



**National Council
of SPCAs**

**Leaders in
Animal
Welfare in
Africa**

Annual Report

October 2018 to August 2019



National Council
of SPCAs

National Council of SPCAs

*For over 60 years the National Council of SPCAs has been protecting our country's animals.
We prevent cruelty, promote kindness and alleviate the suffering of animals.
Our vision is to end animal cruelty in South Africa and engender compassion for all animals.*

REGISTRATION NO.

003-189 NPO

ABOUT US

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

For enquiries regarding bequests or partnering with us on life-changing projects, please contact the Public Relations Officer on 011-9073590 or write to comms@nspca.co.za

We are a certified B-BBEE contributor.
Level 1 (135% B-BBEE procurement recognition).

All donations are tax deductible.

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





National Council
of SPCAs

Chairman's Report

By CHOICE, CHANCE and CHANGE,
the "SOMEONE" is YOU

Animals pay a dear price, simply for being born into a world where humans see them as "property."

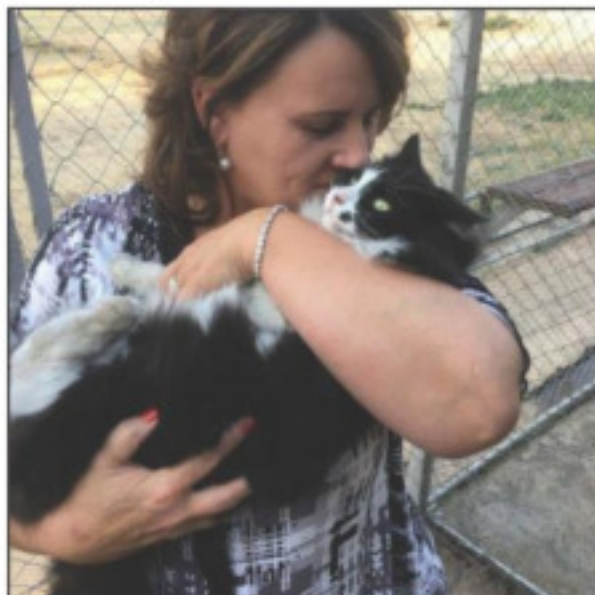
These beings are not "resources," they are living, breathing, hurting members of our global family. - Anthony Damiano

If you are reading this, then I would like to remind you that **you** are that "someone."

"I hope that someone will help that animal, I hope that someone will call the authorities. I will share on social media and hope that someone sees it". No, **you** are the someone. We need to speak up. We need to act. Silence has its own violence, and we can by choice, when we have the chance, change the fate of those that cannot defend themselves.

Another year gone and what has changed for our organisation? We struggle with the same cruelty, on a more intense level, and we still fight the soul-destroying battles. **But** yes, my sentence starts with **but**, we made enormous progress in our daily battles for change. Change for animals. The importance of the role of our organisation in dealing with the welfare of animals has been emphasised by both the Constitutional Court and the High Courts of South Africa. Our Courts are unanimous in their opinion that animal welfare is an extremely important value in our society and should be protected. We were overjoyed with the judgement handed down in the Pretoria High Court in our favour against the quotas handed down in 2017/18 regarding the Lion Bone Trade and Export. The Court found that the quotas were unlawful and unconstitutional. Judge Kollapen said in his opening statement how important this judgement was for current and future generations in the manner in which society interacts with and sees wildlife. This was incredible work by our legal team, staff and all external role players and the platform for change has been laid.

Everybody is equal before the law, but no one is above the law, and this year we saw Thandi Modise's first court appearance in a long battle to seek justice for the animals that suffered and died on her farm. A Deputy Mayor was found guilty after shooting a dog and leaving the animal to suffer. Dogfighting cases have seen direct imprisonment for the dogfighters. No one is above the law.



A second private prosecution by our organisation brings hope to dairy cows. Calves removed from their mothers shortly after birth to be confined in cold steel crates will have us fighting for their future fates. By choice, when given the chance, we do not hesitate to do everything in our power to bring change for the suffering animals in our world.

The cruel and horrendous exporting of live animals is still ongoing, but not without a huge effort from us to ideally stop this cruel trade, and, in the meantime fight for the relief and better conditions of thousands and thousands of animals being shipped for weeks on end in suffering conditions. These are heartbreaking conditions and images. There are still people who do not know the tasks on the shoulders of our staff when it comes to export, inspecting cargo facilities and changing farming conditions for animals. The time for change is now. The time to act is now.

In a flat economy, a nation on the brink of giving up, we can simply not afford to fall victim to this situation, however strenuous and self-sacrificing. We cannot do this on our own. Many companies and individuals have stepped up and joined us in the battle for animal welfare. We are forever grateful to them. However, the battle is long and the fight hard; it is ongoing and comes at a huge cost. We need all the support we can get from society, especially those that have the best interest of all creatures at heart.

I would like to thank each and every member of staff at the National Council of SPCAs, for not giving up, for the sacrifice and the effort.

To my fellow Board Colleagues and our CEO, Marcelle, thank you. This task we signed up for is tough. Thank you for not giving up.

**THEA SMIT
CHAIRMAN**



National Council
of SPCAs

The Team

Promoting THE FIVE FREEDOMS

- **FREEDOM** from thirst, hunger and malnutrition • **FREEDOM** from discomfort
- **FREEDOM** from pain, injury and disease • **FREEDOM** to express normal behaviour
- **FREEDOM** from fear and distress



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thea Smit	(Chairman)
Jane Marston (Dr)	(Vice-Chairman)
Bryan Hirsch	(Financial Director)
Marcelle Meredith	(Executive Director)
Collette Mang	
Christopher Marufu (Dr)	
Victoria McDonald	
Mary Nicolaou	
Annette Rademeyer	
Dave Taylor	(Resigned in June 2019)

From left to right:
Standing : V McDonald, B Hirsch, A Rademeyer, C Mang,
M Nicolaou, M Meredith
Seated : Dr J Marston, T Smit
Photograph insert : Dr C Marufu

MANAGEMENT TEAM

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

Marcelle Meredith	(Chief Executive Officer)	Wendy Willson	(Special Investigations)
Esté Kotzé	(Deputy Chief Executive Officer)	Arno de Klerk	(Special Projects)
Erika Bornman	(Animal Ethics)	Bryce Marock (Dr)	(Consulting Veterinarian)
Morgane James	(Donkeys, Outreach and Training)	Douglas Wolhuter	(Wildlife Protection)
Grace de Lange	(Farm Animal Protection)	Karen Trendler	(Wildlife Trade and Trafficking)
Jaco Pieterse	(Society Liaison)		

INSPECTORATE, COMMUNICATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION

The National Council of SPCAs operates with a team of qualified Senior Inspectors and Inspectors who are spread across the various Units. Administrative and Communications staff members collectively handle bookkeeping, administration, public relations, website, social media and the fundraising function.

ABOUT OUR INSPECTORS

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.

The function of qualified Inspectors is broad-based, requiring commitment and the ability to be objective. The Inspector plays a key role in animal welfare and carries out a variety of functions. These include handling all animal species, sensitising children to compassion for animals, educating members of the public on correct handling and care, rescuing animals, conducting investigations and laying criminal charges against people who have perpetrated deliberate or negligent acts of cruelty.

All qualified Inspectors are authorised in terms of the Animals Protection Act 71 of 1962. Inspectors undergo a rigorous training programme and receive ongoing training throughout their careers to ensure that the highest standards are maintained. Qualified Inspectors of the National Council of SPCAs are specialists in their fields dealing specifically with farm animals, wildlife, research animals, equine and working animal issues. Animals used in entertainment and sport also receive our focused attention, as do aquatic species that fall under the banner of aquaculture.

When disasters strike and emergency situations arise, our skilled teams provide hands-on assistance to animals.



PLEDGE TO SERVE ANIMALS

I PLEDGE –

To uphold the law and protect ALL animals and treat them with compassion and kindness at all times.

To respond swiftly and professionally to assist animals in need, regardless of time or place.

To adhere to the Code of Ethics and all Rules and Policies as stipulated in the Operations Manual and uphold the principles of the SPCA movement.

To uphold and promote the Five Freedoms and the kind treatment of animals by humans.

To treat both people and animals with respect.

CONSULTING VETERINARIAN

Dr Bryce Marock, the Consulting Veterinarian of the National Council of SPCAs, works alongside the Inspectors of the organisation's specialised Units and provides professional input on a variety of animal welfare issues. Collaboration is largely with the Farm Animal Protection Unit and the Special Investigations Unit. However, assistance is also provided to other Units of the National Council of SPCAs in relation to horses and dogs utilised by the South African National Defence Force and those horses used in endurance racing events.

In respect of the Farm Animal Protection Unit, assistance has been provided in the development of standards for livestock (both nationally and internationally) and on specific topics such as the live export of animals by sea and the development of humane slaughter techniques for both disease control and consumption. The latter was presented at the United Nations, highlighting the successes of the National Council of SPCAs. In addition to this and after thorough research, advice has been given on what is acceptable in the livestock sector from an animal welfare standpoint.

On-farm inspections have been undertaken together with the Farm Animal Protection Inspectors and have culminated in veterinary reports for the purposes of prosecution and education. These issues have also been discussed at forums, such as the National Animal Forum and meetings with the government and industry. One notable prosecution is that of a high profile figure, which case has required post-mortems, on-farm sample collection and humane euthanasia of the pigs at the enterprise. This has culminated in an extremely solid scientific report.

Dr B Marock represents the Farm Animal Protection Unit on the International Coalition for Animal Welfare (ICFAW) and has been invited by the ICFAW to participate on an ad-hoc poultry welfare committee to further protect and develop progressive stipulations approved by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)'s scientific technical committee.

Working with the Special Investigations Unit which deals with the horrific crime of organised dogfighting during the past 12 months, Dr B Marock has conducted examinations on six groups of dogs which have resulted in veterinary reports for the purposes of prosecution. Due to extensive research and collaboration with various experts in their field (pathologists, surgeons, epidemiologists, etc), this has resulted in most of Dr Marock's reports being accepted by the defence attorneys as irrefutable, thus being accepted as evidence. Assistance has also been provided to external veterinarians on the intricacies of compiling reports for these complicated cases relating to the keeping of fighting dogs.

Veterinary attention is also provided to domestic and farm animals when outreach programmes are conducted in indigent areas.

Representing the National Council of SPCAs, Dr B Marock presented on the subject "Humane end of life (euthanasia) for the purposes of disease control" at the 3rd Africa Animal Welfare Conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 3 September 2019. The conference was hosted by the African Network for Animal Welfare, the United Nations and the state of Ethiopia.



National Council
of SPCAs

Executive Director's Report

*Unit reports are a testament to the work undertaken for animals
by a team of dedicated individuals.*

At the end of another year I am pleased to report that despite tough economic times, the growing competition for the charitable Rand and rising costs on almost every front, the National Council of SPCAs managed to contain expenditure and still attend to the many animal welfare issues in South Africa.

The National Council of SPCAs is often called upon for assistance by Government bodies, yet no funding is forthcoming from this sector to help us address the significant animal welfare issues.

In keeping with the National Council of SPCAs' mission to prevent cruelty and promote the welfare of all animals, it is necessary that we continually evaluate our progress, streamline strategies and look to the future sustainability of an organisation which is responsible for securing major changes for animals. The development of a long-term strategy is in progress to grow the capacity of the National Council of SPCAs to improve not only the spreading of the welfare message but also to increase fundraising.

Staff members are commended for their commitment and compassion in their various areas of operation. Often, long working hours and the distressing cruelty encountered dampen the spirits of staff. This is the nature of work in animal welfare. Those who care the most, see the worst. My appreciation therefore to my deputy Esté Kotzé and the staff. Together we achieve great improvements for animal welfare in South Africa.

Reports on the achievements for the year are highlighted in the various sections of the Annual Report and are a testament to the work for animals undertaken by this dedicated team of individuals. The challenges have been many – from rescuing dogfighting victims, to fighting for the freedom of movement for farm animals, to bringing health care to animals in indigent areas and keeping the welfare spotlight on working animals, those used for scientific purposes and animals used in sporting activities. In addition to this, the Communications team has dealt effectively with public relations and raised much-needed funding.

The past year has seen the National Council of SPCAs take the legal route on a number of important issues. This included challenging the Department of Environmental Affairs on its established lion bone quotas, our first private prosecution undertaken by the



AfriForum legal team in seeking justice for the animals left to starve on the Thandi Modise farm, and taking action on behalf of the Malati Dairy calves. All of these issues have demanded an expert legal team and this responsibility was placed in the ever-capable hands of Dr J Marston. Twenty-one years later and Jane continues to be one of our most valued members of the team.

We owe a debt of gratitude to Adv Les Morison S.C., Adv Angus McKenzie and Adv Thai Scott. We also thank the AfriForum team - Adv Gerrie Nel S.C., Mrs Phyllis Vorster, Investigating Officer Slang Maangwale and Adv Andrew Leask. My deep gratitude is expressed to all concerned.

The export of live animals by sea has long been recognised by the National Council of SPCAs as a major source of suffering for farm animals. Every aspect of the process holds the potential for disastrous consequences for large numbers of animals that are shipped from our shores on long journeys to other countries.

