



National Council
of SPCAs

NATIONAL COUNCIL
OF SPCAs



www.dbv-sPCA.co.za

2023 Annual Report



Leaders in Animal Welfare in Africa

For over 65 years we have been protecting our country's animals.

We have entrenched ourselves as the most influential animal welfare organisation in Africa.

MAKE CONTACT

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

Audited Financial Statements are available on request from our offices.

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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).

Registration No. 003-189 NPO

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

Executive Director's Report

Marcelle Meredith



As I reflect on the past year, I cannot help but recall the many disasters which have affected our country's animals so badly. From the damaging fires to flooded areas, our skilled disaster teams were on hand to bring relief to the many animals that were either injured, displaced or left without food. Devastating outbreaks of Avian Flu also saw our teams assisting with the humane culling of thousands of birds. The welfare of animals that fell prey to African Swine Fever and African Horse Sickness was also closely monitored with interventions where this was necessary.

The economic situation in the country has a grave bearing on the National Council of SPCAs. Everyone is affected and less disposable income results in reduced public support of NGOs. The National Council of SPCAs covers the entire country and the various Units are constantly growing and improving the service we provide to a broad spectrum of animals. However, rising fuel and accommodation costs alone draw heavily on the resources needed to sustain the vital work this organisation has undertaken. We are therefore appreciative of the ongoing support, both financial and moral, of our donors in these difficult financial times.

The workforce of the National Council of SPCAs is made up of a team of skilled personnel, whose training and expertise collectively cover all animal species. It is to this team of Inspectors that I express my thanks and congratulations for working tirelessly to achieve this organisation's objectives – preventing cruelty and suffering. Our team would not be complete without the support of administrative personnel who work behind the scenes, promoting animal welfare through social media, raising funds, and handling donor responsibilities or finances. My thanks to all these men and women who make up this organisation.

In the pages that follow, you will have insight into some of the work that was undertaken and the challenges and achievements of the various Units: real work undertaken by real committed and compassionate people. On the farm animal front, the Farm Animal Protection Unit has dealt with several important issues – from providing welfare input with the development of national codes which contributes to improved welfare standards, to the prosecution of numerous individuals who have not seen fit to treat farm animals with compassion and kindness. Our Consulting Veterinarian is also thanked for his invaluable input and support in terms of our concerted efforts to stop the live export of sheep from our

shores. His work does not stop here. He is available to all our Units for veterinary support.

Wild animals have also received focused attention. The Wildlife Protection Unit continues to fight for the release and retirement of the lone elephant at the National Zoological Gardens. Constant stalling by the zoo has not affected the Unit's enthusiasm and determination to see Charley living a better life. Our Special Projects Unit continues to monitor the movement of animals across our borders, animal racing and working dogs and horses. The Unit has evolved and now also incorporates animal fighting and animal sexual abuse cases. All are important issues with welfare implications.

The Animal Ethics Unit continues to make remarkable inroads and reviewed a total of 2,818 research protocols during the past year. While this may not at first glance seem significant, this effort has resulted in a reduction in the number of animals used in research projects. In addition, facilities around the country have been inspected.

The welfare of domestic animals and the upliftment of the lives of working donkeys remain important features of the assistance given to communities in indigent areas where there are no state veterinarians or animal welfare societies to assist animals.

The importance of training cannot be over-emphasised. The training team is thanked for putting SPCA delegates through their paces and enabling them to join the ranks of Field Officers, Inspectors and Senior Inspectors around the country. The training of South African Police Service officials, prosecutors and university students on animal welfare also forms part of the training strategy.

To our legal team – thank you to all concerned for standing with us in addressing the important animal welfare cases that have crossed our paths this past year.

I also thank the Board of Directors for their time and support.

To everyone who has supported the National Council of SPCAs and the animals we serve in the past year – my warmest thanks and appreciation for your kindness.

Our Leadership

Our Mission is to prevent cruelty and promote the welfare of all animals, whilst our Vision is to end animal cruelty in South Africa and engender compassion for all animals.



