



**National Council
of SPCAs**

Annual Report

September 2020 to August 2021

Leaders in Animal Welfare in Africa





OUR MISSION

To prevent cruelty and promote the welfare of all animals.

OUR VISION

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

Dedicated operational and support Unit and Project staff members work together towards achieving the common goal of protecting animals and preventing cruelty. Promoting high standards of animal care, undertaking physical inspections, providing animal welfare input into national and provincial legislation and codes of practice, undertaking rescue operations, campaigning to influence change on specific issues, and enforcing animal protective legislation effectively address the many issues facing animals.



**National Council
of SPCAs**



CONTACT US

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

Audited Financial Statements are available on request from our offices.



TO DONATE

www.nspca.co.za

All donations are tax-deductible. Please visit our website for easy and secure payment methods.

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

ABOUT US

REGISTRATION NO.

003-189 NPO

CONTACT DETAILS

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BANKING DETAILS

Current Account

Account Name National Council of SPCAs

Account Type Current

Account No. 201 032 015

Bank Standard Bank

Branch Name Alberton

Branch Code 006 405 00

Internet Specific Account

Account Name SPCA National Council of SA

Account Type Current

Account No. 220 639 744

Bank Standard Bank

Branch Name Alberton

Branch Code 102 342 00

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It has been an absolute pleasure and such a learning curve serving the animals as the Chairman of the Board of Directors for the National Council of SPCAs (NSPCA).

I have discovered so much in the last four years about people, animals and the NSPCA and I can confidently say that the experience has shaped me into a more understanding and patient person. Animal Welfare is an extremely delicate journey. Every day of the past four years brought new challenges, a lot of surprises; some good, others upsetting, also a huge sense of accomplishment.

SPCAs are facing many challenges, both financially and emotionally. The pandemic has taken its toll, not only on fundraising and general income but also in the worst of ways by loss of life. At the NSPCA we have and are still adapting to the new way of life. Many days were spent working from home by the team, but no hour was wasted. The various Units have risen to the sad occasions, the emergencies and challenges and not once did anyone complain. Change is now omnipresent, and as a movement, we have no choice other than to shift into the future shape to ensure that animals have our support going forward.

We are still fighting the battle of live export. The resilience of Team NSPCA, our legal teams and our supporters have done us all proud. While we have not yet been able to stop this trade, the battle is ongoing. Some changes are already taking place, easing a small fraction of the immense suffering these animals are forced to endure for several weeks. We shall not give up and turn our backs on these animals.

The NSPCA together with local SPCAs has always been first off the mark to assist in disaster areas where animals are endangered. We have seen tragic images in the aftermath of devastating raging fires and picked up, held and helped thousands of animals in transit at accident scenes.

An ongoing and longstanding priority for the NSPCA has been the support given to SPCAs and other animal welfare organisations. The NSPCA gives advice and guidance on many issues, both administrative and practical to assist



SPCAs in their day-to-day existence and work. The duty of the NSPCA is to ensure that the standards of the SPCA Act are honoured, and staff of the NSPCA often find themselves serving on SPCA committees to ensure that standards are maintained.

Outreach projects serve to benefit thousands of animals across South Africa and especially in the forgotten and forsaken areas. Teams from the NSPCA have packed and travelled to these areas assisting in the welfare of working donkeys, farm animals, and assisted in the fight against the overpopulation of domestic pets with sterilisation campaigns. These outreach projects are well attended by the residents who welcome the services and advice so freely given by the experts.

The various Units of the NSPCA worked tirelessly to prevent cruelty by monitoring endurance races, airports to inspect live cargo arriving and leaving, farm animal sale yards, animals in research facilities, dogs used for gruelling fighting, and the list goes on. I have realised that few people are aware of all the work that is done every day by committed and invested people. It is a heartwarming experience to watch these special humans do what most of us shy away from. The NSPCA has grown and been shaped into a world-class organisation from the "one-man show" of many years ago to now employing over forty employees and achieving amazing results.

The Training Unit of the NSPCA offers ongoing training not only to Inspectors, Field Officers and Committees of SPCAs but also to many external organisations and institutions.

Unfortunately, the challenge of funding is more evident than ever in light of the economic decline since the start of the



National Council
of SPCAs

Board of Directors

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Annette Rademeyer
Vice Chairman

Mary Nicolaou
Financial Director

Marcelle Meredith
Executive Director

Estelle De Villiers
Glen Kirby-Hirst
Christine Kuch
Selma Landman
Dr Chris Marufu
Victoria McDonald
Maryann Murrell
Karen Trendler

pandemic. These are uncharted waters we are now facing and living in, and the way we approach and adapt to this new way of surviving is crucial. NSPCA is constantly looking at different ways to manoeuvre through this climate of change, maintaining the standards of our Act. We could never do this without the support of our generous donors who assist us in preventing cruelty to animals. We are forever grateful to every person that has not looked away but instead supported us on our journey in various ways. I know that the NSPCA will continue to fight the good fight, often and mostly in very difficult times and situations.

I am grateful and thankful to my colleagues on the Board of Directors for the support and time they have given to our movement. My warm wishes and support continue, and I do not doubt that the NSPCA will continue to serve, rescue and make the change.

THEA SMIT

*One must make a choice,
take a chance and make a change
in the lives of those who have no voice.*

WE STAND WITH ANIMALS



A LEGAL FORCE FOR ANIMALS

In May 2019 when the National Council of SPCAs heard the first rumblings of the live export by sea of animals from South African shores to the Middle East, we took note. And we took action. Immediate action – to stop this cruel trade. Here we are some two and half years down the road and we are still fighting the war and doing everything within our power to put a stop to this cruel trade. Our legal battle against the live export of animals continues.

During the past year, **8 successful prosecutions** instituted by the National Council of SPCAs for contraventions of the Animals Protection Act No. 71 of 1962 were recorded.

101 additional court cases are pending for animal welfare offences in respect of farm, wild and domestic animals. The time spent on seeking justice for animals involves hours of work in the careful preparation of the criminal dockets for submission to the prosecutors. Following up on cases and spending time in court presenting evidence all form part of the process. During the period under review, **162 days** were spent in court.

GOING THE EXTRA MILE FOR ANIMALS

The phrase 'go the extra mile' has become somewhat of a cliché over the years. However, in the world of animal welfare 'going the extra mile' can have very real and even life-changing consequences for animals. During the period under review, **630,538 kms** were travelled by our Inspectors to make a positive difference in the lives of animals. This mileage travelled by our Inspectors on their two-week-long trips around the country enabled them to reach facilities holding farmed animals and captive wildlife. Thorough inspections at these operations to determine standards of care most definitely saw positive outcomes for animals. The extra miles travelled also took our Inspectors to our land borders to monitor the safe movement of animals in and out of our country. Working donkeys, horses, dogs and cats, goats, pigs, cattle and poultry were amongst the animals that also benefitted from the long hours spent on the road to reach rural areas.

ACTIONS BEHIND THE SCENES

Working out in the field in direct contact with animals only forms one part of the strategy to achieve sound animal welfare practices that benefit animals. In addition to physical assistance given to animals, many hours of the day are spent meeting with external parties to raise animal welfare concerns, motivate immediate improvements and push for long-term reforms to improve the lives of animals. Liaising with national and provincial government authorities is a regular occurrence, as is meeting with industry role-players. Animal welfare input into national and provincial legislation as well as the development of national standards of care through the South African Bureau of Standards are all issues that receive ongoing attention. Belying the notion that an in-office status means inactivity, constant research also takes place on several animal welfare issues to improve processes and eliminate animal suffering.

The animal welfare challenges we have faced have been many and varied but as a committed team, we have stood with animals. The following pages highlight specific actions for animals undertaken by our specialised Units during the past year.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

As I reflect on the past year and share some of the focus areas, it is hard to do so without acknowledging the effects of COVID-19. From a financial perspective, one of the biggest challenges was to ensure that we raised sufficient funding to address the growing animal welfare issues facing our country's animals. COVID-19 dealt a heavy financial blow to both businesses and individuals which resulted in fewer donor Rands. Since the crisis is global, this meant that there was also a drop in the income received from overseas donors. In addition to this, came the cutting of expenditure by businesses, Trusts and individuals. Animal welfare standards were compromised, businesses closed, and animals were abandoned by people who could no longer care for them. The first thing to be compromised in animal 'industries', is the animals' welfare. With an increased demand in welfare needs, it was challenging to close the financial gap and we are, therefore, grateful to our loyal and generous donors and supporters who stood by us through this difficult time.

High on the list of animal welfare issues remained the live export of animals by sea. Our efforts in bringing an end to this cruel trade received the focused attention of our amazing legal team - Adv Kevin Hopkins SC, Adv Alex Ashton, and Dominique Lloyd and Dean Wright of Wright Inc. Thank you to all concerned. While we did experience some setbacks, Part B of our application, which seeks to ban the export of live animals by sea north of the equator, is yet to be heard by our Courts.

On the wildlife front, the National Council of SPCAs released a comprehensive report on the cruelty behind the scenes in the captive lion and lion bone industry. The report, which is based on intensive research and decades of work in the field inspecting lion farms, preceded the Environmental Affairs Minister's high-level panel report detailing plans to end the breeding and hunting of captive lions. The long-awaited end to inhumane practices associated with this industry is welcomed.



Emergencies and disasters have affected many animals around South Africa. Our teams were quick to respond with hands-on assistance when fires in the Free State brought pain and suffering to many animals. The strike action at Onderstepoort Biological Products, which resulted in the abandonment of thousands of animals, saw staff members from the National Council of SPCAs stepping in to feed and provide water to the animals. And, after the rioting and looting in KwaZulu Natal in July 2021, our successful mission to raise money and food for SPCAs, rehab centres, other welfare organisations and needy animals in that province was yet another response to an emergency that affected the lives of many animals. Our time was well spent assisting in the province.