The decision to export live sheep to the Middle East being considered by the South African government, is cause for great concern. If this shipment proceeds, 60 000 sheep will endure severe heat stress, disease, physical discomfort, trauma and injury, the inability to rest, food and water restrictions and respiratory and ocular infections. The ships are not known as death ships for no good reason. This is a disaster. We will do everything in our power to stop this from happening.

It has been said that an organisation is only as strong as its supporters and the National Council of SPCAs is fortunate in having the strong backing of animal-lovers who respond to our calls to action and appeals for financial assistance. They share our vision to end animal cruelty in South Africa and engender compassion for all animals. To these loyal supporters of animals, I extend my gratitude and appreciation for choosing the National Council of SPCAs through which to show their kindness.

In closing, I thank the Board of Directors who volunteer their time and support the work of the National Council of SPCAs.

MARCELLE MEREDITH
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



National Council
of SPCAs

Law Enforcement

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



Pursuing justice for animals.

THANDI MODISE FACES CHARGES OF ANIMAL CRUELTY

On 5 July 2014 Inspectors from the National Council of SPCAs encountered cruelty and animal neglect on a farm in the North West Province owned by Ms Thandi Modise (former Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces and current Speaker of the National Assembly of South Africa). Animals were left to fend for themselves without food, water and medical care. Animals were found dead and dying and many had started to decompose. The pigs had resorted to cannibalism to survive.

A criminal case of animal cruelty was opened for contravening the Animals Protection Act No. 71 of 1962. Two years later, the State declined to prosecute and an application was successfully made to the Director of Public Prosecution to privately prosecute.

In July 2018 at a joint National Council of SPCAs and AfriForum media conference, it was announced that AfriForum's Private

Prosecution Unit would privately prosecute Ms T Modise on behalf of the National Council of SPCAs.



Adv Gerrie Nel S.C. (AfriForum Private Prosecution Unit) with Ms M Meredith (CEO, National Council of SPCAs)

This is the first private prosecution being pursued by the National Council of SPCAs.

Ms T Modise was first due to appear in court on 21 June 2019 but her legal team advised that because of her responsibilities as parliamentary speaker at President Cyril Ramaphosa's State of the Nation Address she was unable to attend. Ms T Modise made her first appearance in the Potchefstroom Regional Court on 22 July 2019 on charges of animal cruelty. The case was postponed to 30 October 2019 when Ms T Modise will plead on the charges.

The National Council of SPCAs extends its gratitude to Adv Gerrie Nel S.C. for presiding over the organisation's first private prosecution case. The legal service provided by AfriForum's Private Prosecution Unit is recognised with great appreciation.

NO PROGRESS IN TWO CASES OF ANIMAL CRUELTY AGAINST SANDF

In a media statement issued in July 2019, the National Council of SPCAs expressed its frustration with the lack of progress and clear lack of interest in two cases against the South African Army Special Infantry Capability (SAASIC) Unit members of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) for their gross negligence and deliberate brutality of the horses in their care.

The National Council of SPCAs laid criminal charges against members of the SANDF's SAASIC Unit for starvation and neglect of horses in May 2018, and for deliberate brutality to horses in January 2019.



After failing on a number of occasions to make telephonic contact with the relevant detectives of the South African Police Services (SAPS) in Potchefstroom regarding the progress of the cases, a Senior Inspector from the National Council of SPCAs visited the Potchefstroom SAPS in person. It was established that no further investigation had been conducted, neither of the dockets could be located and that the Officer Commanding of the SAASIC Unit had allegedly told police that neither he nor any SAASIC members would provide statements.

From the feedback provided by the detectives, it would appear that SAASIC has a complete disregard for the country's legal system and no remorse for the cruelty that took place at their Potchefstroom base, and the detectives involved could not be less interested.

Despite the SAASIC Unit's Officer Commanding's refusal to cooperate with the SAPS' investigations and the general lack of accountability, the National Council of SPCAs remains determined

to ensure that the matter is brought before the courts. Cruelty to animals cannot be ignored and those accountable need to face the consequences of their actions.

ACTIONS FOR ANIMALS

Each of our Operational Units, which handle specific portfolios, undertake investigations of animal cruelty. Inspectors also work proactively to improve the welfare of animals in the areas in which they operate by undertaking inspections.

Warnings and Notices

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

During the period under review, 346 warnings, notices and letters of requirements were issued for improvements to living conditions and standards of animal care.

Successful Prosecutions

Justice for animals was achieved with **18 successful prosecutions** during the reporting period. The following landmark cases are noted:

- On the 7 November 2018 in Atteridgeville we were stunned and pleased when the first two years **direct imprisonment** sentence without suspension nor an option of a fine was handed down to two men who pleaded guilty after National Council of SPCAs Inspectors caught them and eight other men fighting dogs in Pretoria.
- On the 19 February 2019 in the Roodepoort Regional Court, the longest **direct imprisonment** term yet of **5.5 years and 5.1 years** without suspension nor an option of a fine (amongst other punishments) was handed down to two men who pleaded guilty to fighting their dogs and other related cruelty. They were caught red-handed by Inspectors of the National Council of SPCAs.
- The sentencing on the 19 February 2019 in Roodepoort Regional Court also meted out a 10 months **direct imprisonment** without suspension nor an option of a fine which was the first direct imprisonment for a person caught by the National Council of SPCAs and who pleaded guilty to just watching a dog fight, this was followed shortly by another sentencing of a year of **direct imprisonment** without suspension nor an option of a fine for the same offence on the 23 May in Atteridgeville Magistrates court.
- On the 23 May 5 men who had been apprehended by the Inspectors of the National Council of SPCAs were all sentenced to between two and a half years and three years of **direct imprisonment** with no part suspended and no option of a fine for owning and keeping dogs for fighting purposes as well as subjecting these dogs to filthy living conditions and denying them medical care.

Pending Cases

A further **97 cases** are awaiting finalisation through the judicial system. These cases related to equine, farm animals, wildlife and domestic animals.

For more details on pending court cases, please refer to the various Unit sections.



National Council
of SPCAs

Lions in Focus

The commercial breeding and keeping of lions for hunting purposes and supply to the lion bone industry raises serious welfare concerns.

This has drawn the focused attention of the National Council of SPCAs.



HIGH COURT RULES IN FAVOUR OF LIONS AND THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF SPCAs

The captive lion industry, cub petting, canned hunting, and the trade in lion bone is a highly contentious and controversial issue both globally and locally.

Lion bones are exported to Asia as a supplement for tiger bone utilised in wines, tonics, traditional medicine and ornaments.

Trophy hunting and canned lion hunting were the main sources of bone for export for many years but with global opposition to canned hunting and changes to trophy import regulations, lion bone became a primary product with lions being bred and slaughtered for bone. The slaughter is not adequately regulated or controlled.

The National Council of SPCAs has a number of pending criminal cases against captive lion facilities that have neglected, and in some instances, completely disregarded the welfare of their lions.

Since the lion bone quota directly impacts the welfare of captive lions, the National Council of SPCAs challenged the method used by the then Minister of Environmental Affairs in determining the quotas of lion bone exports in 2017 (800 skeletons) and 2018 (1,500 skeletons), and also the conditions in which captive lions are kept, in the Gauteng High Court, Pretoria on 25 and 26 June 2019.

On 6 August 2019, judgement was handed down by Judge J Kollapen in the Pretoria High Court in the case between the National Council of SPCAs and the Minister of Environmental Affairs and the South African Predator Breeders Association regarding the lion bone export quotas and the implications for the welfare of captive lion.

Judgement was found in favour of the National Council of SPCAs.

In his opening statements, Judge Kollapen stated that this was an important judgement for both current and future generations in

addressing the manner in which society interacts with wildlife and the environment.

Judge Kollapen referenced the 2016 judgment in the National Council of SPCAs' case against the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, which stated that "the rationale behind protecting animal welfare has shifted from merely safeguarding the moral status of humans to placing intrinsic value on animals as individuals".

Judge Kollapen found that the quotas set in 2017 and 2018 for the export of lion bone skeletons were unlawful and unconstitutional, and did not follow due process. It was further stated that the Minister and the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) disregarded the welfare of captive lion in setting the quota, and whilst welfare is not their mandate, the Minister and the DEA must take the welfare of captive lion, and other captive wildlife into consideration in decision making.

Regardless that animal welfare does not form part of the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries' mandate, the government is now legally obliged to consider animal welfare in all its wildlife conservation decisions, otherwise, it goes against the spirit of Section 24 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996.

The importance of animal welfare and the vital and legal role of the National Council of SPCAs in protecting captive and wild animals has been recognised in this precedent-setting judgement.

One cannot simply use, abuse and trade wildlife without considering their welfare and well-being.

International documentary and exposé

Staff members of the National Council of SPCAs worked with a number of international investigative journalists and participated in the filming of 'Lions, Bones and Bullets' an international documentary and exposé.



CAPTIVE LION INDUSTRY

Growing local and international opposition to the captive breeding of lion for hunting and the bone trade resulted in the expulsion of South African hunting organisations from international conservation groups and calls to stop the captive breeding of lion went unheeded by South Africa. This resulted in a two-day

Parliamentary Colloquium in August 2018 which was called to interrogate the industry. Staff from the National Council of SPCAs were participants at this Colloquium.

The resulting Parliamentary Colloquium Report on the Captive Lion Industry was adopted by the National Assembly. A panel of experts is to be convened by the Minister of Environment. A representative from the National Council of SPCAs has been nominated and interviewed for the panel. Feedback is awaited.

Subsequent to, and as a result of the Lion Bone Judgement, representatives from the National Council of SPCAs participated in presenting at the Department of Environmental Affairs Environmental Management Lekgotla. Inspector Doug Wolhuter and Karen Trendler now represent the National Council of SPCAs on the Minister's Wildlife Welfare Forum.

The National Council of SPCAs also continues to participate in the National African Lion Task Team.

ACTIONS FOR LIONS

The National Council of SPCAs has, for many years, been concerned about and involved in addressing the welfare problems associated with the captive breeding of lion for hunting, cub petting, paying volunteers and lion walks. After being pulled from their mothers, the cubs are used and abused for tourism and, when too big, are hunted and more recently also slaughtered for their bones.

There are currently about 8,000 – 10,000 lions in captivity in South Africa.

Lions found in appalling conditions



In April 2019 Inspectors from the Wildlife Protection Unit obtained a warrant after receiving a complaint regarding lions that were reportedly in a shocking condition in the North West Province. Predators (lions, caracals, tigers and leopards) were discovered living in small overcrowded enclosures without adequate shelter, no provision of water, and in filthy and parasitic conditions. 27 of the lions had mange. Two lion cubs that were unable to walk were removed from the premises.

The National Council of SPCAs issued a warning and laid criminal charges against the farm owner and staff for several contraventions of the Animals Protection Act 71 of 1962.

In July 2019, the National Council of SPCAs undertook a follow-up inspection at the same facility. The Inspectors obtained a warrant

and found minimal improvement in the conditions on this farm. A lion cub was found dead and stored in a cold room and two more lion cubs showing similar symptoms to the two cubs that were removed in April were found concealed in a crate in a warehouse. The facility's veterinarian euthanased the two cubs. Two carcasses were removed for post mortem examinations.

On further investigation, the Inspectors found a chest freezer with approximately 20 carcasses of lion and tiger of varying ages. The National Council of SPCAs removed a further five carcasses for post mortem examinations to determine the cause of death and will be laying further charges in terms of the Animals Protection Act No 71 of 1962.

Two Lion Cubs Rescued

At the North West lion farm inspected in April 2019 Inspectors were horrified to find two lion cubs unable to walk and that appeared to be showing signs that they were suffering from a neurological condition. The National Council of SPCAs removed the two cubs for assessment and veterinary treatment by a specialist carnivore veterinarian.



With an estimated six month period required to repair the damage caused by meningoencephalitis and malnutrition, a fundraiser commenced to finance nutritious food, supplements, veterinary care and medicines for the two rescued cubs.

The campaign, launched in May 2019, was hugely successful and the money raised has helped to nurse the cubs back to health so that they can ultimately live out their lives in an approved sanctuary.

We are most grateful to Dr Peter Caldwell and his staff at the Old Chapel Veterinary Clinic for taking such special care of these two little carnivores and for restoring them to health.

We express our appreciation to Martin Bester and Dianne Broodryk of Jacaranda FM for hosting our Public Relations Officer and Dr Peter Caldwell on *Good Morning Angels* and for promoting support of the campaign.

A huge debt of gratitude is owed to our major donors, WeBuyCars, the Good Morning Angels Fund and Roman's Pizza for their substantial donations of R50 000 each.

Our heartfelt thanks are also extended to the many individual donors who generously supported this campaign through the BackaBuddy website and by way of donations made directly to the National Council SPCAs.

After just a few weeks, the cubs (named Karlos and Ivana by WeBuyCars and Roman's Pizza respectively) were already on the road to recovery and responding well to medication and specialised feeding and care.

It is deplorable that animals with serious medical ailments were left to suffer, untreated. Criminal charges have been laid against the farm owner for contraventions of the Animals Protection Act 71 of 1962. The case is pending

Now, Some months down the line, Karlos and Ivana are growing in strength, gaining more mobility and taking an interest in their surroundings.