**National Council
of SPCAs**



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BACK ROW : CHRISTO FRANCKE, GERHARDT FOUCHÉ, DR CHRIS MARUFU, ANNETTE RADEMAYER AND JOHN PENROSE
FRONT ROW: CHRISTINE KUCH, LIZE PIENAAR, MARCELLE MEREDITH AND ALET STEYN
(MAKHOSOZANE LUTHULI NOT IN PHOTOGRAPH)

Board of Directors

Annette Rademeyer	(Chairman)
Christine Kuch	(Vice-Chairman)
Makhosozane Luthuli	(Financial Director)
Marcelle Meredith	(Executive Director)
Gerhardt Fouché	
Christo Francke	
Chris Marufu (Dr)	
John Penrose	
Lize Pienaar	
Alet Steyn	

Management

Marcelle Meredith	Chief Executive Officer
Esté Kotzé	Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Grace de Lange	Chief Operations Officer
Bryce Marock (Dr)	Consulting Veterinarian

Unit Managers

Lebo Sentle	Animal Ethics
Nazareth Appalsamy	Farm Animal Protection
Tercia Woest	Society Liaison
Arno de Klerk	Special Projects
Alana Smal / John Usher	Training and Donkey Upliftment
Grace de Lange (Acting)	Wildlife Protection

About Us

The National Council of SPCAs is the largest animal welfare organisation in South Africa and prevents cruelty, promotes kindness to, and alleviates the suffering of animals. Our objective is to serve and protect **ALL** animals, irrespective of species, to uplift their welfare, and to ensure that the protection they have under South African law is upheld and respected.

The National Council of SPCAs operates on a national basis with teams of dedicated Inspectors, who are specialists in their fields dealing specifically with farm animals, wild, domestic, research animals, equine and working animal issues. Animals used in entertainment and sport also receive our focused attention, as do aquatic species that fall under the banner of aquaculture.

In areas where there is no SPCA, no animal welfare organisations and no veterinary services, our Inspectors play a vital role in bringing extraordinary support to people and their animals through our outreach programmes. When disasters strike and emergencies arise our skilled teams provide hands-on assistance to animals.

Our Inspectors

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

All qualified Inspectors are authorised in terms of the Animals Protection Act 71 of 1962. Inspectors undergo a rigorous training programme and receive ongoing training throughout their careers to ensure that the highest standards are maintained.

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



Pledge to Serve Animals

- To uphold the law and protect ALL animals and treat them with compassion and kindness at all times.
- To respond swiftly and professionally to assist animals in need – regardless of the time or place.
- To adhere to the Code of Ethics and all the Rules and Policies as stipulated in the Operations Manual and to uphold the principles of the SPCA movement.
- To uphold and promote the 5 Freedoms and the kind treatment of animals by humans.
- To treat both people and animals with respect.

During the past year, our dedicated teams of Inspectors have continued to undertake their daily duties and upheld the pledge to serve animals.

We applaud them for their compassionate hearts and caring hands and for reaching out to animals in need of help, rescue and protection.



Veterinarian Input on Animal Welfare

The Consulting Veterinarian of the National Council of SPCAs works alongside Inspectors of the organisation's specialised Units and provides professional input on a variety of animal welfare issues.

Veterinary collaboration is largely with the Farm Animal Protection Unit. The veterinary assistance given included advice on injuries and diseases encountered 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.

Live Export by Sea – An Update

The support given to the Farm Animal Protection Unit included physical inspections at feedlots and monitoring and examining conditions on sea vessels carrying animals.

The National Council of SPCAs has been in and out of Court since 2019, fighting for live sheep exports to the Middle East to be banned in South Africa.

The battle was separated into two parts, namely Part A and Part B. In Part A, the National Council of SPCAs sought to prevent Al Mawashi (South Africa's largest exporter of sheep) from exporting any sheep from South Africa to the Middle East until Part B of the application was heard in Court. The National Council of SPCAs was granted an interim-interim interdict to prevent Al Mawashi from exporting until Part A was heard before the Court three months later. The vessel the MV Al sheep destined for the Middle East was prevented from leaving during this time, owing to Al Mawashi trying to deceptively avoid detection. Judge Jaji J declared that the company "had come to court with dirty hands". At the request of Al Mawashi another judge, Judge Gerald Bloem heard the matter, and he endorsed Jaji J's findings. Five live exports from East London to the Middle East were undertaken between October 2019 to July 2023.

The National Council of SPCAs consequently withdrew Part B which was to be prepared on paper and instead issued a fresh

application for a trial, which permits witnesses and experts to testify and be cross-examined. At the beginning of May 2022, the National Council of SPCAs issued a summons in the Eastern Cape High Court Division, for this matter to be heard as an action trial.