Dogfighting and premeditated animal cruelty have remained serious areas of concern, and perpetrators of these crimes against animals continue to be brought before the courts.

Monitoring the movement of animals through our airports and across our land borders continues to form part of a planned strategy to ensure the humane transportation of animals. Inspecting facilities and the operations of service providers who utilise working dogs and horses has remained a priority to ensure that high standards of animal welfare are maintained.

From our Training Unit which raises skill levels and animal welfare knowledge to our outreach programmes which uplift the lives of people and their animals, the National Council of SPCAs continues to train, educate and spread the animal welfare message. We continue to train prosecutors, SA Police Service officials, and undertake training at universities.

I thank the entire team at the National Council of SPCAs for striving towards



National Council
of SPCAs

Management

Marcelle Meredith
Chief Executive Officer

Esté Kotzé
Deputy Chief Executive Officer

Bryce Marock
Consulting Veterinarian

Naomi Visser
Manager
Animal Ethics

Grace De Lange
Manager
Farm Animal Protection

Tercia Woest
Manager
Society Liaison

Wendy Willson
Manager
Special Investigations

Arno De Klerk
Manager
Special Projects

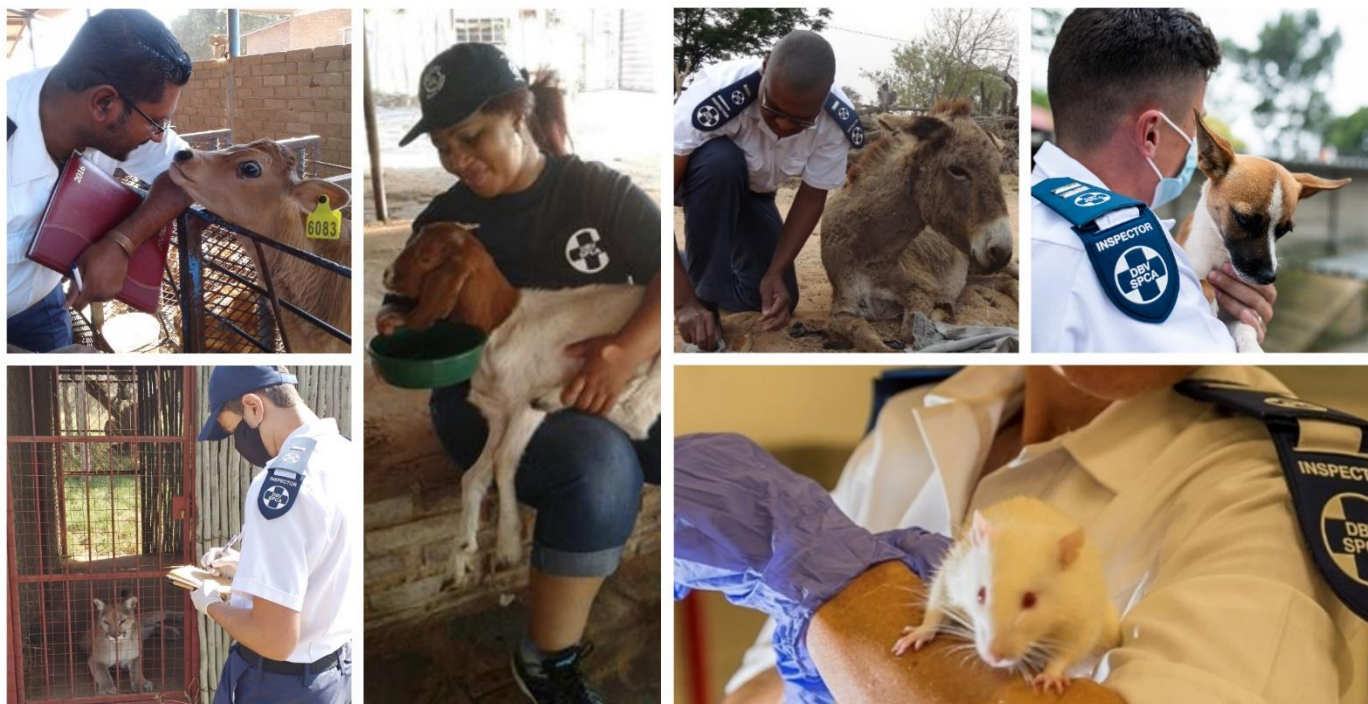
Morgane James
Manager
Training, Donkeys & Outreach

Douglas Wolhuter
Manager
Wildlife Protection

achieving a better and kinder world for animals. Our people are without a doubt, our most important asset, regardless of which positions they hold. To the Board of Directors who give of their time and support our work, I extend my appreciation.

Our mandate is to prevent cruelty to animals, and we step into the new reporting year with fixed determination and a renewed commitment to our cause.

MARCELLE MEREDITH



INSPECTORS ARE THE LIFEBLOOD OF OUR ORGANISATION

Our Inspectors play a critical role in animal welfare and carry out a variety of functions, from educating to undertaking inspections at facilities where animals are held and enforcing the Animals Protection Act No. 71 of 1962 when deliberate or negligent acts of cruelty are encountered.

Inspectors qualify after a rigorous training programme and receive ongoing training throughout their careers. Our Inspectors are specialists in their fields and deal specifically with farm animals, wildlife, animals used in research, equine, working animals and addressing animal fighting. Skilled teams also respond to disaster and emergency situations to provide hands-on assistance to animals.

People called to the vocation of Inspector recognise that it is an honour to serve animals. They pledge to protect all animals, to treat them with compassion and kindness at all times, and to respond swiftly and professionally to assist animals in need, regardless of time or place.

People who join the SPCA movement do so because they have a desire to work with animals and want to ensure that animals are treated kindly. For those who sign up to work as Inspectors the days are often long because working in animal welfare doesn't stop when the clock strikes five. These animal-lovers are also the people who come face to face with cruelty and horrendous animal suffering in the course of their daily duties. Animal welfare work is emotionally draining and our Inspectors are commended for their courage and determination to help animals often in very difficult circumstances.

We stand proud as we acknowledge and honour these dedicated team members who reach out to help, rescue and protect animals and in so doing touch the lives of so many each year.



YOUR GO-TO FOR ANIMAL WELFARE NEWS AND WAYS TO HELP ANIMALS

TEAM MEMBERS OF THE **COMMUNICATIONS AND FUNDRAISING UNIT** STRIVE TO CONVEY ANIMAL WELFARE MESSAGES, RAISE FUNDS AND REPRESENT THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF SPCAS AS A LEADER IN ANIMAL WELFARE.



STREET POLE ADVERTISEMENTS

In December 2020 we began working with Ad Reach, an advertising company, after securing a pro bono deal for billboard space in Sandton. The billboards were launched in February 2021 and ran through to April 2021.

Our very grateful thanks to the Ad Reach team for the amazing support and for making this campaign possible.

IF NOT YOU, THEN WHO? CAMPAIGN

In line with the worldwide campaign against violence towards women and children, the National Council of SPCAs developed a strategy for social media platforms to explain how people who are abusive towards animals are highly likely to be abusive towards vulnerable humans.



The strategy was linked to the government's announcement of five days of mourning and also ran with the worldwide call for 16 Days of Activism against violence towards women and children. The campaign ran from 25 November through to 25 December 2020.

MANDELA DAY

The theme for the Mandela Day 2021 campaign was "Their Long Walk to Freedom" and focused on the plight of lions held in captivity and the live export of animals from our shores.

ANIMALS DO WHAT?

In July 2021, the National Council of SPCAs, in collaboration with MC Saatchi and Abel, launched a campaign called ANIMALS DO WHAT? which aimed to highlight the countless things that animals do for the human world every day. The campaign also played a role

in educating the public on the importance of being respectful to and appreciative of animals, without whom, the human world would not be able to function as it does every day.



The campaign was Twitter-based, and the public was asked to tweet any emoji to the National Council of SPCAs Twitter account to receive a response with a fact linking that specific emoji to something an animal has done. For example, the correlating fact for a needle emoji is that mosquitoes inspired scientists to design thinner needles for painless injections. A total of 3,147 emojis and facts were written for this campaign proving how much animals do for us!

Our sincere appreciation goes to MC Saatchi and Abel for creating this great campaign.

BEAME MIX – TELEMATICS CAR COMPETITION

Beame ran a competition this past year through several marketing channels, requesting that consumers nominate their favourite charity – who are contributing to society and playing an active role in the communities which they serve – to win the Beame car.

Having identified and vetted several NGOs nominated for this competition, the National Council of Societies for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals was selected as the winner of the *Beame Keep Your Cool Charity Competition*.

A 2019 Ford Figo 1.5 Ambiente Hatch was donated to the National Council of SPCAs. The prize included a Beame stolen vehicle recovery subscription as well as a Matrix MX3 subscription for the lifetime of the vehicle while it is in use by the National Council of SPCAs. The vehicle was also branded with our logo and the sponsors' logos.





SUPPORT FOR ANIMAL WELFARE

In collaboration with the Training Unit, a proposal was submitted to MySchool for financial support to train Inspectors and Field Officers. MySchool MyVillage MyPlanet, the biggest community loyalty programme in South Africa, responded positively and donated R488,000 to the National Council of SPCAs to boost Inspector and Field Officer training. We are truly grateful for this generous support. This donation will help boost

the capacity of the National Council of SPCAs to train these all-important Inspectors and Field Officers, who undergo vigorous training to prepare them to do their jobs at SPCAs around the country. On the frontline, they are deployed to investigate allegations of deliberate negligence, rescuing animals when necessary, and instituting relevant prosecution processes.

MySchool worked with SABC 3 *Expresso*, to produce some segments for their morning show. The National Council of SPCAs was featured in a dedicated segment highlighting the work of the SPCAs and the partnership with MySchool MyVillage MyPlanet.