Douglas Wolhuter (NSPCA), Dianne Broodryk (Good Morning Angels), Meg Wilson (NSPCA), Dr Peter Caldwell (Veterinarian), Martin Bester (Jacaranda FM), Alexia Christopher-Koen and Wynand Beukes (WeBuyCars)

In an uncaring scenario where the King of the Jungle is treated with such disrespect, the lives of two victims were improved. We trust that going forward, the actions of the National Council of SPCAs will bring about positive changes for the many lions held in captivity in South Africa.

We extend our sincere appreciation to the wildlife photographer, Shen Scott from Culture Capital, who is responsible for the amazing photograph on the front cover of the report as well as the photograph on the right.

Visit the website:
<http://culturecapital.co.za/>





National Council
of SPCAs

Community Outreach

Through our outreach programmes, the National Council of SPCAs is able to provide assistance to poverty-stricken communities. We prevent suffering through sterilisation, the provision of food and by providing medical assistance to domestic, farm and working animals.



*Reaching out to
communities and their
animals.*

POMFRET OUTREACH

In December 2018 an outreach team was dispatched to Pomfret in the North West Province. Pomfret is a small desert town with little, if any, service delivery. The community relies on support from church groups, NGOs, Government grants and small scale livestock farming. There are no State veterinary services and livestock owners have a continual struggle with the lack of primary health care, vaccines and guidance. For the majority of people, animal-drawn carts are the only mode of transport. Horses are also used for riding between farms and herding stock.

In 2016 a sterilisation outreach was undertaken in this area together with the distribution of emergency food and water

supplies for farm animals and working equine during the severe drought at the time. In 2017 further education work was undertaken in the area. The objective of this outreach was to assess the success of previous outreaches and to address arising concerns – most notably the lack of health care and guidance for livestock owners. Reports of disease in the area affecting goats, in particular, were reported by owners and was impacting their livelihood due to poor productivity and death of their stock.

Armed with veterinary supplies, vaccinations for goats, deworming and dip, harnessing and tack for equine, emergency feed and educational material, the team embarked on a week-long outreach to improve the welfare of animals.

Farm Animals

The emerging farmers in this area own herds of sheep, goats, cattle and small flocks of free-roaming chickens. There is no access to veterinarians and owners have limited knowledge and resources to assist their animals. Various medical problems were identified and owners asked for assistance for a variety of conditions from an abscess, injuries and lameness to ingrown horns in cattle.



The animals walk long distances in search of food. Lameness resulting from the rocky terrain and abscesses caused by puncture wounds from the thorn scrub are not uncommon but if animals are lame they cannot walk to find food. These injuries were treated and owners were shown how to provide primary health care – cleaning and treating wounds with what they have available.

Education and training on primary health care and good management practices were provided to the owners. In addition, pelleted feed and vaccines for goats were also distributed.



The feed provided short-term support especially for weaker animals and mothers and their young – giving them the opportunity to improve condition and cope better in their environment. Sound management advice was given to owners to ensure improved welfare of the animals in the future.

Working Equine

Donkeys, mules and horses perform vital roles in providing the community with mobility and a way to transport critical supplies for people and their livestock and domestic animals. Although they work hard these animals do not always receive the necessary care, are overworked and have little time to graze.

In addition, inhumane harnessing and whipping cause pain and injuries.

Harmful bits were removed, the animals were treated and put on rest to heal, and humane bits were supplied to improve their welfare. Some replacement harnessing was provided and owners were taught how to make and fit their own humane harnessing. Owners were also educated on primary health care and vital aspects of managing equine.

Domestic animals

In the 2016 outreach, a large portion of the domestic animal population this area was sterilised. Following up on sterilised animals revealed that the physical condition of animals had improved and that they were no longer suffering from reproductive challenges. During this outreach, dogs were assisted with internal and external parasite control. Where necessary dogs received treatment for minor injuries and their nails were clipped.

Education

Education is a key component of our work in communities and this takes many forms. One of the most popular is providing community members of all ages with educational material for them to take home – from activities for children to adult reading. All material is highly valued.

In educating animal owners the National Council of SPCAs aims to encourage compassion and kindness. We work with all age groups through small group learning, practical teaching and by forming relationships with community members. These methods have proved to be effective in improving the welfare of animals.

Donor Support

Grateful acknowledgement to Meadow Feeds and the team of personnel who transported one ton of pelleted livestock feed for distribution to emerging farmers in the area.



Making a Difference

Supporters also collected items of clothing, reading material, pet food, water containers and equine tack for distribution in the community to benefit owners and their animals. Our goal is to help animals but we are always mindful of the plight of the people in the community and we had the opportunity to distribute donated items to needy community members. A walker for an elderly lady who lacked mobility was life-changing. Clothes, blankets and toys were all gratefully accepted in this disadvantaged community.

SOME OF OUR OTHER OUTREACHES

Atteridgeville Outreach, Gauteng

Working together with the Special Investigations Unit we undertook an outreach in the Atteridgeville community, Gauteng in March 2019. This community has had a significant increase in pitbull welfare concerns and we have had successful dogfighting prosecutions here. The rise in dogfighting, the threat to the human and non-humans through dog attacks lead us to conduct a targeted intervention pertaining to dogfighting and consequent welfare problems. House to house inspections were undertaken, warnings were issued and sterilisation of dogs was completed. Community members were engaged and educated regarding dogfighting.

Mutele and Duthuni Outreach, Limpopo

In April and May 2019, an outreach to the Mutele and Duthuni areas was undertaken to assist with rabies vaccinations, animal welfare issues, education and primary health care, especially with donkeys and dogs. The team worked with the local vets to help as many animals as possible



Numerous challenges were encountered while in the area, but given the experience, skills and resourcefulness of this team, a great deal was achieved in a short period of time and owners were very grateful for the assistance.

The Compulsory Community Service Veterinarian in Mutele expressed his appreciation for assistance from the team and said that together they achieved more in a week than he would have been able to do in six months.

Outreach Northern Cape

In June 2019, the team visited Deben, Kathu, Oklep, Concordia and Port Nolloth in the Northern Cape to assist working equine.



The Northern Cape is an underserved province and animal owners turn to us as the only service provider to assist them.

A team went to key areas and undertook primary health care and harnessing workshops focusing on equine but with many other animals also assisted. Education was undertaken as well as training of SAPS members, investigating complaints and issuing warnings.

Mandela Day 2019

On 18 July 2019 in celebration of Mandela Day, a team of Inspectors from the National Council of SPCAs spent the day working in the East of Johannesburg, uplifting the lives of farm animals belonging to emerging farmers. Demonstrations on handling, hygiene, cleaning and management were given and animals were practically assisted.



Louisvale, Northern Cape

The team together with two vets and two vet nurses went to Louisvale (near Upington) to assist the community with animal welfare and health issues and to sterilise as many animals as possible.



In 10 days 472 pets were sterilised and vaccinated, 523 welfare inspections at homes were undertaken as well as education and training of owners. We made a massive impact in this community and the benefits will be long-lasting.

Thank you to the following SPCAs for their kind assistance - Louis Trichard, Boksburg, Benoni, Sandton, Randburg, Centurion, Johannesburg, Nigel, Midrand and Alberton.

The community work undertaken by the National Council of SPCAs is critical not only to the welfare of the animals who benefitted from improved welfare but also to the people. In a community where the welfare of people and their animals are intertwined, they rely on each other for survival.

**SINCE THANKS to the
National Lotteries
Distribution Trust
Fund for making this
possible.**





National Council
of SPCAs

Donkey Upliftment Project

The Donkey Upliftment Project is designed to improve the lives of people and their working donkeys through educational and health workshops, school visits and by providing hands-on assistance and skills transfer to donkey owners and users.



Compassionate treatment of donkeys.

WHAT WE HAVE DONE FOR DONKEYS

In all the areas in which team members have worked during the period under review, there has been an improvement in the welfare and health of the donkeys.

Harnessing

Replacing inhumane bits and teaching harness fitting and making has reduced the number of wounds on the donkeys. Improved health and harnessing has resulted in more productive animals and a significant reduction in communication wounds such as whipping. We encourage and guide owners to take responsibility for their animals and harnessing in a humane and sustainable manner.



Health

Donkeys are robust, stoic animals which unfortunately makes them so prone to abuse. They carry on going when other animals would not, and this also leads to the belief that they don't get sick and don't feel pain. Good health care, parasite prevention and treatment and resting unwell animals are key messages. We have tried to sensitise donkey users to the needs of the animals, and in some areas, we have made some good progress. In other areas, donkey owners/users comply because of the law enforcement aspect of our work.

Life-Saving Intervention

We assisted the State Veterinarians in the far north Limpopo Province where there was a major rabies outbreak affecting dogs, donkeys and people. In this area, children are frequently responsible for harnessing and using the donkeys and are in direct contact with saliva from the donkey and this puts them at high risk of contracting rabies if a donkey has been affected.



The team covered a large area and provided critical education to villagers. Where possible donkeys were brought to central points for vaccination but where owners (especially the elderly) were not able to do this then the team went to their homes to undertake the rabies vaccination, health and welfare checks.



272 donkeys were vaccinated in different villages in five days.

Working Regimes

The state of the economy also affects working donkeys. We see the dynamic changes in communities – as people lose jobs or the youth cannot find employment many of them turn to work with donkeys. Over 90% of people interviewed are unemployed and rely on the income generated from working donkeys to support their families. This trend is problematic on different levels – for example, some of the people using donkeys now do not have the background, skills or empathy compared to youth from a village whose family has always used donkeys. In these young men we see drug abuse, domestic violence and life dissatisfaction – often taken out on the donkey and for these problems, there is no easy solution.

Building supplies are ever in demand as the need for housing increases and the price of fuel is ever increasing. More donkey carts are being used commercially to meet these needs. But commercially working donkeys require a higher level of care and nutrition which is seldom provided.

Our education, training and law enforcement strategies have had to meet these challenges and some improvements are seen – owners buying more donkeys so that their existing donkeys will not be overworked, rest periods and off days and an increase in the purchase of supplementary feed. In some areas bales of grass are now sold on the roadside to make them easily accessible to owners who buy them on the way home at night.

Youth

We have reached many young people through the project in schools, small groups and youth clubs.



Across all areas, we have found the youth to be the most responsive to change and the most reliable in trying to improve the welfare of their donkeys through tasks within their capabilities – handling, grooming, watering, hitching and primary health care.

And of course it is not just donkeys, but all animals, that have benefited from this education. Inspector Matome is a good role model for the youth and many children ask how they can become like him when they grow up!



TRAINING

The training and sensitisation of Field Officers and Inspectors are also important aspects of empowering as many people as possible to improve the welfare of donkeys throughout the country.



Our training of diploma and degree students (Animal Health Technicians) at the North West University was successfully completed. Again the section of the course on working donkeys was very successful. The students enjoyed the practical day in which they learned how to humanely handle donkeys, recognise basic behaviour, how to make harnessing and provide primary health care.

The feedback received from delegates was positive with the following notable comments being made:

"I have learned that prosecution is real and you can end up in jail due to cruelty to animals";

"animals lives matter just like that of human beings";

"Community working together against crime ensures the wellbeing of animals".



We are hopeful that these students will improve donkey welfare in their future work environments

EDUCATION FIRST

When dealing with working donkeys education and skills empowerment are key factors in our project. However, where animals have been neglected or harmed warnings are issued and problems are rectified. The law applies to everyone and each year we have some cases where animals have been deliberately abused and the perpetrators are prosecuted. We currently have three prosecution cases in court and although we strive to improve the lives of donkeys through education we will take the necessary action in terms of the Animals Protection Act and will continue to seek justice for any animal cruelly treated.

DONKEY SKIN TRADE RESEARCH

We assisted a researcher from Prague who is investigating the socio-economic impact of the donkey skin trade. As part of her investigation, she accompanied the team to affected villages in the North West Province. She had the opportunity of interviewing community members and seeing for herself first-hand the impact of the loss of donkeys. Her preliminary report has indicated the value and importance of donkeys to communities and the negative effects the donkey skin trade may have on the welfare of the communities. This research may help in our global effort to help governments understand the importance of protecting donkeys.

THE DONKEY SANCTUARY UK

The substantial financial support of The Donkey Sanctuary over the past five years has contributed hugely in helping the Donkey Upliftment Project gain momentum and reach so many desperate donkeys. We acknowledge, with the deepest gratitude, the valued support of this committed team of donkey welfarists.



**THE DONKEY
SANCTUARY**

With sincere appreciation to the Donkey Sanctuary UK for their support and guidance and for making this possible



National Council
of SPCAs

Training Unit

Training for a kinder world is achieved by providing both internal and external courses to ensure that the welfare message and best practice protocols are shared far and wide to benefit animals.



EXTERNAL TRAINING

It is the responsibility of our Training Unit to present courses in a professional, user-friendly manner which will benefit all who attend.

The Training Unit offers appropriate training packages to stakeholders in the different fields of operation. Training of service providers assists in equipping officials to better understand and address animal welfare concerns in their varied work environments.

OIE and Twinning Programme

In 2018 the National Council of SPCAs participated in the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Animal Welfare Training Programme facilitated by the University of Pretoria and the Teramo University Italy. We were invited to attend the final report back workshop and to give a presentation to the stakeholders.

This was successfully completed. Notably, the National Council of SPCAs was the only animal welfare organisation to be invited to present at the workshop.