In the trial, the National Council of SPCAs intends to prove the suffering that occurs on board livestock vessels across the equator to the Middle East. Our sheep are being exported during some of the hottest months of the year to one of the hottest (and humid) places on Earth - the Middle East. During their 21-day journey North of the equator, our sheep are exposed to continually high temperatures without relief. The combined heat and humidity can reach catastrophic levels which often result in heatstroke, suffering and in many cases death. The vessels are not cleaned until they arrive at their destination which means that the sheep are forced to live in their excrement for the duration of the journey. The heat aggravates the problem of building up of faeces and urine resulting in the off-gassing of ammonia burning the eyes and throats of those on board and often leads to respiratory infections. The pens are also overcrowded which makes it difficult for some to reach food and water, some of them may be left to suffer from untreated diseases, motion sickness, physical trauma, and injuries. This has been recognised in other countries, and it has become apparent that live export companies are seeking out new sources of animals.

The trial may last weeks as the arguments would be heard in Court. This will come at an additional cost to the National Council which will have to pay the travelling costs, the accommodation costs of our team, and the fees of our legal team and our highly esteemed experts, most of whom are international.

During the most recent live export to the Middle East in July 2023, approximately 40,000 sheep and 3,000 cattle were exported. The National Council of SPCAs encountered various violations in terms of the Animals Protection Act 71 of 1962 as well as the Government's Guidelines for the Exportation of Live Animals by Sea. The exporters attempted to load sheep that were visibly pregnant, with injuries fleece longer than 25 mm and sheep, with sharp horns protruding past the widest part of the animals' bodies.

In an attempt to comply with the Guidelines, some 130 large rams had theirs brutally removed in the middle of the night by the exporters without anaesthetic or pain control, causing extreme pain and discomfort. The feedlot manager obstructed the Inspectors in their duties resulting in him being arrested. Charges have been laid in terms of the Animals Protection Act. The matter remains pending.

Sheep destined for export and slaughter are tortured by having their horns cut/sawn off. NSPCA seize sheep. Feedlot Manager arrested.



The rams were rescued and are in a place of safety living on an extensive farm with open green fields.

In the interim, the National Council of SPCAs' Executive Director, Marcelle Meredith has approached the South African government with the aim of developing regulations, with the communications being of a positive nature.

It has been a long road, and there is still a long way to go but the National Council of SPCAs remains resolute, and we know that our supporters remain steadfast in this battle alongside us. The National Council of SPCAs appeals to all our faithful supporters to please contribute financially towards our battle.

Carbon Dioxide Stunning of Pigs

In 2023, the National Council of SPCAs achieved a milestone in having carbon dioxide stunning tested within commercial systems at the only slaughterhouse in South Africa using it.

The National Council of SPCAs has been working on this project for almost a decade. After negotiations with the previous and new owners, it was accepted that independent research was required to verify if this method is humane

The National Council of SPCAs also influenced that the license issued by the government state that it was conditional based upon research undertaken in situ, and such license included the relevant meat industry body, the University of Pretoria and

the National Council of SPCAs. Aspects of the research are a first of its kind and will be published in early 2024.

This matter is one of international interest where this method has come under intense scrutiny, mostly as a result of it taking place underground. In modern times, footage has been smuggled out of these abattoirs from New York to Sydney.



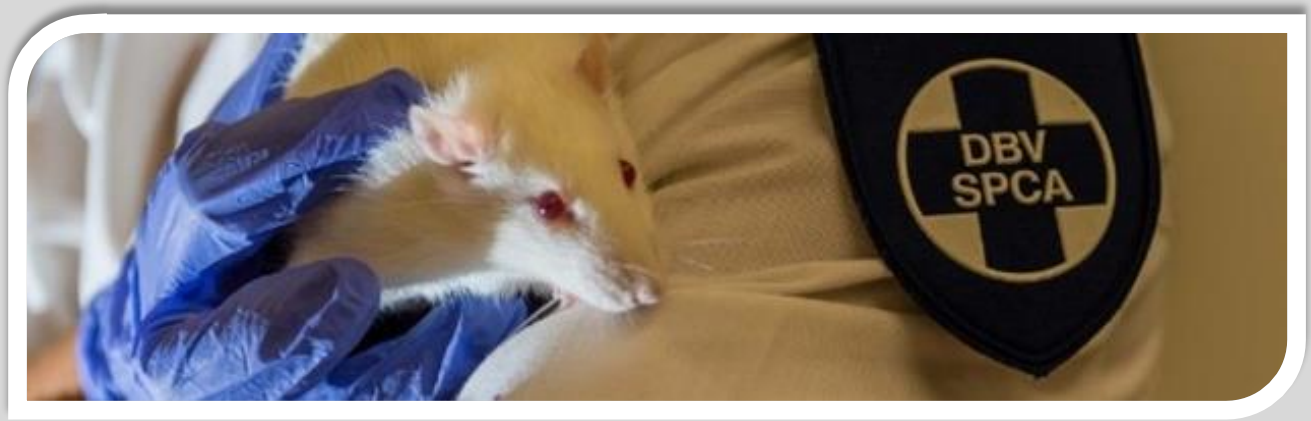
International Coalition for Animal Welfare (ICFAW)