WEBSITE

After a full website audit was undertaken and discussions held with Casson Media (the website service provider), it was agreed that the website needed redevelopment. Work on improving both the layout and the content of the website commenced in June 2021 and it is hoped that the launch of the new and improved website will take place early in October 2021.

MEDIA

During this reporting period, 42 media statements were composed and issued with subsequent enquiries handled. The media statements resulted in a wide coverage of the issues on TV, radio and print.

THANK YOU

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

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 as 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.

ANIMALS NEED YOUR HELP

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 for residents in South Africa. We 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 donation in support of animals. Please visit our website at www.nspca.co.za to donate or write to us at nspca@nspca.co.za to find out more about the National Council of SPCAs' life-changing initiatives.



PRIORITISING THE WELLBEING OF ANIMALS USED FOR SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES

**THE ANIMAL ETHICS UNIT ENSURES THAT THE WELFARE OF
ALL ANIMALS USED FOR RESEARCH IN SOUTH AFRICA IS
JUDICIOUSLY CONSIDERED.**



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.

PROMOTING THE USE OF ALTERNATIVES

The decision was made to donate the Laparoscopic (POP) trainer to the Wits Advanced Surgical Skills Lab at the University of the Witwatersrand Medical Campus to promote the use of alternatives by replacing the use of live animals in teaching and training with viable alternatives.

The trainer will promote the use of animal tissue in training procedures.



In February 2021, Inspectors Engelbrecht and Sentle delivered the POP trainer to Professor Damon Bizos, the Director of the Wits Advanced Surgical Skills Lab. Prof Bizos used the POP Trainer a few years ago and found it to be extremely valuable in teaching laparoscopic and flexible endoscopic surgery.

The POP Trainer will be used in teaching laparoscopic and flexible endoscopic surgery on pulsatile animal tissue. Perfused animal GIT organs such as the stomach, liver and colon, sourced from local abattoirs, will be used. The pulsatile nature of the tissue enhances the fidelity of the model and various forms of tissue energy can be applied.

The donation was received with great gratitude by Prof Bizos.

NATIONAL STANDARD

The South African National Standard (SANS 10386:2008) The Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes is the minimum standard required for the use of animals for scientific purposes in research and training. This document must be updated regularly and kept current. The process of updating the document started in 2013.

Following the public participation process, review, and meetings, publication of the updated version is expected but no time frames have as yet been indicated. The National Council of SPCAs is hoping to see the National Standard published as soon as possible so that new additions, which are intended to benefit animals can be implemented.

ANIMAL RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEES

The Animal Ethics Unit represents the National Council of SPCAs as the welfare representative member on 44 Animal Research Ethics Committees nationally. Not only does the Unit attend meetings to review research protocols, but we also advise on the responsibilities of ethics committees that need to be aligned with the South African National Standard 10386:2008 *The Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes*.

Researchers and teachers are required to submit written proposals of their proposed studies or teaching activities to the relevant Animal Ethics Committee and the study may not commence until written approval has been obtained. Failure to obtain approval may result in scientific studies or teaching activities not being recognised. Animal Ethics Committees have to also ensure that the principles of *Replacement, Reduction and Refinement* are incorporated and provide for the welfare of the animals and justification for the use of animals in all studies. Scientific studies and teaching activities that use animals may only be approved by an Animal Ethics Committee if there are no viable non-animal alternative methods available.

During this period most committees were still conducting virtual meetings although some returned to physical meetings where the conference rooms allowed for the safe gathering of members in compliance with the COVID-19 regulations. A total of 228 meetings were attended during the reporting period.

TRAINING SESSIONS ATTENDED AND PRESENTED

The Guidelines, entitled 'Ethics in Health Research: Principles, Processes and Structures', issued by the Department of Health in 2015 require that committee members receive research ethics training and orientation on appointment and should refresh at least once every three years. Many committees present training before the start of the Animal Ethics Committee meeting. The National Council of SPCAs is often asked as the experts on animal welfare to present training to committee members during these sessions and are also expected to attend training sessions. Members of the Animals Ethics Unit attended 16 training sessions during the review period and presented training on seven occasions.



INSPECTIONS AND CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

Inspections are conducted in accordance with SANS 10386: The Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes. Inspections include attention to housing, husbandry, handling and the health status of the animals at animal research 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 conducted 79 Inspections during the reporting period and 27 warnings/notices/requirement letters were issued during the period under review.

REVIEW OF RESEARCH APPLICATIONS AND PROTOCOLS

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

The Unit uses national and international standards to constantly improve the review process and ensure best animal welfare practices for animals that are used for scientific purposes.

INDUSTRIAL STRIKE AFFECTS ANIMALS

Onderstepoort Biological Products is a state-owned animal vaccine manufacturing company and because they use animals for research purposes they have an Animal Research Ethics Committee. The National Council of SPCAs serves on this committee. In October 2020, we were notified of a strike by the workers who had abandoned their responsibilities towards the animals. When the strikers refused to let any temporary workers onto the premises, staff members of the Animal Ethics Unit stepped in and took over the duty of feeding and watering hundreds of animals including horses, cattle, sheep rabbits, guinea pigs, rats and mice. More than 3,000 mice and 500 guinea pigs had to be humanely euthanased to avoid any further suffering of these animals.

We diligently monitored the situation until the end of the strike.

Corrective action measures were taken against the facility to ensure the implementation of improved contingency plans to safeguard the wellbeing of the animals in the future and to guarantee that the welfare of the animals remains the highest priority at all times.

ANIMALS PROTECTION AMENDMENT BILL 2020

We were given the opportunity to provide comments on the Animals Protection Amendment Bill, 2020 (The Draft). The purpose of the Amendment Bill is to amend two Acts to prohibit the sale and manufacturing of cosmetics that were tested on an animal in the Republic and to criminalise the testing of cosmetics on animals. These two Acts being the Animals Protection Act, Act No 71 of 1962, and the Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act, Act No 54 of 1972. We indicated that we support the amendments in principle and proposed that animals should be explicitly recognised as sentient beings and that if a cosmetic was tested on an animal, the selling or manufacturing of that cosmetic should be prohibited in the Republic, regardless of where the testing took place.

2,000

ANIMAL RESEARCH APPLICATIONS WERE REVIEWED

This represents a total of **1,640 manhours** to ensure that the intended research is ethical and justifiable.





EXTENDING PROTECTION TO ALL ANIMALS

THE **SPECIAL PROJECTS UNIT'S** ANIMAL WELFARE FOCUS IS VARIED AND INCLUDES A DIVERSE RANGE OF ISSUES NOT COVERED BY THE OTHER OPERATIONAL UNITS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF SPCAS.

MONITORING THE MOVEMENT OF ANIMALS ACROSS OUR BORDERS

Airports

Thousands of animals are moved annually through OR Tambo International Airport both internationally and nationally, and this airport, as well as others around the country, are closely monitored by our Inspectors. The welfare issues encountered include sub-standard crates, insufficient ventilation, overcrowding, long periods of travelling and stand-overs in warehouses due to delays in legal clearances, the incorrect loading and handling of crates containing live animals as well as the lack of care in placement within the warehouses and outside in a variety of weather conditions.



The Special Projects Unit conducted 32 inspections at OR Tambo International Airport and during these inspections visited 459 cargo companies. Animals observed arriving and departing from these warehouses included day-old chicks, pigeons, exotic birds' species, dogs, cats, rats, mice, livestock, horses, wild animals and aquatic species such as fish, crayfish and abalone.

In addition to the close monitoring of OR Tambo International Airport, inspections were also undertaken at three other airports around the country during the period under review.



3,616

ANIMALS BEING TRANSPORTED WERE OBSERVED DURING WAREHOUSE INSPECTIONS AT OR TAMBO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Land Borders

The movement of animals through land ports is extensive and species include wildlife, farm animals and domestic pets. The National Council of SPCAs conducts regular campaigns at various posts along our border and checks on the welfare of the animals being transported and the appropriateness of vehicles used. Road transport presents its own animal welfare problems which include long-distance travel, overcrowding and associated injuries as well as long delays at border posts.



12 Border operations/inspections were undertaken by the Special Projects Unit during the period under review and several meetings at the various border posts in the North West and Mpumalanga provinces were attended.

Border post initiatives have resulted in increasing calls to the National Council of SPCAs to report suspicious activities involving animals in transit as well as enquiries for guidance on making transiting animals more comfortable or assistance to speed up the border crossing process for already travel-weary animals.



ENSURING THE WELFARE OF SERVICE/WORKING 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.



Inspections

Facility	Number of Inspections
Private Security Companies	12
South African Police Services K9 Units	23
South African Police Services Mounted Units	6
SARS Customs and Excise (detector dogs)	5
Department of Agriculture (detector dogs)	2
Department of Correctional Services	4
Metro Police Department	1
ACSA Runway Dog Inspections	1
South African National Defence Force (dogs and horses)	4

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

To improve welfare standards, warnings and compliance notices were issued when animal welfare concerns were noted at the time of the inspections.

Regulations for Working Dogs and Horses

The Special Projects Unit has worked closely with the Private Security Industry Regulatory Authority (PSIRA) in the compilation of regulations for working dogs and horses. The finalisation of these regulations has regrettably been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Rehoming of South African Police Service Working Dogs

The Unit continues to assist with the transfer of unsuitable working dogs from the SAPS Training Academy to various SPCAs for rehoming. During the period under review, 68 dogs unsuitable for work in the SAPS or old and due for retirement were assisted.

INVESTIGATIONS, INSPECTIONS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Special Projects Unit Inspectors operate nationally and aside from the issues reported above, they also undertake inspections covering various other portfolios which include hunting with dogs, animal racing, maiming of animals (ear cropping and tail docking), problem animal deterrents and the hoarding of animals.

All complaints lodged with the Unit were also fully investigated.

During the reporting period, 106 warnings and compliance notices were issued in instances where inadequate provision was made for animals.