Abattoir and Feedlot Training

We were approached by Karan Beef, a very large beef producing company, requesting training on animal welfare for key personnel in their operations. Training material and presentations were completed and presented successfully to benefit animals.

North West University Lectures

In November a very successful four-day training course was again presented to Animal Health Technicians at the North West University. The course has expanded to four days, two of which are practical days and are popular.



Lectures presented covered domestic animals, working donkeys and farm animal welfare. During the lectures, a number of possible candidates were identified who we thought may be suitable as Trainee Inspectors and we promoted this during the lectures. Following their completing their studies at the end of 2018 a number of Animal Health Technicians approached us for employment. Some of them are positioned in the Free State and North West and were referred to local SPCAs.

INTERNAL TRAINING

Training is offered internally to SPCAs around the country (Inspectors, Inspectors Refresher, Senior Inspectors, Committees and Field Officers). It is essential, particularly in the case of new Inspectors, that a sound and thorough knowledge of the law and legal procedures is imparted.

The lecturers are all specialists in their fields and are thus able to answer questions and allow candidates an insight into a variety of subjects and provide for a valuable learning experience.

It is the Training Unit's aim to provide our trainees with the necessary skills to enable them to function effectively, and with confidence, to the benefit of the animals we serve.

SPCA Committee Training

6-7 October 2018 KwaZulu Natal

18 delegates attended – Amanzimtoti (3) Durban (2); Empangeni (1); Kloof & Highway (3); Kokstad (2); Lower South Coast (2); Mooi River (3) Pietermaritzburg (1)

16-17 March 2019 Mpumalanga

17 delegates attended – Barberton (5) Bethal (2); Middelburg (1); Nelspruit (5); White River (4)

22-23 June 2019 Gauteng

18 delegates attended – Vereeniging (2) Benoni (2); Middelburg (1); Kempton Park (2); Germiston (1); Springs (2); Carletonville (2); Alberton (2); Randburg (1); RandWest (1); Boksburg (1); Newcastle (1); Johannesburg (1)

20-21 July 2019 Western Cape

19 delegates attended – Winelands (4) Paarl (4); Swellendam (2); Kimberly (2); Beaufort West (2); Cape of Good Hope (2); Swartland (1); Wellington (2)

17-18 August 2019 Eastern Cape

17 delegates attended – Uitenhage (2); King William's Town (2); Mthatha (2); Port Alfred (2); Grahamstown (1); East London (3); Queenstown (2); Assisi (2); Director (1)

Inspector Refresher Training Course

The course organised for November 2018 was postponed due to Fire Disaster Response. A number of Inspectors in the affected area, who were due to attend the course had been called out to provide emergency assistance. The course was rescheduled and took place from 28 January to 8 February 2019.

14 delegates attended and 1 Observer – Gauteng (4); Eastern Cape (3); KwaZulu Natal (4); Western Cape (3).

The course, which focused largely on legislation and application, and practical sessions on court cases and dockets was very successful and meaningful to the delegates. The course was attended by some of the movement's long-standing Inspectors and their encouraging responses were welcomed since it is important to keep these experienced Inspectors in the movement.



Inspectors Training Course

4 to 15 March 2019

10 delegates attended – Gauteng (7); Mpumalanga (1); KwaZulu Natal (1); North West (1)

Empowering new Inspectors is an important component of the National Council of SPCAs' training objective.



19 to 30 August 2019

16 delegates attended and 1 Observer – Gauteng (8); Mpumalanga (1); KwaZulu-Natal (4); Western Cape (2); Limpopo (1).

This was the last Inspectors course for the year and we took extra delegates as we are mindful of how desperate Societies are to qualify inspectors.

Field Officers Course

8 to 12 April 2019

13 delegates attended – Gauteng (1); Eastern Cape (3); KwaZulu Natal (4); Western Cape (3); Limpopo (1)



As always, the Field Officers Course was positively received and the delegates were enthusiastic and grateful for the opportunity to expand their knowledge and receive recognition for their work.

Senior Inspectors Course

22 July to 2 Aug 2019

11 delegates attended – Gauteng (7); Free State (1); KwaZulu-Natal (1); Western Cape (1); Limpopo (1).



We were very pleased to have enough delegates this year that we could present a Senior Inspectors Course. Attending and passing this course is an important part of personal growth for inspectors as well as of great value to societies. We hope to be issuing a number of senior certificates this year.

NATIONAL COURT CASE DATABASE

The national court case database, which forms part of the history of the SPCA movement and legal achievements, is regularly updated and growing.

NSPCA OPERATIONS MANUAL

We have started the revision of the operations manual, reviewing and standardising new material from the various Units as well as compiling new material. This is a living and evolving manual and it is therefore vitally important that it continues to grow as a resource for all of our members.

GUIDES

Pitbull Guide

We are very pleased to have finally completed this guide which has been printed. The guide, to assist inspectors with undertaking Pitbull terrier inspections, is the first of its kind in Africa. The massive amount of information and photographs are based on the work of the National Council of SPCAs and cases and investigations that have been completed.

Mini Animals Protection Act

This very helpful pocket guide to the Animals Protection Act 71 of 1962 has been completed and distributed to Inspectors and Field Officers based at SPCAs around the country.

FIREWORKS

The Cape Animal Welfare Forum has been working to have big bang fireworks banned. A previous attempt at having this accepted in Parliament was unsuccessful because the Hindu Community, who celebrate Diwali by firing fireworks, had not been consulted. The Forum approached the National Council of SPCAs to work with them to achieve this goal. We compiled a report on the effects of fireworks and accompanied a representative of the Forum and Member of Parliament to a successful meeting in KwaZulu Natal with Ashwin Trikamajee of the Hindu Maha Sabha.

2019 SAVA VETERINARY AND PARAVETERINARY CONGRESS

The South African Veterinary Association (SAVA) held their 10th Veterinary and Paraveterinary Congress from 16 to 18 July 2019, bringing together hundreds of professionals to achieve collaboration in improving the health and welfare of humans, animals, and the environment.

Representatives from the National Council of SPCAs attended the SAVA Congress with three staff members presenting on important subjects impacting on animals.

Erika Bornman explored the topic – “What is the current state of research ethics and the use of animals for scientific purposes in South Africa?”

Karen Trendler addressed congress delegates on the brutal trade of wildlife trafficking.

Wendy Willson presented on organised dogfighting in South Africa addressing the connection between violence to animals and violence to humans and the importance of prosecuting animal cruelty.



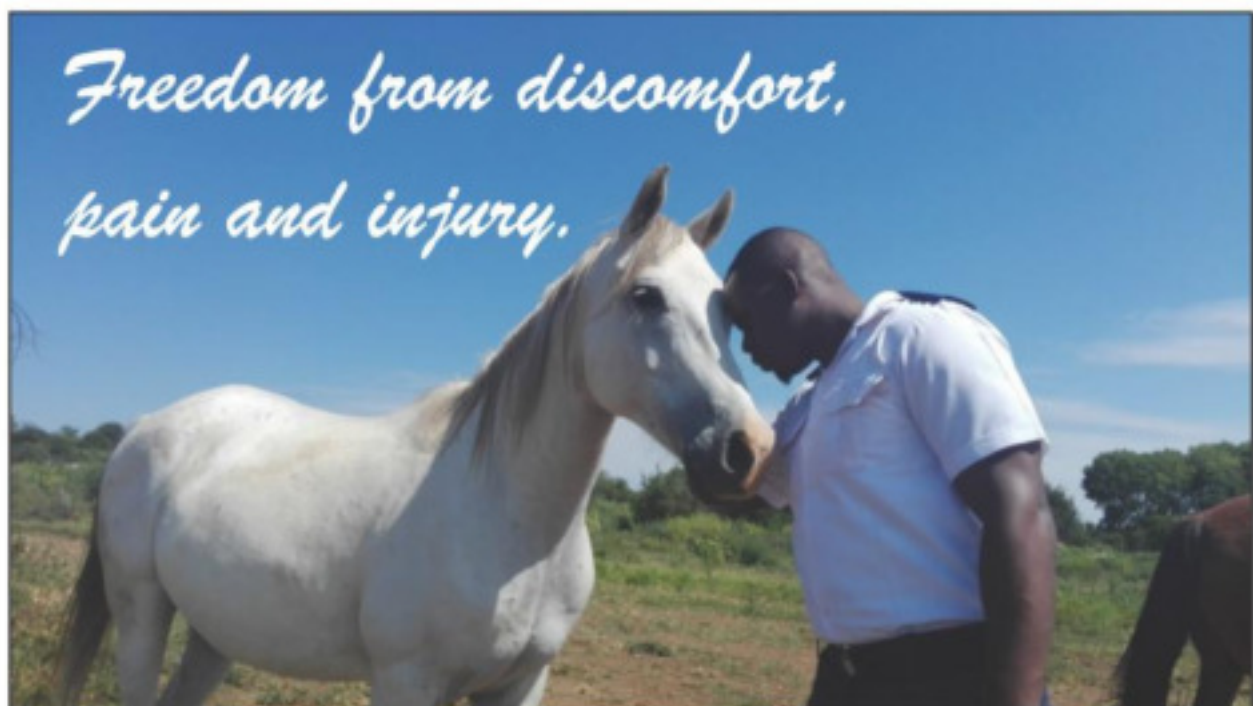
Dr B Marock (Consulting Veterinarian), M James (Training), W Willson (Special Investigations), K Trendler (Wildlife Trade and Trafficking), E Kotzé (Deputy CEO) and E Bornman (Animal Ethics)



National Council
of SPCAs

Special Projects Unit

Since ALL animals deserve protection, those animal welfare concerns that do not fall within the ambit of our other operational units are addressed by the Special Projects Unit. The issues include animal racing, service animals and the movement of animals across our borders.



ANIMAL RACING

The National Council of SPCAs is opposed to all forms of animal racing.

Horse Racing

The National Council of SPCAs laid criminal charges in terms of the Animals Protection Act No 71 of 1962 after being alerted to an incident involving a thoroughbred racehorse that was cruelly treated during a race at the Turfontein Race Course.

In January 2019, a young female racehorse named Words was shot on the track after breaking her leg and had to be euthanased. It was later established that there had been a highly controversial piece of equipment attached to Words' tongue. The practice is commonly known as "tongue tying". Tongue tying involves winding a nylon, rubber, or leather strap around the horse's tongue and lower jaw supposedly to prevent the horse from putting the tongue over the

bit, and to avoid respiratory issues. Studies regarding its benefits are inconclusive but the stress and suffering are certain. This was particularly prominent in the case of the horse, Words.

The use of this equipment has recently been banned in Germany. The Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI), an organisation recognised by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) as an international equestrian body, similarly banned this cruel device.

Following an investigation conducted by the National Council of SPCAs, a docket was compiled and charges were laid against the trainer, jockey, owners, and several National Horseracing Authority officials.

The horse racing industry was urged to ban this practice immediately.

Endurance Racing

Five Endurance Races were attended during the period under review. A total of 19 days were spent at these multiple day events. Inspectors monitor all aspects of the race, ensuring that the welfare of the horses is a primary concern for riders and organisers.

It is noteworthy that the number of competitors in the Fauresmith 200 has decreased from 401 to 307 in three years. This due to the involvement of the National Council of SPCAs and the introduction of stricter qualification standards. Over the four years preceding our involvement, the event was growing by approximately 25% per year. We see this as significant, as close to a hundred horses did not suffer unnecessarily in 2019.

Pigeon Racing

The Special Projects Unit started 2019 by conducting inspections at the South African Million Dollar Pigeon Race lofts in Sasolburg, Gauteng in preparation for the race which took place on 2 February 2019.



The South African Million Dollar Pigeon Race is the richest one-loft race in the world and pits birds from various countries against each other for a share of the prize money. Birds from across the world are air-freighted to South Africa as squabs, months before the race, and trained to orient themselves to a single loft. On the final day of the race, thousands of pigeons are released and have to fly back to the homing loft at the same destination.

On 29 January 2019, the Unit was present during the basketing and tagging of the pigeons for the race. The Unit Manager/Inspector ensured that the pigeons were handled humanely, had sufficient ventilation in the baskets, that no overcrowding took place and that the pigeons had access to food and water during the day as well as when they were loaded on the truck for departure the next morning.

Staff from the National Council of SPCAs were also present when the pigeons were liberated in Colesburg on 2 February 2019. A total number of 2,531 pigeons were liberated to fly a distance of 521km back to the loft in Sasolburg in the Free State. Before the end of the day, 335 pigeons had returned and two weeks later the number had increased to 1,345 pigeons – a 53% return rate. At the end of May 2019, a total of 1,387 pigeons are recorded to have returned which

leaves 45% or 1,144 pigeons unaccounted for. The 1,387 pigeons that returned were sold on auction to any willing buyer, given away to upcoming fanciers or just discarded for not winning.

NEGLECTED GREYHOUNDS

In April 2019 Inspectors from the Special Projects Unit obtained a warrant after receiving a complaint regarding underweight Greyhounds living in shocking conditions. The inspectors arrived at the property in Mafikeng to find 43 Greyhounds confined in horrendous enclosures without access to water.



