised of individuals who have been suspended or asked to leave other organisations due to non-compliance to the rules, pending case outcomes or individuals who have already been found guilty of animal cruelty.

Communications

SPREADING THE WORD FOR ANIMALS

A million
voices
saying, WE LOVE YOU



The Communications Unit is dedicated to representing the National Council of SPCAs as the leader in animal welfare in South Africa. The Unit comprises of marketing/public relations as well as web and social networking team members who strive to convey our messages in a way that is credible, visible and truthful. The raising of necessary funding to support our operations also falls within this portfolio. The National Council of SPCAs is a certified Level 2 B-BBEE contributor with 125% procurement recognition. All donations are tax deductible.

SAYING WE LOVE YOU TO ANIMALS

In August 2018 we were proud to announce our A MILLION VOICES fundraising campaign to support the National Council of SPCAs' active involvement in improving the welfare of animals in South Africa. The campaign calls for a million voices to help the National Council of SPCAs reach its full potential in making a difference in the lives of animals. Full details are available on our website www.nspca.co.za

We extend our gratitude to Frank Teixeira and his team members for adding their voices, and acknowledge their two-month involvement in assisting the National Council of SPCAs with the establishing of the campaign.

The response from South Africans has been wonderful! People are saying "we love you" to animals and are donating. They are also calling on their family and friends to add their voices to the campaign. Have you added your voice?

ANIMAL WARRIORS RIDE FOR A PURPOSE



On 19 November 2017 Animal Warriors came together with 138 cyclists riding for Team National SPCA on the occasion of the Telkom 947 Cycle Challenge 2017. Our grateful thanks is extended to the cyclists who rode for our cause and helped to raise funds for animals. It was a privilege for us to host them at the charity hospitality site as well as at the powerzone where they could recharge.

We were also afforded a great opportunity to meet and greet our cyclists and supporters alike at the three-day Telkom 947 Cycle Challenge Expo prior to the race. Our team certainly enjoyed the time interacting with our wonderful supporters!

We could not have done it all without sponsorships from Cardies, The Strawberry Farm, Nutmania, ABI National Brands Limited, Anatomic Custom Clothing, Bennetts, Dominos Pizza, Apple Tree Food Market, Lizzy Bee Catering Suppliers, Popoulis, SPCA Midrand and SPCA Germiston. Our sincere appreciation to all.



Communications

VEHICLE PROJECT

At the end of October 2017 we were elated to announce that with the generous support and commitment of donors to eradicate dog fighting, our target of R270,000 to purchase a new vehicle for our Special Investigations Unit was reached. A total of R287,350 was raised!

We are truly grateful for every donation received which contributed to the success of this project by way of support on the crowdfunding platform, Different.org and through donations directly to the National Council of SPCAs. The public's generous donations made it possible for our Special Investigations Unit to reach, rescue and transport more dog fighting victims to safety.

LIGHTING UP THE WORLD FOR MADIBA



***"And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same."
– Nelson Mandela, Long Walk to Freedom***

18 July 2018 marked what would have been Nelson Mandela's 100th Birthday. On this auspicious day, we commemorated our beloved Madiba who honoured the National Council of SPCAs as Patron-in-Chief from 1994 until his sad passing in 2013.

The National Council of SPCAs called on South Africans to join us in spreading Madiba's light by making an impact in the lives of others through simple acts of kindness and a generosity of spirit to secure a better world.

We honoured Madiba and his legacy by lighting up the world with a candlelight vigil throughout the day and shared a video on social media celebrating Madiba's 100 years of light.

MEDIA

During the reporting period, 51 media statements on various animal related issues were issued and subsequent enquiries handled. These media statements resulted in wide coverage which included radio and television interviews with staff of the National Council of SPCAs.

SOCIAL MEDIA

We remain grateful to our steadfast followers on the various social media platforms. The kind words of encouragement and positive responses to our appeals to help animals do not go unnoticed or unappreciated.

ADOPTION CAMPAIGN

The advertising agency, Ogilvy, approached the National Council of SPCAs regarding a domestic animal adoption campaign. This was a piggy back on an internet trend where owners of animals play "peek-a-boo" with their animals and eventually disappear behind a wall or through a door. Ogilvy filmed a number of cute and funny segments and the final segment was filmed under a bridge. The owner disappeared with the tag line: "Some owners disappear forever – Adopt an abandoned fluff" and ended with the SPCA logo.

The video was placed on the social media platforms of the National Council of SPCAs and did incredibly well, going viral in a matter of hours.

The National Council of SPCAs extends its very grateful thanks to the Ogilvy team for their innovative campaign.

Year at a Glance

OCTOBER 2017 – SEPTEMBER 2018

*We ended the
needless
suffering of
animals.*

~

*We helped
animals caught
in disasters.*

~

*We protected
animals.*

~

*We improved the
working
conditions of
animals.*

~

*We achieved
justice for
animals through
the legal system.*

~

*We influenced
decision makers
to consider the
welfare of
animals.*

~

*We empowered
people through
training*



Through the kindness of our donors during the past year we have been able to bring relief and hope to so many animals. Thank you!

To the various Trusts/Foundation, sponsors and individual donors who continue to support us so generously, we express our gratitude for your trust in us and for your committed funding. Many others have nominated the National Council of SPCAs as the beneficiary in respect of shopper cards or have pledged support through payroll giving – a special thank you to you all. Our pro bono supporters, with whom we have strong working relationships, are also acknowledged with great appreciation.

1,066,368 kms were travelled around South Africa in the line of duty.

2,646 inspections were undertaken.

420 warnings and notices were issued to improve animal care.

29 successful prosecutions were achieved.

76 court cases are pending for animal welfare offences.

127 days were spent attending to court cases.

281,213 animals were assisted in traffic accidents and disasters.

1,894 working donkeys and mules were assisted.

1,393 donkey owners and users were assisted.

16,702 learners were educated on donkey and animal welfare.

102 wild and exotic animals were rescued.

156 cargo warehouse inspections were undertaken at airports.

47 commercial land border posts were inspected.

1,836 animal research protocols were reviewed, representing **1,081** man hours.

181 Animal Ethics Committee meetings were attended.

35 sporting/recreational events using animals were monitored.

343 meetings with external parties were attended to achieve improved conditions for animals.

48 workshops and conferences were attended and **55** workshops were presented.

178 practical training sessions were conducted on site in the areas of individual SPCAs.

23 training sessions/courses presented. **1,013** delegates attended our external training courses.

175 SPCA delegates attended our internal training courses.

89 SPCA Regional and Committee Meetings were attended.



A million voices

saying, we LOVE YOU

Somewhere an animal
is calling for help.

Add your **VOICE** in
answer.

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