Following the laying of charges for animal cruelty, Inspectors from the Special Projects Unit have spent 23 days in Court during the past year. One successful prosecution was recorded, and eight further court cases are pending for contraventions of the Animals Protection Act No. 71 of 1962.



VETERINARY CONSULTANT

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 WITH OPERATIONAL UNITS

Veterinary collaboration is largely with the Farm Animal Protection Unit and the Special Investigations Unit but assistance is also provided to other Units of the National Council of SPCAs concerning working horses and dogs and those horses used in racing events.

Farm Animal Issues

Support given to the Farm Animal Protection Unit included physical inspections at feedlots and monitoring and examining conditions on sea vessels carrying animals. Additional veterinary assistance was given to the Farm Animal Unit such as advice on injuries and disease in the field via telephone, post-mortems, veterinary report writing for court cases, commenting on industry codes and standards, assisting with communication on active cases and attending meetings.

Dogfighting

Dr B Marock performed five examinations for the Special Investigations Unit, which required veterinary reports for the purposes of prosecution. Another report was for a case of bestiality which needed to be proved by a veterinary examination to be accepted. Dr B Marock has also appeared in court on six other occasions in complex dogfighting cases handled by the Special Investigations Unit. He is proud to be part of a team that has secured imprisonment of individuals for the horrific crime of organised dogfighting. Dr B Marock has also assisted external veterinarians on the intricacies of compiling reports for complicated dogfighting cases, especially for those where dogs are not seized during active organised fights, but for those used for this purpose (i.e. possession).

SANDF Horse Abuse Cases

It has been almost four years since the two cases against the South African Army Special Infantry Capability (SAASIC) Unit members of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) were opened and neither of the cases has made any progress in terms of prosecution. In May 2018, the National Council of SPCAs laid criminal charges due to the gross neglect of horses in the care of the SAASIC Unit in Potchefstroom. 25 of the horses were in such a compromised state of health that euthanasia was necessary to prevent further suffering. The National Council of SPCAs obtained ownership of an additional 69 of the horses that were also in a severely compromised state.

In January 2019, a second case was opened after the National Council of SPCAs' Inspectors witnessed members of the SANDF's SAASIC unit brutally kick and beat their horses during an inspection. All of these horses were subsequently removed by the National Council of SPCAs and two were euthanased.

The National Council of SPCAs has been following up on these cases regularly, but each enquiry results in being told of a new reason why the case has not yet progressed to court. The National Council of SPCAs has now been told by the detective commander in Potchefstroom that the military police have failed to secure and

submit the outstanding details of the identified SANDF individuals in the dockets.

The investigating officer has been instructed to return to court and present these developments to the Senior Public Prosecutor and request that SAPS 205s be issued to serve on the National Head of Defence.

The National Council of SPCAs questions whether this case will ever be taken seriously by the SANDF, whose lack of cooperation is a clear indication of their disinterest in animal welfare and the law.

VET EXPO AFRICA

In October 2020, Dr B Marock presented on malicious poisoning of animals at a large veterinary conference – a live virtual event. The subject matter of Dr Marock's presentation included what to do legally as well as treatment in these instances. The exhibition hosted demonstrations of first-world technology specifically adapted to the variety of unique challenges that vets and animal health professionals face in Africa.

INTERNATIONAL COALITION FOR ANIMAL WELFARE

ICFAW's mandate is to primarily influence the formulation of welfare standards at the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). ICFAW is the platform through which the National Council of SPCAs has access to the OIE welfare working groups.

The past months have continued to be a quiet period due to Covid-19, however, both the Wildlife sub-committee and Poultry sub-committee of ICFAW have remained very active. The National Council of SPCAs is represented on both sub-committees. The Wildlife sub-committee has used this opportunity to reach out to the relevant bodies reminding them that the uncontrolled global movement and management of animals is not only linked to Covid-19 but also SARS, MERS and a host of other outbreaks.

The development of the guideline for laying hens is discontinued. ICFAW successfully managed with the use of scientific-technical detail to have the OIE technical committee insert language that recognises that chickens need to express natural behaviours. These include dustbathing, locomotion, nesting, perching and foraging. The international egg industry objected to this language, and with the help of many governments tried over years to have it removed, despite the draft never even saying that caging hens must be banned. After failing to counter the scientific evidence put forward by ICFAW, the chapter in its entirety was eventually scrapped. This is the first time in its 97-year history, that a standard has not been adopted in some form. It speaks to the low bar set by the OIE (in terms of what eventually passes in these chapters), and the state of the worldwide industry. Anything seen as slightly progressive or revolutionary is fought to the bitter end.

"If one person is unkind to an animal, it is considered to be cruelty, but where a lot of people are unkind to animals, especially in the name of commerce, the cruelty is condoned and, once large sums of money are at stake, will be defended to the last by otherwise intelligent people".

—Ruth Harrison



VIOLENT CRIMES AGAINST ANIMALS RECEIVE OUR FOCUSED ATTENTION

**THE SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT PLACES ITS FOCUS ON
ANIMAL FIGHTING, ANIMAL SEXUAL ABUSE CASES AND
PREMEDITATED ANIMAL CRUELTY.**

EMERGING TRENDS

Right through the restrictions and challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Special Investigations Unit has worked diligently to ensure that justice is secured for the voiceless victims of premeditated animal cruelty. The changing face of animal crime and how it unfolds has resulted in the Unit's team members having to think on their feet and evolve just as creatively as the criminals we hunt down.

One of these emerging trends is to use children to not only exercise, care for and move dogs used for fighting purposes but in some cases to actually fight the dogs on the owner's behalf as well. The motivation behind this being that if they are caught being involved in this criminal activity little to no action will be taken against them as they are underage.

An investigation that unfolded in Diepsloot, Gauteng revealed that children as young as nine years of age were being used to walk, feed and train fighting dogs for adults in the area. Three sets of targeted raids resulted in 18 pitbull terrier dogs being rescued from the dark world of dogfighting and charges being laid against 6 adult individuals for their part in aiding the delinquency of minors in addition to animal fighting and animal cruelty charges.

In a similar case in Witbank, Mpumalanga unidentified teenagers were caught on camera after having allegedly being encouraged by an adult to arrange a dog fight in a vacant area of land. The Special Investigations Unit Inspectors were deployed and within 2 days had traced and located all the suspects, dogs, and spectators. The teenagers showed no remorse for their actions and feared no consequences. Three individuals were charged for contravening the Animals Protection Act no. 71 of 1962 and two injured dogs were rescued.

The area of Tembisa, Gauteng is well known for its rampant criminal activity and in an instance information was received and had to be acted on immediately. The Special Investigations Unit did just that and managed to intercept and remove a campaign level fighting dog just hours before she was due to fight. The pitbull terrier was found in a dark room chained to a slatmill where it was immediately obvious by the blood on the walls and carpet that multiple other organised dog fights had been held there. During this operation and a second knock-on raid, a total of 9 fighting dogs were removed and charges were laid in terms of the Animals Protection Act No. 71 of 1962 against four individuals for dogfighting and animal cruelty.



77

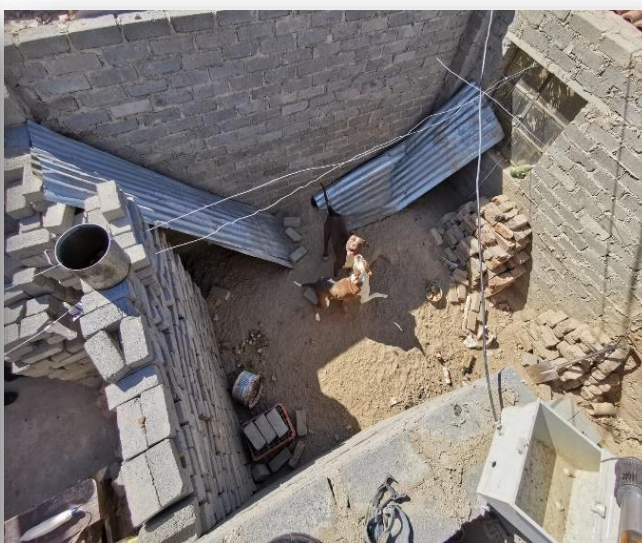
**ANIMALS WERE
REMOVED FROM
THE CYCLE OF
VIOLENCE**

40

**DOGFIGHTING
RELATED ACTIONS
WERE TAKEN**

312

**PREMEDITATED
VIOLENT CRUELTY
CASES WERE
INVESTIGATED**



LEGAL ACTION TAKEN

The Special Investigations Unit has 42 cases pending and 19 people were charged for animal cruelty during the reporting period. A total of 75 days were spent in court progressing cases to secure convictions.

The Special Investigations Unit continues to secure successful prosecutions in both its own cases and those where assistance has been provided to SPCAs around the country. Regional court sentences are reflecting a steady build in severity, setting a strong punishment precedent.

Animal Abuse Not Tolerated

In June 2021, a 32-year-old Modimolle security guard, identified as Mr Madiba Hofney Maluleka, was sentenced to five years of imprisonment or a fine of R20 000 in the Modimolle court after the Honorable Magistrate Ingrid Mokwena found him guilty of involvement in dogfighting activities, illegal hunting with dogs, illegal possession of wild animals and further cruelty towards animals. The convicted was further declared unfit to own or be in charge of any animal in the future.

In April of 2019, the rescue of multiple dogs, tortoises and livestock from a property in Freedom Park, Modimolle by the Special Investigations Unit of the National Council of SPCAs was widely covered in the media after the Unit received a tip-off about suspected dogfighting and wild pig baiting activities being carried out with pit bull terrier dogs.

In this, the first case of this nature for the province, Magistrate Mokwena stated during judgement that the State had proven that the accused had, for his own purposes, abused animals, maimed them, used them for dogfighting and illegal wild pig hunting and proceeded to find him guilty on all the 12 counts against him. During sentencing, the court went on to elaborate that abuse of animals is not just a minor personality flaw but that studies have found people who torture animals are also aggressive towards their fellow man.