The dogs were forced to live in enclosures that were dirty and parasitic. Some of the dogs were underweight, whilst others had old wounds that were left untreated and had become infected. It was noted that a number of dogs had untreated broken bones that had healed abnormally. Puppies were suffering from Parvovirus, a highly infectious intestinal disease, and all the dogs were infested with internal and external parasites. One of the dogs had an untreated broken jaw.

20 of the dogs were removed due to their poor condition, and a warning was issued for the remaining dogs.

Inspectors were informed by members of the public that the owner of these dogs allegedly rents them out for the purposes of hunting wild animals, although the owner denies this, claiming that he owns and breeds these dogs for the love of the animals.

The National Council of SPCAs has laid charges against the owner and will continue to embark on follow up inspections to ensure that the conditions drastically improve and remain acceptable, failing which, further action will be taken.

SERVICE ANIMALS

The National Council of SPCAs recognises the importance of working animals and the value of their services and therefore does not stand opposed to working animals, subject to welfare standards being met.

These welfare standards cover the provision of safe and suitable facilities and handling by trained personnel; appropriate rest and off duty periods, equipment, training methods, nutrition and health, appropriate transport as well as rehoming and retirement.

Inspectors monitor the welfare standards of dogs and horses used in the private security industry as well as detector dogs utilised by SARS Custom and Excise and the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. Inspections are also undertaken at South African National Defence Force bases and South African Police Service K9 and Mounted Units where service dogs and horses are used.



The Special Projects Unit also monitors Airports Company SA runway dogs at OR Tambo International Airport. Border Collies and English Springer Spaniels are used to chase birds off the airport grounds and runways to prevent bird strikes.

Since 2017, the Special Projects Unit has been working with the Private Security Industry Regulatory Authority (PSIRA) to compile Regulations for working dogs and horses. We were invited to the consultation process for the Draft Regulations relating to working animals and were given the opportunity to submit written submissions on the draft regulations. The Unit has compiled comments and these have been submitted.

The Unit has a longstanding good relationship with PSIRA, which has empowered us to work together and fight security companies that contravene the Animals Protection Act and Private Security Industry Regulation Act on both fronts.

Inspections

Facility	Number of Inspections
Private Security Companies	13
South African Police Services K9 Units	24
South African Police Services Mounted Units	7
SARS Customs and Excise	4
Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Detection Dog Units	2
Correctional Services	6

MOVEMENT OF ANIMALS

Trade and movement of animals are not illegal but the National Council of SPCAs continually expresses its concern about the standards of care in the movement of animals both within our own country and across our borders. We work extensively to ensure that animals are handled humanely and with compassion.

The Special Projects Unit continues to work at borders across South Africa. Complaint and proactive inspections are conducted by both

the Special Projects Unit and Farm Animal Protection Unit Inspectors.

The Unit has conducted 18 Border operations at ten different borders posts and attended several meetings at the ports to improve welfare and working relations.

Over 3,000 cattle, 116 goats, 50 pigs, 7 dogs and 16 horses were inspected going through the Ramatlabana border. This border is one of the busiest commercial carrier lines for the import of cattle coming from Namibia through Botswana into South Africa.

There has been a significant improvement of working relations between stakeholders and the National Council of SPCAs at this border post. The regular presence of our Inspectors assists stakeholders such as Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and SARS to be more aware of animal shipments and report any welfare concerns they encounter directly to the Special Projects Unit.

The Unit conducted 38 airport inspections at seven different airports and during these inspections visited 419 cargo companies. 16,252 animals arriving and departing from these warehouses were observed. Animal species included day-old chicks, pigeons, exotic bird species, dogs, cats, rats, mice, livestock, horses, wild animals and aquatic species such as fish, crayfish, crabs and abalone.

Transportation of live animals by air must be undertaken in accordance with the International Air Transport Association (IATA) Regulations, including relevant legislation regulations and codes of practice.

PIGEON SHOOTING, GARA RUFA FISH USED IN SPAS, DOGS IN SPORT

The Special Projects Unit continues to deal with complaints relating to pigeon shooting, Gara Rufa Fish used in Spas and dogs used in sport. To resolve many of these complaints we have called upon local SPCAs for assistance

PROBLEM ANIMAL DETERRENTS

While the National Council of SPCAs acknowledges that under certain circumstances, pest control and/or extermination may be required, only the use of humane methods is supported. Methods of pest management that cause suffering, pain, or distress to any animal are opposed by the National Council of SPCAs.

30 complaints were investigated during the period under review and the Unit dealt with various pest control companies advising those using inhumane methods to consider the most humane methods available. Letters were issued to supermarkets selling glue traps informing them of the extent of cruelty the animals caught are subjected to and requesting that trade of such traps be ceased. The Unit has had great success in this regard.

Documents relating to humane deterrent methods for bees, Rock Hyrax and primates were compiled by the Unit during the period under review.



National Council
of SPCAs

Animal Ethics Unit

The Animal Ethics Unit is committed to ensuring the most humane treatment possible for animals used for scientific purposes.



PRIORITISING THE WELLBEING OF ANIMALS

The National Council of SPCAs supports the development of the four Rs guiding principles; namely replacement, reduction, refinement and responsibility when using animals for scientific purposes.

We regard as an advance, any technique that will completely replace the use of animals, reduce the number of animals used and the refinement of scientific techniques to reduce suffering.

ANIMAL ETHICS COMMITTEES

The Animal Ethics Unit represents the National Council of SPCAs as the Category C (welfare representative) member on 46 Animal Ethics Committees nationally. Not only does the Unit attend meetings in order to review protocols, but we also advise on procedural matters such as administration, communication and responsibilities of Ethics Committees that need to be aligned with the South African National Standard 10386: *The Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes*.

A total of 196 Animal Ethics Meetings were attended during the period under review.

RESEARCH APPLICATIONS AND PROTOCOLS REVIEWED

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 ensuring ethical science and good animal welfare through our processes. In addition to research applications, researchers submit morbidity and mortality reports, progress reports and correspondence, all of which need to be reviewed by the Unit in order to remain up to date with the status of the animals in the research units and updates on active protocols. The Unit regularly consults with our other units at the NSPCA to assist us in giving the correct and most recent updates when advice is provided on protocols.

We reviewed a total of 1,869 protocols during the year, a process which represented 1,327 hours of work.

INSPECTIONS

Inspections are conducted in accordance with SANS 10386: *The Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes* and the Animals Protection Act 71 of 1962. Inspections include, but are not limited to, housing, husbandry, handling and the health status of the animals at research animal facilities. Not only does the Unit conduct routine inspections, but we also do follow-up, pre- and post-approval, animal ethics committee inspections and complaints.

The Unit carried out 93 inspections during the reporting period.

The Unit issued seven warnings and notices, 70 corrective-action letters and one letter of non-compliance during the period under review.

POSITIVE OUTCOMES

The 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, in many instances, animals would have suffered were it not for our intervention. Some of the most pertinent examples are as follows:

- Animal research facilities are no longer using CO₂ as the sole means of euthanasia. This was a long process but all facilities have converted to more humane methods as a result of our intervention.
- With the revision of University policies, wild-caught baboons are no longer permitted to be used for research.
- Important information on housing requirements, close monitoring and environmental enrichment would not have been provided if we did not query these aspects during the protocol review process.
- Our intervention resulted in facilities being shut down until they are up to standard. Our requirement letters support requests to institutions for funds to upgrade their facilities.
- A number of researchers were reprimanded for their lack of animal monitoring. Their research was placed on hold until we completed a full audit. Some of the research will not be publishable.

SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL STANDARD

Since 2013, the Unit has been involved in the review process of SANS 10386:2008: *The Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes*. This has been a lengthy and ongoing process. The document has been distributed for public comments by the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS). Working groups included stakeholders from various animal research institutions, private industries, animal welfare organisations, state entities as well as animal rights groups. The document is currently at the SABS editors and is to be distributed for the second round of public comments before it can be published. The estimated date of publication is March 2020.

REGISTRATION OF ACT 36 PRODUCTS

The Fertilizer, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedy Act, 1947 (Act No. 36 of 1947) of the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries published new regulations after consultation with the Registrar of Act 36. The new regulations require all Veterinary Pharmaceutical products that fall under Act 36 to undergo animal ethics approval prior to being submitted to

the Registrar. This process was not regulated by legislation in the past and we welcome the promulgation of these regulations.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

In July 2019, the Unit represented South Africa in Tasmania for the annual Australian and New Zealand Council for the Care and Use of Animals for Research and Teaching (ANZCCART) Conference. Since the South African National Standards are based on the Australian Code for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes, we see an ongoing need to compare the state of animal ethics in South Africa to that of other countries. The Conference was attended by 27 Universities within New Zealand and Australia. It became clear during conversations at ANZCCART that South African ethics committees face similar concerns as committees in these two countries. There is also a drive for more public transparency concerning animals used for scientific purposes. In conclusion, we can confidently say that the ethics of animal-based research in South Africa compares favourably to those in Australia and New Zealand, and in some instances are in a better state. The welfare representation on ethics committees is varied and inconsistent within the Universities, whereas we have a consistent and educated representation.

DISSECTIONS

The Unit is continuously striving to promote alternatives to the use of animals in research and teaching activities. School dissections being one of our concerns, we approached the Gauteng Department of Education (DOE) to establish the scope of the use of animals in teaching activities and to promote the use of alternatives instead. The Curriculum Assessment Policy Statements (CAPS) does not require any dissections by learners. Dissections are performed solely at the discretion of teachers, which poses animal welfare concerns. Another major concern is the fact that animal carcasses are supplied to workers and scholars for consumption after dissections have been completed. Not only is this practice unethical but there are also major biosecurity risks involved and may impact on human health.



In agricultural schools animals are used as part of education and training. The Unit took action by requesting the DOE to issue an instruction to all schools to reconsider doing

dissections. Going forward, we will conduct inspections together with the DOE at agricultural schools to ensure the welfare of the animals and we will educate the Life Science Subject Advisors on legislation and animal welfare issues. The educational process commenced at a regional meeting of Subject Advisors in July this year.

With this newly-discovered information, we continue to strive towards improving the welfare of animals used for teaching purposes in schools by finding and advising on the latest teaching and educational trends such as virtual realities and apps.



National Council
of SPCAs

Wildlife Trade and Trafficking

South Africa continues to be a hotspot for trafficking and legal trade with an increase in the export of live animals and wildlife products. Significant welfare issues at all levels of the trade chain (illicit and legal) continue to be of concern.



OVERVIEW

Whilst the initial drive for the establishment of this specialised portfolio was the growing global wildlife crime challenge, the legal and illegal trade of wildlife and wildlife parts in South Africa is growing exponentially. The aggressive, highly commercialised wildlife industry supported by the government's sustainable use policy, combined with the lack of regulation and legislative failings with regard to welfare of wildlife, stirred by demand for reduced controls by the wildlife industry, the welfare of wildlife at all levels of the South African trade chain has increased in urgency.

The National Council of SPCAs continues to work as part of the Species Survival Network, interacting with the relevant working groups, including Elephant, Predators and Rhino; and locally with the African Pangolin Working Group.

The Southern African Development Community grouping is pushing for ivory and rhino horn trade, and for reduced controls on the export of live CITES-listed species. This is a massive welfare concern for the National Council of SPCAs, given that South Africa is one of the largest exporters of wildlife and wildlife parts.

The 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES CoP18), planned for May/June 2019 in Sri Lanka, was postponed due to a terrorist attack. CITES CoP18 subsequently took place in Geneva, Switzerland from 17 to 28 August 2019.

CITES is primarily a trade regulatory organisation. Whilst there have been some moves recently to touch on welfare, it largely avoids welfare issues. There is strong criticism of CITES from all sides with one of the complaints from trade proponents being that the Animal Rights groups have too much influence.

The National Council of SPCAs compiled a carefully researched report on the inseparable nature of welfare and conservation. We believe that by including more welfare considerations and by practising compassionate conservation, a more balanced approach can be achieved. The report was submitted to relevant CITES groups and associates.

With the live elephant and the ivory trade as hot and contentious topics at the CITES CoP18 meeting in Geneva, the National Council of SPCAs has continued to participate in the Species Survival Network Elephant Working Group in opposing the international live trade in elephant and for the upkeep of the ban on ivory trade. We are pleased to report that a two-thirds majority vote was obtained at CITES opposing and limiting the trade in live elephant outside their natural range. This will essentially stop the export of elephant to zoos, and, closer to home, the export of elephant calves from Zimbabwe to China.

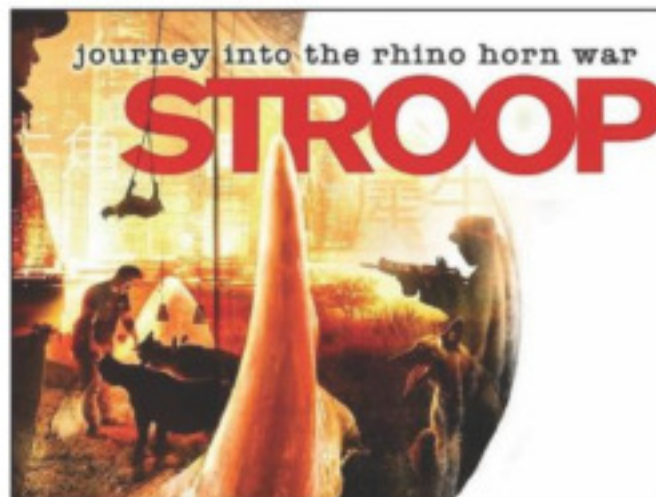
RHINO POACHING AND EXPORT

Rhino poaching continues unabated with little media attention and ongoing cruelty and losses. Rhinos continue to be poached in South Africa at a rate two to three per day with increasing violence and armed exchanges between rangers and poachers, and fatalities on both sides.

The increasing export of live rhino from South Africa to Asian countries for farming and horn harvesting is a major concern. Asian countries like China and Vietnam lack welfare legislation and captive conditions are poor.

Rhino farming for horn harvesting is becoming increasingly well established in the absence of regulations and guidelines for farming rhino or dehorning. The Wildlife Trade and Trafficking portfolio manager has been corresponding and coordinating efforts to determine and push for the development of regulations/guidelines. A frustrating lack of response and activity has been shown by the Department of Environmental Affairs, the Department of Agriculture, rhino owners and the veterinary fraternity.

The National Council of SPCAs continues to push for, and where necessary facilitate, the development of regulations and guidelines to protect the welfare of rhino.



The award-winning South African documentary, STROOP - Journey into the Rhino Horn War, uncovers the saga relating to rhino poaching and international trafficking at home and abroad.

Release of the documentary has also raised awareness of the National Council of SPCAs and the role it plays in protecting wildlife.

NORMS AND STANDARDS – ELEPHANTS

The National Council of SPCAs reviewed and supplied extensive comment on the Revised Norms and Standards for the Management of Elephant in South Africa, following the publication of the document in November 2018 for public comment.

The National Council of SPCAs is concerned that the revised Norms and Standards weaken welfare protection for captive elephant and may facilitate the capture, and even export, of wild-caught elephant. These grave concerns were raised in the written comment submitted by the National Council of SPCAs to the Department of Environmental Affairs.

Two NSPCA representatives participated in a workshop on the development of a National Strategy for the Management of Elephant in South Africa – an important strategy that will guide and assist in implementing the Norms and Standards for the Management of Elephant amendments, the formal Gazetting of which is still pending.





National Council
of SPCAs

Wildlife Protection Unit

The Wildlife Protection Unit actively participates in national and provincial forums to bring about change in respect of wild animals utilised by the wildlife industry in South Africa. Pro-active inspections and investigations afford the opportunity to change mindsets, improve captive conditions and, where necessary, take legal recourse.



ELEPHANTS DOOMED TO IMPRISONMENT

Following the death, from colic related complications, of an elephant bull at the Johannesburg Zoo, the zoo announced its intention to obtain a second elephant.

The National Council of SPCAs has actively served on the Johannesburg Zoo's Animal Ethics and Scientific Committee (AESC) for a number of years as the Purpose and Terms of Reference of the AESC included the ethical review process to regulate the welfare of all animals. The National Council of SPCAs was, however, not included in discussions or in any way involved with the decision making process regarding the fate of the remaining lone elephant, Lammie, nor were we kept informed of the decisions made. This

despite repeated offers of assistance and requests for clear answers on the zoo's envisaged way forward.

The National Council of SPCAs subsequently resigned from the AESC since the Johannesburg Zoo had failed to include the National Council of SPCAs in discussions or decisions on this critical, controversial issue which held both welfare and ethical implications. The National Council of SPCAs is of the opinion that the organisation was used as window dressing in the zoo's public relations exploits regarding Lammie.

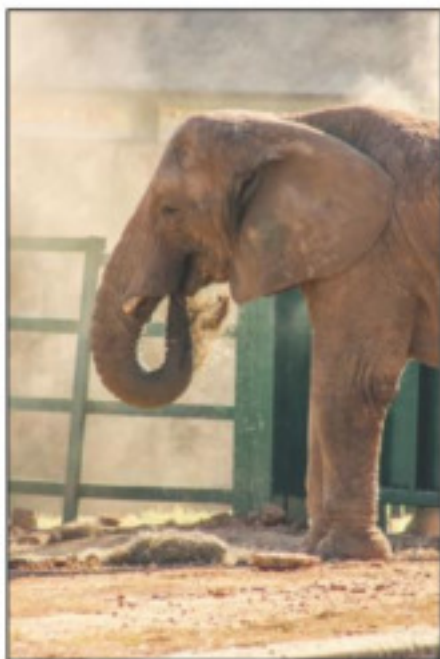
National Council of SPCAs strongly opposed the acquisition of a second elephant and addressed legal communications to the Johannesburg Zoo in this regard.

Official enquiries were also raised with the permitting authorities of the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (GDARD) regarding permit applications for the acquisition of an additional elephant for the Johannesburg Zoo. The National Council of SPCAs was advised to apply for information via the Promotion of Access to Information Act (PAIA) and was informed in the late afternoon of 12 June 2019 that the Johannesburg Zoo had applied for permits to import elephants.

Opposition from the National Council of SPCAs fell on deaf ears when, on the morning of 13 June 2019, it was discovered that two elephants had already been relocated to the Johannesburg Zoo.

In spite of wide-scale opposition to and every reasonable approach and a concerted effort by the National Council of SPCAs to persuade the zoo to release Lammie to a sanctuary and not to acquire more elephants, the Johannesburg Zoo had purchased two more elephants from a semi-captive facility in the Eastern Cape.

The two additional elephants now held in the Johannesburg Zoo have joined life-long captive Lammie in her unsuitable enclosure. They face shared futures in a captive situation not conducive to their welfare and needs.



The National Council of SPCAs is angered that the Johannesburg Zoo and the permitting authority, GDARD, acted without transparency. Their irresponsible actions have deprived these elephants of good lives in a natural environment.

The National Council of SPCAs has conducted a number of inspections and spent time observing the elephant and is concerned about the condition and welfare of all three elephants. A horrific World Elephant Day event at the Johannesburg Zoo saw the elephant forced to perform 'circus' like tricks and displaying stress and fear behaviours as loud music blared and crowds screamed. In response to the National Council of SPCAs' opposition to this, the Johannesburg Zoo threatened to sue. The National Council of SPCAs will not be deterred by threats and remains

committed to ensuring the current welfare of the elephant and securing the release of all three elephants to a sanctuary. The National Council of SPCAs is seeking legal advice on this matter.

STILL NO JUSTICE FOR ABUSED ELEPHANTS

In May 2014, the National Council of SPCAs laid criminal charges in terms of the Animals Protection Act 71 of 1962 after receiving horrific footage depicting the cruel and abusive training of young elephants.



The footage had been taken on the premises of Elephants of Eden (associated with the Knysna Elephant Park) situated in the Eastern Cape. The property was defined as a safe haven for elephants. The elephants showed signs of crippling injuries with severely swollen legs and feet, debilitating abscesses and wounds resulting from the abusive use of ropes, chains, and bullhooks. The calculated and premeditated acts of cruelty of this nature that took place at this facility is a far cry from the loving sanctuary image that Elephants of Eden/Knysna Elephant Park like to portray.

Multiple postponements over the past years have been seen as the defendants using every effort to avoid the legal processes. The case has been further delayed until the end of October 2019.

A CASE OF CRUELTY TO JUVENILE BABOON WITHDRAWN BY THE STATE

The National Council of SPCAs is extremely disappointed with the decision made by the Senior Public Prosecutor of the Laingsburg Magistrates Court to withdraw a case of blatant cruelty.

In August 2018 the National Council of SPCAs received video footage showing a dog being encouraged and incited to attack a wild juvenile baboon whilst locked in a cage together. The matter was investigated and charges were laid in terms of the Animals Protection Act No 71 of 1962.

On 25 April 2019, the National Council of SPCAs was informed that the matter had been withdrawn due to a lack of witnesses even though an employee of the accused had submitted an affidavit to validate the video footage.

We were terribly disappointed by this decision. The video footage is not only heartbreaking, but the fact that a person can lock two

animals up together and incite the one to attack the other is shocking and appalling and something that our courts should take incredibly seriously.

The Director of Public Prosecutions has now deemed the case worthy of further investigation and referred the matter back to the prosecutor's office.

INSPECTIONS AND COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION

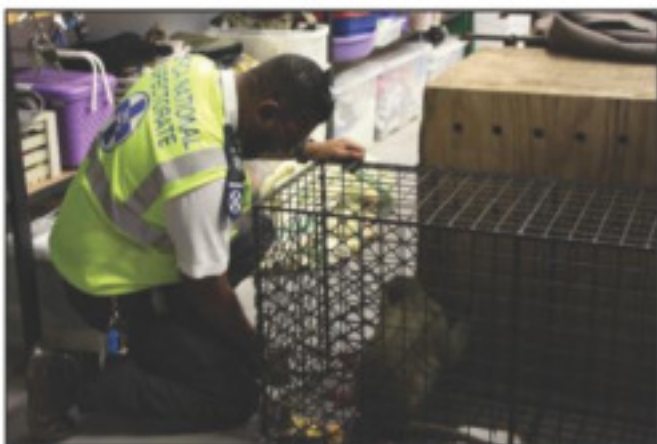
The Wildlife Protection Unit carried out 172 inspections which included; predator facilities, zoos, rehabilitation facilities, breeding farms, game reserves, pet shops, sanctuaries and various other facilities.

More than 50 Warnings were issued by the Unit for contraventions of the Animals Protection Act 71 of 1962. In total, 16 days were spent in court over the reporting period.

A large number of the complaints received fell outside our mandate and related to the legal and/or illegal selling or keeping of wild animals, or were investigations pertaining to both the Animals Protection Act 71 of 1962 and conservation legislation. Time and resources were spent forwarding complaints to the relevant authorities for investigation.

ANIMAL HOARDING

In December 2018 the Wildlife Protection Unit was approached by the Tarlton South African Police Services (SAPS) who advised that a man had been arrested and that assistance was required in respect of the various species of indigenous and exotic wild animals being held on the property.



Unit Inspectors immediately responded together with Roodepoort SPCA. Of the 113 animals observed on the premises, 23 were found to be indigenous wildlife and were signed over to the National Council of SPCAs. The living conditions of the remaining animals were filthy and where water was provided, this was dirty. A warning was issued for all cages and enclosures to be cleaned and for the provision of drinking water in clean bowls.

A week later when a follow-up inspection was conducted, it was noted that the warning had been ignored. This resulted in more

animals being seized from the property. A further warning was issued.

When nothing had changed by the second follow-up inspection in January 2019, all of the remaining animals were removed from the property.

The case remains in progress due to the forensics aspect regarding the owner having kept illegal arms and ammunition which form part of the investigation.

CIRCUS WITHDRAWS CASE AGAINST NATIONAL COUNCIL OF SPCAs

In 2016, Brian Boswell of the Boswell Circus brought a civil case against the National Council of SPCAs claiming a loss of income said to have been caused by the organisation speaking out against the circus' use of wild animals in performances and sued the organisation for R16 349 805.36 plus interest. Some three years later, Mr Boswell and the Circus have withdrawn the case against the National Council of SPCAs and have tendered the National Council of SPCAs' legal costs.

The National Council of SPCAs is opposed to the use of wild animals in circuses and travelling menageries and has voiced this opposition due to the unnatural conditions that wild animals are forced to live in. More than the unnatural confinement and extensive road trips, these animals are trained and forced to do circus acts. The training methods used are often inhumane.

Following the cancellation of shows and poor attendance in certain towns due to public outcry, Mr Boswell instituted legal action against the organisation, blaming the National Council of SPCAs for the cancellations and poor attendance, the alleged forced removal of wild animals from the circus performances and therefore causing a loss of income. The National Council of SPCAs defended the matter by filing legal papers and also called for financial documentation and further information from Mr Boswell, who was required to prove the loss of income. Mr Boswell withdrew the case and will be paying the NSPCA's legal costs.

The National Council of SPCAs will continue to defend those animals that are forced to live unnatural lives. The public is urged not to support any show or facility where wild animals are compromised in any way.

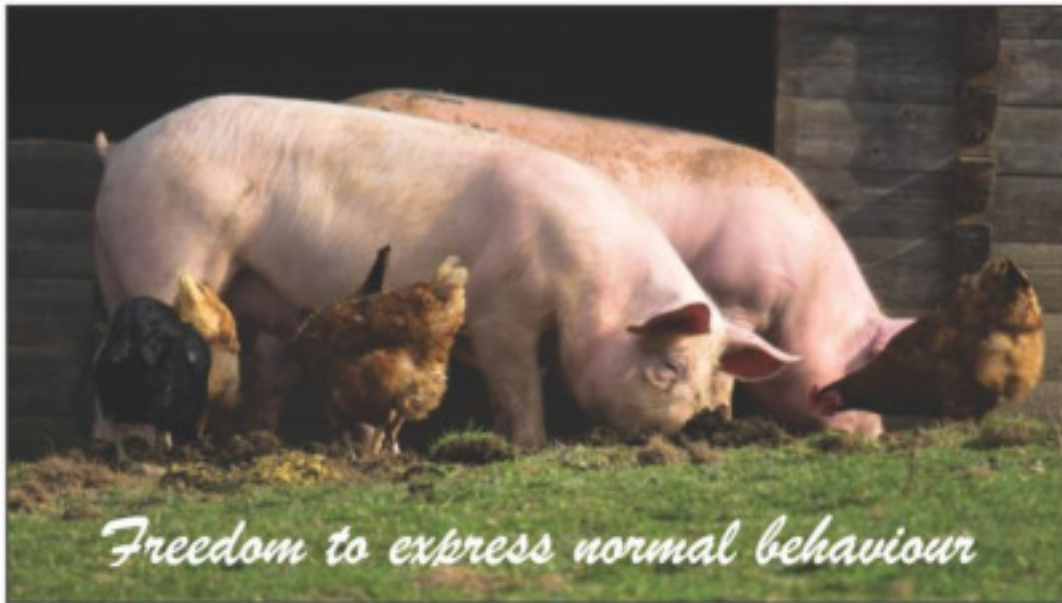




National Council
of SPCAs

Farm Animal Protection Unit

The Unit's activities include physical inspections of farming premises, interacting with the Department of Agriculture and the farming industry, and developing National Standards to benefit farm animals through the South African Bureau of Standards.