The State witnesses included Inspectors of the Special Investigations Unit and specialist veterinarians. During testimony, one of the Inspectors of the Special Investigations Unit recounted how the horrific injuries and scars on the dogs had painted a picture of what the dogs had had to endure in their lives and the terrible conditions that all the animals on the property lived under. The testimonies of two veterinarians further spoke to the suffering of the animals in the accused's care and how this abuse and prolonged cruelty had ultimately led to the death or necessary euthanasia of many of these creatures.

Madiba Hofney Maluleka was found guilty on 12 charges including possessing and breeding dogs to fight other animals, allowing dogs used for fighting other animals to be kept on his property, ill-treating and neglecting his animals, maiming his animals by cutting off their ears, chaining and confining his animals, underfeeding and denying water to his animals, denying them medical care, provoking any animal to attack another animal, for his premeditative abuse and not taking of any action to prevent the

suffering of his animals, illegal possession of wild animals in conditions leading to their suffering.

During the aggravation of sentence State Prosecutor Mmakgwaadi Mampana and Inspectors of the National Council of SPCAs explained the dire cost of the accused's actions to the moral fibre of a community, especially children exposed to the violence of dogfighting and wild pig baiting activities.

This case is yet another clear illustration that the abuse of one animal not only indicates the likely abuse of other vulnerable animals but also indicates the existence of additional criminal activity.



The National Council of SPCAs is ruthless in its quest to action dogfighting. We commit to bringing those involved in this barbaric cruelty to justice and to vigorously pursue all who partake in or support the illegal activity of dogfighting in any way.

POWER PULLING AND PITBULL WORKING EVENTS

During the period under review, the Unit Inspectors attended seven pitbull working events and guided SPCAs with monitoring a further four events.

Although the COVID-19 Lockdown resulted in the cancellation of all the scheduled events by all the official clubs, we have observed a rise in interest from newly established informal Pitbull clubs to host Pitbull working events.



DISASTER AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

NATURAL DISASTERS COME IN MANY FORMS – FLOODS,
FIRES AND DROUGHTS – AND THEY ARE ALL DESTRUCTIVE
AND IMPACT HEAVILY ON THE LIVES OF PEOPLE.

BUT ANIMALS TOO FALL VICTIM AND ARE THREATENED WITH
SUFFERING AND DEATH WHEN DISASTERS STRIKE.

OUR TRAINED RESCUE TEAMS ARE ON HAND TO ASSIST
ANIMALS.

FIRES IN THE FREE STATE

Disastrous losses of natural grazing, animals and property are caused by veld fires in South Africa each year. Fires commonly occur when the veld is dry and winds are high—ideal conditions for a spark or flame to turn into a runaway fire, sometimes escalating into a fire disaster (when large areas are burnt and there is a major loss of life and property).

Farm animals are the most naturally affected, however, domestic and wild animals are also victims. Some animals are burnt to death in the initial blaze. Smoke inhalation is another common cause of initial death. Animals with severe injuries may survive the fire but have severe, permanent damage to eyes, nose, ears, feet and genitals. In most cases, these severely burnt animals will need emergency euthanasia to prevent suffering.

The National Council of SPCAs has specialised response teams on standby 24/7 to respond to disasters. These Inspectors can be dispatched to the affected areas at very short notice to assist farmers to locate their animals and take them to places of safety. Compassionate assistance is also provided to the injured and dying.

In October 2020, Teams from the National Council of SPCAs, Bloemfontein SPCA and Kimberley SPCA worked long hours under difficult circumstances when fires affected parts of the Free State. Over 100 sheep and cattle had to be humanely destroyed due to severe burns and some animals died a horrible death from smoke inhalation and being burnt alive.



In July 2021, with the assistance of the Bloemfontein, Kimberley and Virginia SPCAs rescue teams again responded rapidly to reports of fires in the Free State where massive areas in the province were affected.



UNREST IN KWAZULU NATAL AFFECTS ANIMALS

The rioting and looting across KwaZulu Natal in July 2021 impacted negatively on households, businesses and SPCAs. Some businesses were destroyed and left countless people unemployed. Without any source of income, some families struggled to take care of themselves, let alone their animals. It became clear that it was necessary to provide support and relief to the various communities across KwaZulu Natal to assist people with animals that could no longer be cared for. Families that could not afford veterinary care or food for their animals would be turning to SPCAs for help. People and their animals needed help!

A plea to the public for assistance resulted in a wonderful response which enabled the National Council of SPCAs to co-ordinate the distribution of animal food to help keep SPCAs in KwaZulu-Natal open to feed animals in their care and also to provide the essential assistance to animals in their communities.



Thank you to all our generous donors

In an interview with Martin Bester on **Jacaranda 94.2** during their **Good Morning Angels** segment, the National Council of SPCAs appealed to the public for support to help animals in KwaZulu Natal. Our 'angel' was **Bob Martin SA**, a well-known pet healthcare company, who donated a whopping R200 000 worth of dog and cat food! THANK YOU Bob Martin SA and thank you to Breakfast with Martin Bester for the publicity. Words fail to adequately convey the depth of our appreciation.

We also extend our heartfelt thanks to the following companies for their meaningful and very generous donations of animal food or money toward our efforts - Massmart/Makro SA, Montego Pet Nutrition, Pick 'n Pay and Feed The Nation Foundation, The Leverage Corporation, Morningstar (South Africa) and End User Finance.

Our sincere appreciation also goes to First Freight Couriers and Value Logistics for their much-needed help in getting animal food from our various collection points to different SPCAs in KwaZulu Natal – free of charge.

To the many individuals who also responded so positively to our pleas for assistance, your kindness and generosity is truly appreciated and enabled us to bring help to many animals.



INSPECTORS RESPOND AND RESCUE SURVIVING DAY-OLD CHICKS

In April 2021, the Farm Animal Protection Unit was alerted to an overturned truck on the N3 South near Heidelberg, Gauteng, which was transporting 41,500 day-old chicks from a hatchery in the North West to a broiler farm in the Free State. Three trucks, a bakkie and a car were involved in the horrific crash and we extend our condolences to the families of the individuals who sadly lost their lives.

Thousands of chicks were found drenched in diesel which had spilt onto the chicks as the truck was lying on its roof. The body of the truck was ripped apart which resulted in chicks running across the highway. In addition to the already dead chicks, the team of Inspectors from the National Council of SPCAs together with the Heidelberg, Boksburg, Alberton and Brakpan SPCAs had the harrowing task of euthanasing those chicks who had sustained severe life-threatening injuries. To prolong their lives would have caused unnecessary suffering.

Some 21,000 chicks were examined and found to have sustained no injuries and were loaded onto a replacement truck and returned to the closest hatchery, escorted by National Inspectors who monitored the offloading at the hatchery. The surviving chicks were subsequently placed on a broiler farm in the North West so they could be fed and watered and later inspected and found to be settled after stress packs were administered which aids in relieving transport and handling stress.

AFRICAN SWINE FEVER

Since the beginning of 2021, the Farm Animal Protection Unit has been overwhelmed by outbreaks of African Swine Fever across the country. The most notable outbreak was in Potchefstroom where 17,000 pigs were affected.



59,783

ANIMALS CAUGHT IN DISASTERS AND TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS RECEIVED EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

The National Council of SPCAs has specialised response teams on standby 24/7 to respond to disasters and emergencies. These Inspectors can be dispatched to the affected areas at very short notice to provide compassionate assistance to the injured and dying.

Inspectors from the Farm Animal Protection Unit spent two weeks at this farm ensuring that the animals were humanely destroyed to prevent suffering and the spread of disease to other pigs.





CHALLENGING WILDLIFE INDUSTRY PRACTICES TO PROTECT ANIMALS

IN OPERATION SINCE 1987 THE **WILDLIFE PROTECTION UNIT**
HAS GAINED NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR ITS EXPERTISE
AND SOUND APPROACH TO THE WELFARE OF WILDLIFE.

A BRIEF HISTORY

National Council of SPCAs Addresses Animal Welfare Concerns in the Captive Lion Industry

The hunting of lions raised in captivity in South Africa, widely referred to as “canned hunting,” first attracted international attention after the 1997 broadcast of the British television current affairs programme, The Cook Report, which showed shocking footage of lions being shot near the Kruger National Park.

For two decades the National Council of SPCAs has lodged its objections to lions in captivity and associated lion hunting and has, over the years continued to stress and raise the serious animal welfare concerns and the cruelty associated with the developing industry. This has included both written and one-on-one participation at government environmental bodies and forums associated with controlling this industry.

The public participation and proactive action that was taken over the years include:

- In April 2005, then Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Marthinus van Schalkwyk, announced the appointment of a Panel of Experts to advise him on the appropriate regulatory framework for recreational and professional hunting. The panel was tasked with proposing a draft set of norms and standards for professional and recreational hunting, as well as exploring various policy and legal options needed to control the South African hunting industry. The panel comprised conservation and environmental ethics experts and included the National Council of SPCAs' Executive Director, Marcelle Meredith, who represented animal welfare.
- The National Council of SPCAs commissioned a report on lions in captivity and lion hunting in South Africa which was published in March 2009. The report provided an update on the number of lions in captivity, the number of lions hunted and drew attention to some of the more important issues concerning the industry which had grown considerably since the 1990s.
- The National Council of SPCAs, joined by other animal welfare, animal rights and conservation organisations formed an NGO Alliance Grouping which made representation to the then Department of Environmental Affairs in July 2009 requesting its urgent attention in dealing with the major welfare crisis facing more than 3,500 lions held captive in South Africa and in addressing their quality of life and their future.
- The decision to legally challenge the captive lion and lion bone trade industry involved a combination of the historical and continued efforts made by the National Council of SPCAs to address the various issues and concerns with regards to the captive lion industry, only to be ignored with no solutions, including the various implications and consequences the formalisation of a lion bone export quota following CoP17 of CITES would give effect to from an ethical, conservation and animal welfare perspective. On 6 August 2019, the National Council of SPCAs was vindicated when the court handed down a precedent-setting judgement requiring welfare considerations to be taken into account when making conservation and wildlife use policy decisions and declaring both the 2017 and 2018 lion bone export quotas as unlawful and unconstitutional and that whilst the mandate of the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment is not welfare, it cannot ignore and should take consideration for animal welfare in decisions around conservation policy. Ultimately, this court ruling not only resulted in a positive change for captive lions in South Africa, but for all wildlife in South Africa, including the environment they are dependent on for survival.