Freedom to express normal behaviour

GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Farm Animal Protection Unit Inspectors operate nationally and undertake inspections of facilities where farm animals are reared, housed, handled, transported and slaughtered.

A total of 559 inspections and investigations were conducted nationally during the period under review and all complaints were fully investigated.

Various contraventions of the Animals Protection Act were found at abattoirs, feedlots, poultry farms, hawkers, sale yards, dairy farms, pounds, pig farms, correctional facilities, rabbit farms, crocodile farms and agricultural farms to name a few. Warrants were obtained by the Unit for various facilities.

Six new cases were registered with the South African Police Services and two pending cases were successfully prosecuted.

The Farm Animal Protection Unit has a further 32 cases pending finalisation through the legal system.

PROSECUTION CASES

Mulesing Case

In March 2013, the National Council of SPCAs responded to a sheep complaint at farm Kleinbosheuwel in Heidelberg area, Western Cape. It was discovered that the owner had been using a husbandry practice known as the Mules Operation or Mulesing. This extremely barbaric and cruel practice involves the removal of the folds of skin around the tail and rump area of sheep. During this procedure, there is no anaesthetic or post-operative pain control administered. Essentially the skin and tail are cut and pulled off the body of the animal using sheep shears or a knife.

Mulesing is not an industry-accepted practice in South Africa and charges in terms of the Animals Protection Act No. 71 of 1962 were laid against the owner of the farm, Mr Pieter Gildenhuys.

The case was finally concluded in May 2019 when Mr Gildenhuys was found guilty and sentenced to a fine of R5000.00 or five months imprisonment, suspended for one year.

Thandi Modise Case brought to Court

In July 2014 the National Council of SPCAs laid criminal charges in terms of the Animals Protection Act 71 of 1962 against Ms Thandi Modise for cruelty to animals. This is the first private prosecution being undertaken by the National Council of SPCAs with the generous legal assistance of AfriForum and Adv Gerrie Nel S.C.

Please see page 5 for further information and an update on this case.



Actions for calves confined in single pens

During an inspection at Malati Dairy in 2016, Farm Animal Protection Unit Inspectors discovered that calves were being confined in raised single calf crates and chained with metal chains for up to eight weeks.

The calves on this farm are removed from their mothers shortly after birth, confined in single crates that are constructed out of metal and steel mesh without any sort of bedding to provide warmth or comfort, and chained so that they are unable to turn around.



These calves are denied freedom from discomfort, freedom to express normal behaviour, and freedom from fear and distress.

Warrants were obtained by the National Council of SPCAs after warnings and recommendations fell on deaf ears. The owner, and his veterinarian, subsequently refused to remove the chains of the already confined calves, claiming that the calves would soil their food if they were able to turn around. Both the owner and veterinarian will be prosecuted.

The National Council of SPCAs laid charges in terms of the Animals Protection Act No 71 of 1962 in September 2016 but the Department of Public Prosecution (DPP) declined to prosecute the case, and subsequently, the National Prosecuting Authority honoured the decision of the DPP.

In terms of the Societies for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1993 (Act No. 169 of 1993) the National Council of SPCAs has 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 this case.

The National Council of SPCAs extends its heartfelt thanks to Advocate Gerrie Nel S.C. and the Private Prosecution Unit of AfriForum for undertaking this prosecution on our behalf.

Brutal abuse on mohair farms

In 2018 four criminal cases were opened against mohair farmers after evidence of brutal abuse was discovered. The Director of Public Prosecutions: Grahamstown has declined to prosecute three of the cases and one is awaiting a decision. This will be escalated to the National Prosecuting Authority

New incidents of abuse have been observed by the Unit which included pulling of horns and inhumane dipping methods. This was addressed with the farmers and was brought to the attention of Mohair South Africa who has agreed that this is not acceptable and have requested that the Farm Animal Protection Unit give input and guidance into the development of new protocols for the industry.

AFRICAN SWINE FEVER

Since April 2019, there have been 18 reported outbreaks of African Swine Fever (ASF) throughout South Africa, all situated outside the ASF controlled area.

During this period, the Farm Animal Protection Unit with the assistance of staff of the National Council of SPCAs and local SPCAs have monitored the humane euthanasia of over 2,000 pigs.

The symptoms of African Swine Fever include high fever, abortion in pregnant sows, loss of appetite, depression, difficulty breathing, vomiting, bleeding from the nose, rectum, skin and internal organs, diarrhea, redness in the skin of the abdomen and ears or a blue/purple colouration of the skin can be seen. Affected pigs are subjected to immense suffering. There are no effective forms of treatment or vaccines.



The Farm Animal Protection Unit extends its appreciation to colleagues at the National Council of SPCAs and inspectors from local SPCAs who assisted in relieving affected pigs from suffering.

LIVE EXPORT HORROR

In May 2019 the National Council of SPCAs was gravely concerned to learn about the possible export of live animals to the Middle East from South Africa. A meeting was held on 12 June 2019 with the Middle Eastern company, Al Mawashi, together with the Page Farming Trust, who confirmed that they intend to export 60,000 sheep to the Gulf region by mid-August and another 60,000 before the end of the year.

Al Mawashi, a Kuwaiti importer, has registered a company in South Africa and is using a local exporter, the Page Farming Trust, to facilitate the acquisition of some 60,000 sheep and the loading of these sheep onto the vessel on in September 2019. Their intention is to export 600,000 animals (sheep, goats and cattle) per annum.

The National Council of SPCAs was in communication with the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development at a national level and the Eastern Cape Veterinary Services raising the serious animal welfare implications regarding this shipment.

The route and climatic conditions of the voyage from South Africa to the Middle East will cross the Arabian Sea and enter the Strait of Hormuz. These areas are confirmed high-risk areas for heat stress during the period of May to October. The high temperatures in this area, which remain persistently high without relief (even overnight), render sheep incapable of regulating their body temperatures. Evidence has shown that during voyages between May to October, the combined heat and humidity can reach catastrophic levels causing heatstroke, resulting in sheep "cooking alive".

Heat is not the only concern relating to this brutal practice. Animals are further compromised because of exhaustion, Salmonellosis, high stocking density, pneumonia, motion sickness, stress and impaired immune system as well as physical trauma and injuries.

More than 100,000 litres of urine and faeces accumulate on a typical live export ship every day sheep are on board. The ship won't be 'washed out' until after they've disembarked. The weeks of untreated waste build-up mixed with high temperatures will create a lethal slurry of excrement making it dangerous for animals to lie down as they risk being buried alive. The ammonia from the excrement poisons the air, burns the eyes and throats of those on board, and often leads to respiratory infections. Many animals will not survive the journey. 1.5 million cumulative deaths on the fleets of Al Mawashi were recorded for the period from 1980 to the first half of 2017. Those animals that do survive the voyage will then face the horrors of arriving in a country where there are no animal protection laws. They will be shoved into boots of cars, and handled inhumanely – and they will be slaughtered fully conscious, often by unskilled slaughterers, and in the presence of other animals.

On Friday, 4 October 2019, Inspectors from the National Council of SPCAs and SPCAs watched the last sheep being loaded onto the Al-Shuwaikh vessel, along with an estimated 57,000 other sheep

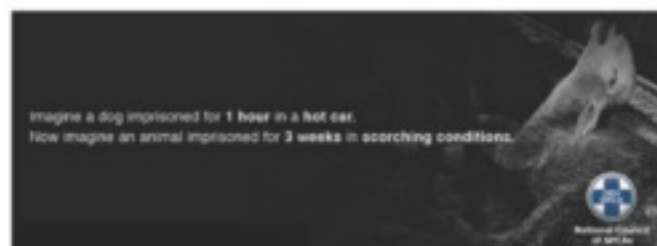
destined for the Middle East for inhumane slaughter. The South African government had given the go-ahead three days prior. Inspectors under warrant worked long hours monitoring the loading at the feedlot and on the harbour for the entire process.

The National Council of SPCAs will be laying charges in terms of the Animals Protection Act No 71 of 1962 against the South African Government, including the Provincial Government, as well as animal cruelty charges, assault charges and multiple charges of obstruction against the personnel that handled the animals inhumanely, those who assaulted and hindered NSPCA inspectors from fulfilling their duties, and personnel of Al Mawashi who have a registered company in South Africa.

Furthermore, the National Council of SPCAs will take the necessary legal action to ensure that there is an end to the unacceptable and unnecessary cruelty involved in the live export trade. The evidence collected will protect millions of animals from ever being loaded onto these death ships in the future.

The National Council of SPCAs believes that live export by sea for the purposes of slaughter is completely unacceptable and unnecessary.

The National Council of SPCAs is strongly opposed to this abhorrent and unnecessary practice and has called on the public to add their names to a petition to the South African Government.



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE REGULATIONS

The Department of Agriculture is in the process of developing regulations to cover the slaughter of rabbits and crocodiles. It is expected that these regulations will be finalised in 2020. Extensive input into these regulations has been provided by the Farm Animal Protection Unit during the development phase to address animal welfare concerns. The Unit is currently working on new draft regulations for the slaughter of rabbits and crocodiles in abattoirs. We engaged the Milk Producers Organisation on a number of occasions regarding the welfare of dairy cattle and submitted draft Regulations for improved welfare.

SOUTH AFRICAN BUREAU OF STANDARDS

The Farm Animal Protection Unit met with the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS) regarding the Poultry Welfare Standard, Rabbit Welfare Standard and revision of the Crocodiles in Captivity standard all of which are currently under development. In February 2019 the Unit accompanied by Marcellie Meredith (Executive Director) met with the SABS to discuss reassessing the pricing structure of Standards or for Standards to be promulgated into Regulations. SABS informed us that they were pro turning Standards into Regulations. We will approach the new Minister of Agriculture to discuss this option.



National Council
of SPCAs

Special Investigations Unit

The Unit focuses on investigations into animal fighting and its driving dynamics, working events/shows that use fighting breeds of animals and animal sexual abuse cases. The Unit also assists with any other cases of animal crime that warrant more in-depth investigation.



PLATFORMS BUILT TO RAISE AWARENESS OF DOGFIGHTING

The Special Investigations Unit continues to focus on identifying, apprehending and bringing the perpetrators of this crime to justice, rescuing the silent animal victims and increasing awareness around animal abuse and organised animal crime amongst formal law enforcement and professional entities.

During the course of the past 12 months, the Unit has had the pleasure of seeing sensitised SAPS officers now identifying and apprehending perpetrators of both animal abuse and pitbull specific crimes in incidents in Gauteng, Northern Cape and the North West Province.

The Unit's presentation conducted at the International World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Twinning Initiative held in at Onderstepoort Veterinary Academic Hospital was met with great

alarm and sparked conversation as to how the crime of dogfighting could be tackled as a global concern.

During the reporting period, presentations were also made to other external entities who are role-players in work undertaken by the Special Investigations Unit.

These included –

- The Department of Social Development.
- Onderstepoort Veterinary Academic Hospital students.
- Environmental Crimes Forums.
- Presentation of Inspector Willson's paper at the South African Veterinary Association Congress. *"The Crime of Dogfighting in South Africa: Separating the facts from the fiction, the connection between violence to animals and violence to humans and the importance of prosecuting Animal Cruelty".*

Other notable achievements in raising awareness include:

- The book "Africa and Her Animals" published in 2018, has been added to the libraries of 28 leading Universities around the world. Chapter 14: *Animal Cruelty and Law Enforcement Challenges in Africa* being a submission by the Special Investigations Unit.
- The distribution of the National Council of SPCAs published "Pitbull Guide", for use by SPCA Inspectors and veterinarians to assist them in helping Pitbulls.

POSITIVE INTERVENTION

The Unit continues to secure successful prosecutions in both their own cases and that of assisted cases with SPCAs, with the Regional Court sentences having steadily built in severity laying a strong punishment precedent.

The Unit reached its 50th successful dogfighting conviction in 2019 – attaining 61 guilty convictions of 62 individuals brought to prosecution in total during the Unit's time.

Direct Imprisonment for three Johannesburg dogfighters

In February 2019 the Roodepoort Regional Court Magistrate, the Honourable Mr van Niekerk, was clear during his judgement that violent animal abuse will not be tolerated in his court. Before delivering the sentence of the three accused men who pleaded guilty in the face of overwhelming evidence against them, he carefully explained that it fell upon him as a magistrate to ensure that not only were all the vulnerable in a community protected, but that violence in all its forms was punished.



During aggravation of sentence, Senior Inspector Willson of the National Council of SPCAs' Special Investigations Unit explained in detail, not only the devastating effect that this violent animal abuse has on a community but also, how two of the accused, after making their dogs engage in bloody battle – then dragged the bleeding, dehydrated animals, both of whom were grievously injured and suffering from broken bones, a distance of nearly two kilometres through the veld in an attempt to evade the pursuing law enforcement officers.

The increasing seriousness that the courts are viewing this crime was evident in that, despite pleading guilty, the three accused all received direct imprisonment sentences. An accused who was watching the fight was the first spectator to receive direct

As at the end of August 2019 the Unit had already secured **12 guilty convictions** for the year, bringing the total number of people brought to prosecution by the Unit and **successfully convicted for dogfighting or its associated activities to 50!**

The Regional Court sentences, which have steadily built in severity, have set a strong punishment precedent.

imprisonment of 10 months and an additional period of suspended imprisonment that comes into effect if he is caught offending again.

Fortis Security Controller, Teboho Godfrey Tabethe (36), and mechanic, Bongani Cullen Radebe (23), were sentenced to 5.5 years and 5.1 years imprisonment respectively and a further period of suspended imprisonment. Additionally, they were declared by the court to be unfit to own any species of animal in the future.

Direct imprisonment for eight Pretoria dogfighters

14 dogs were rescued and nine men arrested during a night operation on a Pitbull fight in progress in Atteridgeville.

The first two accused that chose to plead guilty received 2 years of direct imprisonment without suspension or the option of a fine. Magistrate P Lourens of the Atteridgeville Magistrates court spoke to how organised dogfighting encourages and condones a level of cruelty that is abhorrent and detestable in the mind of any reasonable or civilised person and that "It is necessary that this evil be addressed- because this, this is evil".

Magistrate JC Kruger echoed his sentiment when in May 2019 he passed judgement on a further five individuals who admitted guilt in the Atteridgeville Magistrates Court for their involvement in the heinous and underground world of dogfighting and for additional animal cruelty offences. They were all sentenced to between two and a half years and three years of direct imprisonment with no part suspended and no option of a fine for owning and keeping dogs for the purpose of dogfighting, as well as subjecting these dogs to filthy living conditions.

A sixth man was sentenced to 12 months of direct imprisonment for his part of merely watching a dog fight unfold with Magistrate Kruger pointing out that he had had ample time to distance himself from these criminal activities but chose not to.

In his sentencing, Magistrate Kruger said that the crimes that the accused were guilty of were both pointless and perverse and he must sentence accordingly to ensure that the punishment serves as a warning to others who may be involved in dogfighting or any of its associated activities.

These imprisonment sentences, regardless of the fact that the accused pleaded guilty, reflect a shared sentiment amongst the South African courts that the crime of dogfighting will not be tolerated.

The perpetrator of multiple crimes against animals is arrested

Inspectors from the Special Investigations Unit received an urgent complaint regarding suspicions that the criminal activity of dogfighting was taking place on a property in Modimolle, Limpopo. The Special Investigations Unit Inspectors discovered 22 dogs chained and caged amongst the rubble, filth and mud of a Phagameng property.

The animals' open wounds and horrific scars told the silent story of dogs that were not only victims of dogfighting but also of being pitted against wild pigs in illegal hunting and fighting.

22 dogs and two young pigs were rescued from the property and taken to safety as well as three illegally caught tortoises who were also being kept in shocking conditions. This case is yet another clear illustration that the abuse of one animal not only indicates the likely abuse of other vulnerable but also indicates the existence of additional criminal activity. The case is pending.



Spiderman - day of rescue



Rescued during the Modimolle raid, Spiderman is an example of the very forgiving nature of the victims of abuse and their response to kindness. Every effort is made by the Special Investigations Unit to safely place rehabilitated animals into forever homes.

THANK YOU

As the Special Investigation Unit's success grows, so does the awareness of animal crime, and the confidence of the public to report the crimes to the Unit. The quality of the information received has also matured as people are educated as to what constitutes actionable information.

The Unit received 6,624 units of social media information (videos, photos, screenshots, voice clips) pertaining just to dogfighting in a

10 month period. This number excludes tip-offs, complaints or information received by email, phone call or face to face information.

The Special Investigations Unit expresses its sincere appreciation to the **DogsTrust Worldwide**, for recognising the work accomplished by the Unit and for their sponsorship to help address the horrendous crime of dogfighting. Their generous support has enabled some truly groundbreaking work to be accomplished.

The Special Investigations Unit wishes to thank the Prosecutors who were persistent in fighting for the silent victims in these court cases and the South African Police Service officers who supported the unit in their raids and rescues.

To the many individuals who have reported suspicious activity and pledged their support of the Unit – we thank you on behalf of the victims.

POWER PULLING AND PITBULL WORKING EVENTS

Pitbull Terriers are not recognised by the Kennel Union of South Africa, however, there are various Pitbull Terrier organisations that hold shows where the dogs compete in 3 or 4 working events as well as a conformation and form class. The various working events hold a number of welfare concerns. The level of care given to these dogs is often very low and the handling of the dogs is often callous.

Extensive work by the unit with a few of the largest show entities has yielded positive results – with one progressive organisation recognising the negative impact of the working events on the health and welfare of their dogs and stopping all pit bull working events altogether.

Pitbull Shows held at more informal levels are often used as a cover for dogfighting activities. Monitoring of these shows by the National Council of SPCAs has made it harder for the lower level fighting enthusiasts to use these events for their purposes.

The Special Investigations Unit has discovered that the newly emerging "group awareness walks" or pop up shows arranged by the more criminally inclined Pitbull enthusiasts in identified problem areas are now serving as fight arranging and networking opportunities. Dogs are showcased at these walks for breeding, sale and combat opportunities, with walk supporters being encouraged to get involved in illegal gambling side bets.

ANIMAL SEXUAL ABUSE

The Special Investigations Unit also investigates cases of the sexual abuse of animals. The sexual abuse of an animal is closely linked to violent sexual offenders and indicates towards a criminal that has a high likelihood of being a risk to vulnerable human members of a community, especially children. It is a crime of both animal abuse and cruelty shrouded in sexual violence.

The Unit currently has three cases of sexual abuse in the court system. Cases of sexual abuse of an animal are seldom standalone sexual crimes and every attempt should be made to investigate reported incidents, identify and apprehend the perpetrator.



National Council
of SPCAs

Communications Unit

Team members strive to convey animal welfare messages, raise funds and represent the National Council of SPCAs as the leader in animal welfare in Africa.



CAMPAIGNS

#Not Just

With the generous pro bono assistance of Parachute Productions, the #NOT JUST campaign was launched on social media in December 2018. The campaign featured a series of messages regarding farm animals and the fact that, like all animals, farm animals are sentient beings.

The Farm Animal Protection Unit was particularly supportive of this campaign since farm animals are not always the subjects of compassion. Farm animals are **NOT JUST** food, a pair of socks or a feather duster. They breathe. They feel pain. And they most certainly do not deserve to be neglected, abused, treated badly or made to suffer.

16 Days of Activism

In November 2018 the Communications Unit ran an online campaign recognising the 16 Days of Activism. The campaign had tremendous reach and really brought the message home that the National Council of SPCAs is not just about animal welfare and that our work impacts on people too. Our messages on Facebook reached some 103,014 people.

The Unit also presented on the link between animal abuse and human violence at a seminar that was held by GetUp Woman on 2 December 2018. The National Council of SPCAs' involvement was publicised by the organisation who have close to 37,000 female members.

Captive Lions

In August 2019, a campaign exposing the captive lion industry with a strong call to action to stop supporting these facilities was launched. The adverts, designed by GREY Advertising, were displayed at Gautrain stations and on social media platforms.

We are most grateful to Gautrain who reached out to the National Council of SPCAs and offered us a year's partnership worth R1,5 Million. This enables us to run four campaigns during the year and have our advertisements placed on the Gautrain's static and digital



billboards at the station. Our first campaign highlighted the plight of captive lions.

MEDIA COVERAGE

During this reporting period, 54 media statements were issued, with subsequent enquiries handled. The media statements resulted in a wide coverage of the issues on TV, radio and in print.

The National Council of SPCAs was featured in three separate segments of the investigative journalism television series, *Corte Blanche*. Being prime time television, with a huge DSTV viewership and online following, this created great exposure for our organisation. The topics covered were municipal zoos, purebred dog breeding and neglected South African National Defence Force horses.

The National Council of SPCAs was also granted an incredible opportunity to expose the captive predator industry and raise funds on Jacaranda FM's Good Morning Angels on 22 May 2019. The segment received a great response, raising close to R200 000 in conjunction with our own online lion cub fundraising campaign.

See more on page 9.



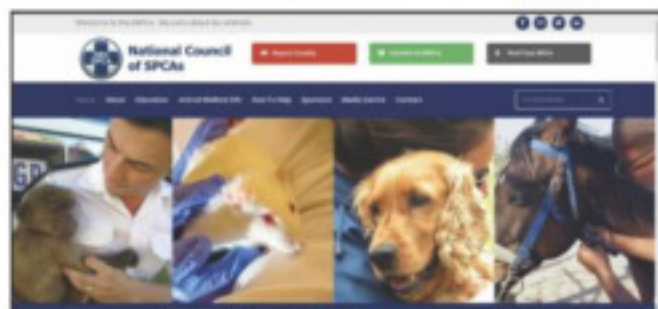
STEVE-O HELPS TO HIGHLIGHT WILDLIFE EXPLOITATION

The multi-talented Steve-O from JackAss was in South Africa in December 2018, and as a well-known animal activist, requested to do some work with us to shed some light internationally on some of the issues that we face in South Africa. Steve-O has in excess of 11 million followers on Facebook alone.

With the ongoing problem of the illegal sale of reptiles, we decided to do a raid on the Sun City road where Steve-O and his entourage participated and filmed the operation. This footage will be used on his roadshow and in a television series in the USA to highlight the exploitation of wild animals in South Africa and the need for the National Council of SPCAs.

WEBSITE

With the generous pro bono assistance of the Casson Media team, who is thanked for the valued contribution, the website of the National Council of SPCAs was redesigned to include current user trends and Google's best practice principles. The stunning new website was launched in May 2019.



www.nspca.co.za

THANK YOU

We express our gratitude to our many backers who have shared our passion for animals throughout the year.

We are especially appreciative of the significant funding received from the Estate of the late George and Hilda Blick.

Our pro bono supporters, with whom we have strong working relationships, are acknowledged with great appreciation.

To the various Trusts and Foundations, donors and sponsors who have responded so enthusiastically to our campaigns, projects and financial appeals, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for your steadfast support.

Many others have nominated the National Council of SPCAs the beneficiary in respect of shopper cards or pledged support through payroll giving – a special thank you to you all.

Our followers on the various social media platforms continue to grow and are thanked for their interaction and support in helping to spread the welfare message to benefit all animals.

WE NEED YOU TO SUPPORT ANIMALS

In our quest to improve the welfare of animals in South Africa, we seek and welcome additional and new support.

All donations are tax deductible.

We are pleased to confirm that the National Council of SPCAs is a certified B-BBEE contributor. Level 1 (135% B-BBEE procurement recognition).

You are invited to contact us today with your gift in support of animals. Please visit our website at www.nspca.co.za to donate or write to us at comms@nspca.co.za to find out more about the National Council of SPCAs' life-changing initiatives.



National Council
of SPCAs

The Year at a Glance

*Thank you for choosing the National Council of SPCAs through which to show your kindness to animals.
Together, we were able to achieve so much during the 2018/2019 year.*

723,088 kms were travelled around South Africa in the line of duty.

1,800 inspections were undertaken.

33 dogfighting related actions were taken.

108 animals removed from cycle of violence.

346 warnings/notices/requirement letters were issued to improve animal care.

18 successful prosecutions were achieved.

97 court cases are pending for animal welfare offences.

160 days were spent attending to court cases.

1,001 animals were assisted in traffic accidents and disasters.

2,547 working donkeys and mules were assisted.

1,854 donkey owners and users were assisted.

11,356 learners were educated on donkey and animal welfare.

38 wild and exotic animals were rescued.

372 cargo warehouse inspections were undertaken at airports.



We ended the suffering of animals.

We helped animals caught in disasters.

We protected animals and prevented cruelty.

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.

15 commercial land border posts were inspected.

1,869 animal research protocols were reviewed, representing **1,327** man hours.

198 Animal Ethics Committee meetings were attended.

25 sporting/recreational events using animals were monitored

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

37 workshops and conferences were attended and **27** workshops were presented.

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

16 training courses were presented.

292 delegates attended our external training courses.

199 SPCA delegates attended our internal training courses.

8 SPCA Regional Meetings were attended.



**National Council
of SPCAs**

PROTECT WHAT MATTERS TO YOU

We all want to protect what matters to us.

Like you, we believe that no animal should have to experience pain and suffering. Every living animal has intrinsic value and is a sentient being. It is our responsibility to ensure that they are protected.

Many animals have benefitted from individuals who have recognised the continued need to combat cruelty by including the National Council of SPCAs in their estate plans.

Through their thoughtfulness, they have made a timeless commitment to animals for years to come. Will you join them?

Write to us at nspca@nspca.co.za to sign up as a legacy partner.



18 years of connecting you

over 39 million customers
carried since 2001



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