FOR TWO DECADES THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF SPCAs HAS ACTIVELY OPPOSED THE CAPTIVE-BREEDING AND HUNTING OF LIONS

We have spent decades addressing the serious animal welfare issues and cruelty associated with this industry and raised these issues with both the Department of Environmental Affairs and the Department of Agriculture. The National Council of SPCAs also legally challenged the captive lion and lion bone trade industry which resulted in the court handing down a precedent-setting judgement requiring that welfare considerations be considered when making conservation and wildlife use policy decisions. Both the 2017 and 2018 lion bone export quotas were declared unlawful and unconstitutional.



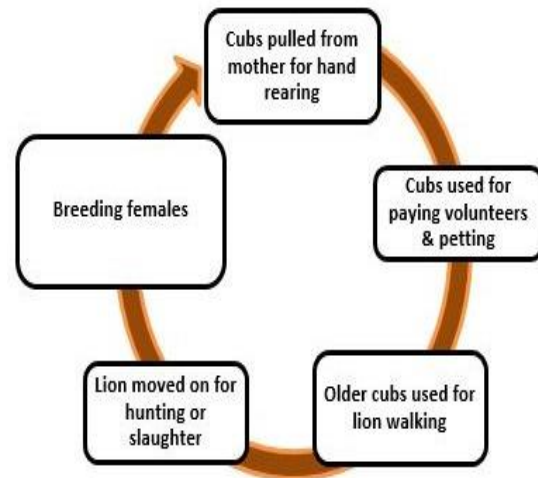
National Council of SPCAs Releases Report on the Captive Lion Industry

The National Council of SPCAs has long been actively involved in addressing the cruelty within the captive lion industry – starting with the breeding of animals held in captivity to the hand-rearing of lion cubs for entertainment purposes and the eventual end to the cycle in ‘canned lion’ hunts or slaughter for lion bones.

The lack of regulation within the industry frustrates efforts by the Wildlife Protection Unit to prevent cruelty and the Unit has numerous criminal cases pending for contraventions of the Animals Protection Act No. 71 of 1962. Some 188 facilities were inspected in the period under review, of which 80% are holding captive lions.

Following intensive research and investigation and decades of work in the field, the National Council of SPCAs compiled a comprehensive report on the cruelty behind the scenes in the captive lion and lion bone industry. The report which challenges the captive lion industry was released in February 2021.

To download the full report, visit our website at www.nspca.co.za



A Game-Changer – The National Council of SPCAs’ Instrumental Role for the Inclusion of Welfare into Wildlife Management and Conservation Policy

The Wildlife Protection Unit has been active in our commitment to ensure that wildlife welfare is both recognised and incorporated into wildlife management and conservation policy. After an extensive two-year consultation process i.e., 2020/2021, the Wildlife Protection Unit has actively participated, provided input, and made submissions to the High-Level Panel (HLP) as appointed by Minister Barbara Creecy of the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment. The HLP was tasked to review existing policies, legislation and practices relating to the management and handling, breeding, hunting and trade of elephant, lion, leopard and rhinoceros.

A comprehensive HLP report, comprised of 60 recommendations and 18 goals, were released aimed towards positive changes within the wildlife industry. Subsequently, a Draft Policy Position document for public comment on the Conservation and Ecologically Sustainable Use of Elephant, Lion, Leopard and Rhinoceros was released and forms part of the policy implementation framework to support the vision and aspiration adopted by the HLP, i.e.: *“Secured, restored, and rewilded natural landscapes with thriving populations of Elephant, Lion, Rhino, and Leopard, as indicators for a vibrant, responsible, inclusive, transformed, and sustainable wildlife sector”*.

As an active stakeholder, the Wildlife Protection Unit is publicly supporting positive proposed policy changes towards the conservation, management and sustainable use of South Africa’s biodiversity, including but not limited to:

- bringing an end to the captive lion industry;
- adopting a new reconceptualised sustainable use principle that identifies and promotes the necessary primacy to ecological sustainability;
- adopting the One Welfare Approach that incorporates animal welfare, into the ethos and regulation of wildlife management;
- preventing the live export of lion, elephant, leopard and rhino to areas outside of their range states, or into captivity in other countries, thereby protecting their iconic African status; and
- increasing the wildness, naturalness, and the wellbeing of fauna, and to decrease the domestication of wild animals.

ENSURING THE WELFARE OF WILDLIFE

This reporting period has seen the staff of the Wildlife Protection Unit travel 205,559 km in the carrying out of their duties.

The Unit has resolved 406 complaints about cruelty to wildlife across South Africa. A total of 188 inspections were carried out at various wildlife facilities which have effectively seen a total of 16 people charged for contraventions in terms of the Animals Protection Act 71 of 1962. 65 warnings were issued for contraventions of the Animals Protection Act No. 71 of 1962 and 4 welfare compliance notices were issued for less serious offences.

As a result of our direct interventions 114 wildlife (indigenous and exotic) were removed and countless others were impacted positively by the actions of Wildlife Protection Unit Inspectors.



TRAINING FOR A KINDER WORLD BY SHARING THE WELFARE MESSAGE AND BEST PRACTICE PROTOCOLS

THE **TRAINING UNIT** PRESENTS COURSES IN A
PROFESSIONAL, USER-FRIENDLY MANNER WHICH
BENEFITS ALL WHO ATTEND.

TRAINING OF SPCA INSPECTORS

Since SPCAs across the country are in great need of new Inspectors the National Council of SPCAs could not afford to cancel courses because of the COVID-19 pandemic. It was, however, vital that lockdown regulations were adhered to at our Training Centre. Strict protocols were set in place to keep both delegates and lecturers safe, including having a restricted number of delegates attending the courses. While the safety protocols did present some challenges, everyone adapted well to the new circumstances.

Trainee Inspectors are required to write and pass an entrance exam before attending a training course and then spend two weeks on the course learning about the different aspects of animal welfare and of course, much of the time is spent on learning and understanding animal protection legislation. The application of the law is critical, and delegates have to participate in practical sessions designed to build confidence, understanding and interpretation. Delegates also spend practical time in the field working with different animals and in different environments.

Successful completion of the exam at the end of the course enables the trainees to start on their field assignments which form a significant part in preparation for becoming Inspectors.



169

DELEGATES FROM SPCAs AROUND THE COUNTRY ATTENDED COURSES

Despite the restrictions presented by COVID-19, training courses were successfully presented to SPCA staff and committee members.

100

EXTERNAL DELEGATES ATTENDED COURSES

presented by our Training Unit aimed at improving the welfare of animals.

Inspectors/Refresher Training Course: Nov 2020

13 delegates attended the course (9 Inspectors and 4 Refreshers): Gauteng (3); KwaZulu Natal (1); Mpumalanga (2); Western Cape (2); North West (1); Free State (2); Eastern Cape (1); Limpopo (1)

Inspectors/Refresher Training Course: Feb 2021

10 delegates attended - Gauteng (5); KwaZulu Natal (1); Western Cape (1); Free State (1); Mpumalanga (1); Free State (1).

Inspectors Training Course: April 2021

14 delegates attended – Eastern Cape (3); Gauteng (6); Western Cape (2) and Mpumalanga (3).

Inspectors Training Course: Aug 2021

12 delegates attended - Gauteng (4); Mpumalanga (1); Western Cape (3); Free State (2); Northern Cape (1); Limpopo (1).

The modification of practical sessions (to ensure social distancing) was challenging at times, however, our outcomes were as positive as ever. We are proud of our contribution to growing and qualifying Inspectors who are at the forefront of animal protection in our country. As essential service providers, Inspectors are needed now more than ever to deal with the ever-changing challenges.

FIELD OFFICER TRAINING

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Field Officer Training course was postponed due to lockdown regulations and has been rescheduled.

TRAINING FOR SPCA COMMITTEES

Committee members voluntarily take on the enormous task of guiding and supporting the SPCAs they serve. To do this competently, committee members require not only on-site learning at their SPCAs but also attendance of SPCA Committee Training Courses. These courses are presented by the National Council of SPCAs in various regions around the country.

Committee Training Course: Nov 2020: Limpopo

20 delegates attended – Lephalale (1), Letaba (3), Louis Trichardt (6), Mokopane (4), Phalaborwa (2) and Polokwane (4)

This course was held in Limpopo and although the Covid-19 restrictions placed some pressure on everyone, the course went well with very good attendance from the region. The course was undertaken in a new format allowing more time for discussion and interaction. The participation and debate from the delegates was very encouraging and this course provided an opportunity for the strengthening of the region.

Committee Training Course : Feb 2021 : Gauteng

28 delegates attended – Alberton (1); Benoni (2); Boksburg (2); Brakpan (2); Heidelberg (1); Highveld Ridge (2); Johannesburg (2); Kempton Park (2); Midrand (2); Nigel (1); RandWest (3); Rustenburg (2); Sandton (1); Springs (2).

Committee Training Course: April 2021: Free State

12 delegates attended – Bethlehem (2); Bloemfontein (3); Kimberley (2); Kroonstad (2); Virginia (3)

Committee Training Course: July 2021 Eastern and Western Cape

11 delegates attended from the Eastern Cape – Amahlati (2); Assisi (2); Grahamstown (2); Port Alfred (2); Queenstown (2); Uitenhage (1) and 6 delegates attended from the Western Cape – Franschhoek (2); Garden Route (2); Swellendam (1); Wellington (1)

This was a trial online course held at the request of Societies. The first course planned for the Western Cape was cancelled due to a lack of delegates, however, those Societies who did want to attend were invited to join the course for the Eastern Cape. This trial course took a great deal of time in preparing the delegates and ensuring that everyone's needs could be met. The outcome was a course that was successfully delivered after a few technical hitches were ironed out on the first morning. The feedback from the delegates was interesting with different views on the course being held online.

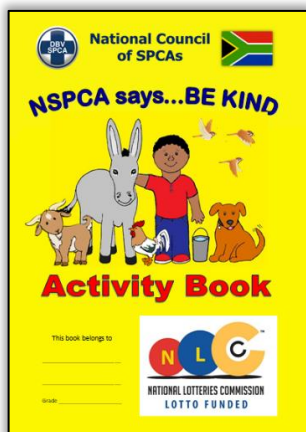
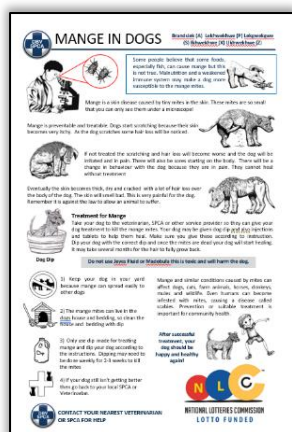
Committee Training Course: August 2021: Gauteng

19 delegates attended Saturday – Bethal (2); Carletonville (2); Edenvale (2); Mafikeng (2); Nelspruit (2); Johannesburg (1); Nigel (1); Randfontein (2); Roodepoort (1); Rustenburg (1); Tshwane (1); Witbank (2)

Due to Covid-19 regulations, we had too many delegates to accommodate in our Training Centre, so we used a local service provider for the course. The delegates were participative with some very good debates and discussions taking place.

EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL

Some new material has been completed including the Mange Pamphlet and other material is nearing completion. In addition to developing new material, existing material is reviewed, refreshed and reprinted as necessary including the Volunteer Manual, Pitbull Inspection Guide, Veld Fire Guide, Educators Guide to Donkey Welfare and the Donkey Activity Book for children.



The Operations Manual is a critical resource for SPCA staff and contains the key elements of animal protection, guidance, good governance, and management for our entire movement.

EXTERNAL TRAINING

We have not resumed all the training normally undertaken as many organisations have put their training programmes on hold or are doing modified online training. We have, however, presented training to Stock Theft Officials, Prosecutors and Animal Health Technicians.

We were very pleased to again work with the North West University to provide training to Animal Health Technician Students. A record number of 85 very keen students attended the lectures. We presented an intense but comprehensive 4-day training programme including an Introduction to Animal Welfare, Animal Protection Legislation, Working Donkeys, Domestic Animal Welfare and Farm Animal Welfare. In the field, practical sessions with donkeys and farm animals were as popular as ever and not only was the feedback from the students very positive but several have subsequently applied to work at the SPCA.

OPERATIONS MANUAL 2020

The 2020 version of the Operations Manual was completed and distributed to all Societies. This was a massive amount of work, and this version of the manual has seen the most significant changes in many years. The manual has increased from 621 pages to 868 pages with some vital new documents inserted. Section 2, Governance, as well as the animal care sections have seen the most changes. We trust that this resource will be used by Societies to the best advantage of the animals.





REACHING OUT TO PEOPLE AND THEIR ANIMALS

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF SPCAS PROMOTES RESPONSIBLE
ANIMAL OWNERSHIP ACROSS SOUTH AFRICA AND OUR
COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROJECTS AIM TO IMPROVE THE
WELFARE OF ANIMALS AND ASSIST IN UPLIFTING
COMMUNITIES WHO REACH OUT FOR HELP
TO CARE FOR THEIR ANIMALS.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROJECTS

Year two of the COVID-19 Pandemic has come with equal, but different challenges to last year. In some respects, safety has increased but the effect the pandemic has had on jobs has left an increasing number of people without employment. Donkeys are working harder than ever to make up for lost income during the lockdown and their welfare has decreased in some areas. Pets have had poorer nutrition and health care as their owners have no income and there are more unwanted animals.

But even under these circumstances, we have risen to the challenge of expanding our reach to provide critical animal welfare services, education and support to animal owners. We have reached and assisted a significant number of animals, improving their welfare and consequently the welfare of their owners and the owner's families.

Our Community Outreach Projects address a wide variety of challenges faced by animals and their owners in disadvantaged circumstances. We work towards improving the whole life of the animals and through education, training and law enforcement, where necessary, ensure that owners take responsibility and can care for their own animals.

By improving the welfare standards of animals, we contribute to the upliftment of impoverished communities and empower owners, which benefits all their animals in the future. During the projects teams of specialist staff provide on-site home inspections and support which may include replacing inhumane equipment, primary health care, sterilisations and vaccinations, skills empowerment on harnessing, handling, housing and care. Our strategies improve the whole lives of all animals.



OUR COMMUNITY WORK IS CRITICAL

Typically, we are the only animal welfare or even animal health service provider in most of the remote areas where we work. No one reports cruelty or neglect of animals and unless we reach out and get into these areas the animals will not receive the assistance they need. We improve the lives of these animals and the communities that benefit from them.

Limpopo Province

Tohoyandou, Bloodriver, Bela Bela, Mokopane, Skrikfontein are the key areas worked in this province.

Commercially working donkeys and mules still present the most welfare challenges and we find animals who are whipped, overworked and with inhumane harnessing. Typically, it is young men driving and working these animals and they have little regard for their welfare. Their sole focus is to use the animals to transport goods for paying clients – the more trips, the more items on the cart, the faster they deliver the goods the more money they make.

We have followed the necessary legal processes and have met with law enforcement agencies as well as sponsors to develop a strategy to perform more legal actions and remove more animals and undertake prosecutions. This is necessary to bring about more significant change to these young drivers and to ensure their compliance with basic humane animal use and legal compliance.

By contrast, our communities in the rural valleys of the Waterberg, where we spent much time educating the youth, continue to maintain a good level of welfare in their animals. Some help with worn harnessing and some primary health care is all that is needed as the communities have largely embraced the welfare message.

Northern Cape

We have worked in Kathu, Deben, Bathalaros, Hotazel, Hanover, Colesburg and Springfontein undertaking investigations of complaints such as horses stolen and ridden to the point of collapse and equine left to die from African Horse Sickness (a painful and notifiable disease). However, the largest part of the work is proactive where inspections and interventions are carried out for animals who no one is reporting, animals who are depending on us to find them. Horses are popular in this province and used for riding across large distances especially by the youth as part of their social networking. Unemployment is high so owners have difficulty in affording proper harnessing or medical supplies.

Animals walking on public roads is an ongoing cause for conflict in some areas where there are mines and a lot of mine vehicles as the roads are not fenced and grazing animals cause accidents, resulting in many equines being hobbled unacceptably.





Although the physical condition of the equine was typically fair to good there were problems with primary health care (especially parasites), the tack used for riding and some harsh handling methods. The initial wariness and sometimes arrogance of the young men was quickly won over by our practical and direct approach and our desire to improve the welfare of the animals.

In some areas where poverty and alcohol abuse are higher, we found the welfare of the animals, especially domestic animals, to be poorer. Education and warnings were issued for dogs chained in unacceptable conditions and running wires were installed for some of the vulnerable community members who needed assistance. Primary health care was provided, and owners were educated.



Small scale farms were also inspected and the farmers assisted. We found welfare concerns especially with pigs kept without shelter or adequate water. The educational work and warnings in this area were important and we found improvements in a short space of time.



We worked with community members to address the problems we found and spent time working with the SAPS members to improve their knowledge on what actions they can take to resolve problems promptly and effectively.

We undertook educational presentations, deworming, dipping, hoof care, equipment assessment and general care and welfare. The response was very positive, and the outcomes were good.

Eastern Cape

Keiskammahoek, Amahlati and surrounds, King Williamstown and surrounds, Aliwal North and Queenstown were areas worked in during our field trip to the province.

This province has significant challenges including the ongoing drought, extreme poverty and cascading consequences. Working equine and farm animals suffer as a result of over-grazing and often limited water supplies and yet they sustain many of the families and communities in this largely rural province.

Our assistance and support in these areas have been very gratefully received and we found that many of the subsistence farmers had a fair understanding of the health and management issues of their animals but were simply not able to help themselves by purchasing the most basic of items such as dip for their animals. The lack of transportation and access to centres where supplies could be purchased contributed to this problem and there are opportunities for small businesses to supply these items to the communities.

Community meetings were held to address numerous concerns with the animals including lack of grazing and water, poor service delivery and poor access to necessary equipment and supplies for the animals. We arranged for outreaches and the people came from across the area seeking assistance and we had a very good response. We gave handling and harnessing demonstrations and guided owners on making and fitting their own harnessing and using tack correctly. Primary health care was undertaken together with education on prevention and management of various concerns.



We also assisted many dogs who were brought to us with primary health care. All owners received education and we were able to provide some food where necessary. The community was very grateful for the assistance.

WE ASSISTED

456 HORSES

36,000 FARM ANIMALS

700 DOGS AND CATS



EDUCATION

Sadly, the pandemic has prevented us from giving formal presentations in schools. However, whenever we are in their area, the children find us, and not only do we help them with their animals but we also to educate them on how each one of them can make a difference and improve the lives of the animals in their communities.



575 ANIMAL OWNERS and **9,620** LEARNERS
WERE EDUCATED.

PROTECTING WORKING DONKEYS AND MULES

Donkeys are widely used throughout South Africa. They serve whole communities by pulling carts to transport people, critical food, water and wood supplies, drawing farming implements for planting and harvesting crops, carrying packs across rough terrain and riding. Donkeys are hardy, affordable, don't readily show pain and are stoic; they continue to work even under the harshest conditions that other animals would not be able to tolerate. Their kind, gentle dispositions make them ideal for use by women and children. However, because of these factors, donkeys are also more vulnerable to abuse and ill-treatment, and they need protection. Working mules are less common but where they are used they are typically worked very hard with heavy loads and we have to ensure they are cared for correctly and not overworked.



We work so many communities, most of which are remote and to utilise our time well we have to be able to rapidly identify where there are animals in need and organise community meetings in a short space of time to maximise the time we have with the animals and their owners.



We know that sometimes the most effective way to find the donkey carts is at the central watering point in a village. Everyone needs water, so for those using donkeys, we know we will be able to see most of the working donkeys, inspect them and assist them according to their needs. And then while the drums are being filled, we also have an opportunity to talk to and educate everyone (including people who don't own donkeys) on donkey welfare, general animal care and animal protection. And we hope that the children we teach now will be kinder and better donkey owners in the future.



One donkey at a time we will make their world kinder.



1,894

WORKING DONKEYS AND MULES WERE ASSISTED

Providing primary health care and removing and replacing inhumane harnessing provides physical relief to these long-suffering animals.

375 DONKEY OWNERS AND USERS WERE ASSISTED

Due to the pandemic restrictions we had to limit our interactions to small groups but our practical training and information-sharing sessions have continued. These sessions provide people in rural communities with the skills and knowledge to improve the welfare of their donkeys.

SINCERE THANKS TO THE NATIONAL LOTTERIES AND DISTRIBUTION TRUST FUND FOR MAKING THIS POSSIBLE.





WORKING TO REDUCE THE SUFFERING OF FARM ANIMALS

THE **FARM ANIMAL PROTECTION UNIT** IS COMMITTED TO SECURING IMPROVEMENTS FOR FARM ANIMALS BY DRIVING REFORMS TO FARMING SYSTEMS THAT DEPRIVE ANIMALS OF THE FIVE FREEDOMS.



The Five Freedoms

FREEDOM from thirst, hunger, and malnutrition

FREEDOM from discomfort

FREEDOM from pain, injury, and disease

FREEDOM to express normal behaviour



IMPROVEMENTS FOR PIGS

In much of the world, it is very common for a pregnant sow to be kept in a gestation crate for the entirety of her 16-week gestation/pregnancy. A gestation crate is a metal cage – usually with a bare concrete/slatted floor – which is so narrow that the sow cannot turn around, and she can only stand up and lie down with much difficulty.

Gestation crates are banned in Sweden and the United Kingdom, with a partial ban on their use in the European Union and a steady phasing out of this horrendous practice in the United States and New Zealand. The National Council of SPCAs pioneered to prove that sows in South Africa also deserve compassion by implementing

a phase-out of the traditional gestation crates from 1 January 2017. In pursuit of humane rearing, the National Council of SPCAs has stood steadfast in insisting on improved living conditions that now allow for pregnant sows to stand up, turn around completely and lie down without any difficulty or without touching the sides of the bars.

The National Council of SPCAs' phase-out programme has secured vital improvements for sows and the results are showing that these intelligent, sentient beings appreciate the well-known Five Freedoms.

DONKEYS RESCUED FROM THE SKIN TRADE



In early March 2021, the National Council of SPCAs, with the assistance of the Mooi River SPCA and the South African Police Services, intercepted a truck that was carrying close to 100 donkeys destined for the trade in donkey skins. The donkeys were being transported in an inhumane manner and were found infested with external parasites and multiple untreated wounds. Six people were arrested and were held in custody until the case was heard in court.

On 7 April 2021, all six accused were found guilty of animal cruelty as well as residing in South Africa illegally. The magistrate, Mr G. Muller, sentenced each of the accused to a fine of R5,400 or imprisonment. Since the fines could not be paid those convicted will be required to serve terms in prison.

The rescued donkeys have made a remarkable recovery and many have already been placed in caring homes. Our appreciation goes out to the Kloof and Highway SPCA and the Johannesburg SPCA for their assistance in providing facilities and care for these animals. We also thank the Mooi Mpofana Agricultural Association, local farmers, and New Turf Carriers for their generous support in helping these animals reach safety.

THANDI MODISE WALKS FREE – JUDGEMENT APPEALED

The National Council of SPCAs is disappointed and angry that after almost seven years of pursuing justice for the animals that were subjected to cruelty on her farm, Thandi Modise, Speaker of the National Assembly of South Africa, was acquitted of all charges of animal cruelty brought against her in the Potchefstroom Magistrates Court on 30 April 2021.

Background

In 2014, the National Council of SPCAs confiscated 120 animals from Ms Modise's farm and euthanased a further 117 animals after they had been found in an emaciated condition, without any access to food or water. The property was also littered with the carcasses of animals that had perished as a result of sheer negligence and abuse. The animals that were still alive were found cannibalising off the carcasses and young in an attempt to survive.

Despite these facts, the court granted Ms Modise's application for discharge on account of there being "insufficient prima facie evidence" against her.

It is notable to mention that this case of animal cruelty was registered by the National Council of SPCAs in 2014 and was sent from pillar to post to have the case prosecuted by the State. After two years of the National Council of SPCAs religiously following up on the docket, the State declined to prosecute Ms Modise. This resulted in the case being privately prosecuted by AfriForum acting on behalf of the National Council of SPCAs.

We are indebted to Adv G Nel and the legal team of AfriForum for their great efforts in assisting us with this private prosecution and have instructed them to appeal the judgement.

INSPECTIONS

Farm Animal Protection Unit Inspectors operate nationally and undertake random, proactive inspections. All complaints received are also fully investigated. During the period under review, 702 inspections were undertaken around South Africa to ensure that the welfare of farm animals was not compromised.



Facilities inspected included: abattoirs, feedlots, poultry farms, hawkers, sale yards, dairy farms, pounds, pig farms, correctional facilities, rabbit farms, crocodile farms, cull outlets, aquaculture farms, petting farms, alpaca farms, mohair farms and agricultural colleges and schools.

Appropriate action was taken in addressing any welfare concerns encountered during inspections. These actions included recommendations for improvements as well as warnings to correct shortcomings.

Where contraventions of the Animals Protection Act No. 71 of 1962 were encountered, charges were laid. Seven new cases were registered with the South Africa Police Services and one conviction was secured after the person was found guilty of animal cruelty. The Farm Animal Protection Unit has a further 28 cases pending finalisation through the legal system.

OPPOSITION TO LIVE EXPORT

Since 2019 the National Council of SPCAs has been fighting for the countless animals that were, and continue to be, subjected to the egregious and inherently cruel trade of exporting live animals by sea to the Middle East. Al Mawashi, a subsidiary of a live export company by the name of Kuwait Livestock and Transport (KLTT), with the permission of the South African Government, export live animals across the equator to the Middle East.

The National Council of SPCAs' legal battle against Al Mawashi and the relevant governmental departments was divided into two parts. **Part A** included an urgent interdict preventing Al Mawashi from exporting any live animals from South Africa by way of a vessel across the equator until part B of the application was heard. **Part B** included our argument as to why the export of live animals by way of a ship across the equator is severe abuse to animals and should be banned in its entirety.

This interdict should have stood until a ruling of Part B of our application was handed down by the courts. It was almost unbelievable that AJ Dukada ruled in favour of Al Mawashi in August 2020, due to a balance of convenience - this balance being between the FINANCIAL LOSS (money) that could be suffered by the respondents should the export be prevented versus that of the WELFARE of the exported sheep.

The National Council of SPCAs appealed the ruling at the Supreme Court of Appeal where we were once again dismissed. We were left with no choice but to approach the Apex Court of our country and in August 2021 we are shocked that our plea to protect animals was again dismissed. As a result, hundreds of thousands of our animals suffered and will continue to suffer at sea. This is devastating for our animals. However, all is not lost. Part B of our application, which seeks to ban the export of live animals by sea north of the equator completely, is yet to be heard by our Courts.

The goal of the National Council of SPCAs in this legal battle is to stop the suffering and see an end to the export of live animals by sea across the equator.

LIVE EXPORT – AN UNNECESSARY AND CRUEL TRADE

The total disregard for the suffering endured by animals leaving our shores to the Middle East on death ships is beyond our comprehension. We are deeply saddened by the lack of compassionate responsibility shown by our Government by not standing with other countries in outlawing this cruel trade.

But these animals were never abandoned by the National Council of SPCAs.

We lobbied government entities on their behalf. We stood by them and fought hard in our courts of law to secure their protection. With every shipment since 2019, our Inspectors have spent long hours working at the feedlot and at the East London harbour to ensure that these doomed animals were treated humanely while they were on South African soil.

We may not have won the battle to stop vessels from leaving our shores with live animals to the Middle East but the war is not lost and we will NOT give up! When another ship arrives to carry our animals away, we will again be there looking out for their best interests. Like the animals that went before them, they will not be abandoned nor will they be forgotten.

The National Council of SPCAs will continue to pursue legal action against the exporters, and bring pressure to bear on the Government to ban cruel practices and press for legislation to protect farm animals.



**THEY WILL
NOT BE
FORGOTTEN**



**National Council
of SPCAs**



THE FOCUS IS ON ANIMALS

Whether it's a domestic animal, a working donkey, a captive predator or a farm animal – like you, we believe that all animals deserve protection.

They look to us for protection. They also look to you.

It costs money for our Inspectors to travel around the country to ease the suffering of animals. It costs money to bring those who don't treat animals well to justice. It costs money to lobby the government. It costs money to take legal action to stop inhumane practices. The bottom line is – it takes money to help and protect the animals you and I care about.

We are asking for monetary donations to support our work in protecting animals and preventing cruelty.

Please reach out to animals today with your generous donation

www.nspca.co.za