ICFAW is an organisation comprised of animal welfare organizations from all regions of the world. It was formed to be the role player representing animal welfare at the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH), previously known as the OIE. Industries and governments are the other important role players.

The National Council of SPCAs was invited to be on ICFW's sub-committee for the revision of the sea transport chapter. The only two member organizations with extensive experience on this topic are the National Council of SPCAs and Animals Australia. We worked on this revision with three other organizations adding and removing outdated provisions. This included data obtained from South Africa and Australia, together with recent developments within sea transport, and accepted standards (that are positive) from newer WOAH documents.

Most of the National Council of SPCAs' comments were accepted by ICFW, which is positive in the sense that only strong arguments with solid rationale would even be considered by the specialised technical committee for this standard.

Industry and government are active in trying to remove any additions put forward by animal welfare. Changes need to be robustly justified because even if they pass the technical stage, countries' delegates vote against it. If these strong changes are rejected without good reason, it will become evident that the WOAH is incapable of passing meaningful standards, resulting in a call for change in how these standards are developed or revised.



Protecting Animals used in Science and Teaching

The use of animals in research is an extremely complex and controversial issue both locally and internationally. For this reason, broad-based practical initiatives are needed to address animal welfare concerns within this field.

Review of Research Applications and Protocols

The Animal Ethics Unit staff spent 2,366 hours reviewing a total of 2,818 protocols were reviewed. Most research during the reporting period was undertaken to benefit animals. Mostly biomedical, observational and conservation studies were approved.

Applications or other matters under consideration are reviewed to ensure that they are ethically acceptable. The Animal Protection Act 71 of 1962 and the South African National Standard 10386: 2021 (Edition 2) The Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes (SANS 10386) is used as a reference when reviewing applications. All the requirements of the Standard must be met before approval is granted. We regard these requirements as the minimum standard that must be complied with but we encourage researchers to do more for the welfare of the animals than the minimum requirements.

The principles of the 3Rs in animal research ethics are well-known principles. Ensuring that these principles are applied in the research applications received for review is one of our focus points. As the awareness of animal research ethics has grown, new concepts were introduced. Examples of the new concepts are the fostering of a culture of care for animals, rehabilitation, the justification of the use of animals and a proper harm-benefit analysis to name a few. These developments caused those involved in the care and use of animals to feel overwhelmed and confused about whether they were adhering to all the new developments. An article

“The need for a unifying animal research framework” was published and the suggested framework was introduced as the 12R framework.

In the new proposed Guidelines, entitled “Ethics in Health Research: Principles, Processes and Structures” issued by the Department of Health the 12R framework tool is incorporated as a key norm for research that uses animals. These Guidelines contain the national policy for conducting research responsibly and ethically, tailored to South Africa’s needs as appropriate.

Improving Housing Conditions and Environment Enrichment for Chickens used in Vaccine Research

A long battle was fought with a research facility to improve the housing conditions and environmental enrichment for the chickens in the Virology Department. We were not satisfied with the ventilation system in the house. It was inadequate in our view to ensure sufficient air circulation. Good ventilation is essential to provide birds with a constant and uniform supply of fresh air and to extract from the area products of respiration, moisture and gases from bedding and droppings.

We found there was no thermometer to measure the temperature and humidity and no means to regulate the temperature in the house. Temperature and relative humidity are important factors that must be adapted to suit the species. The temperature must be measured daily and must be recorded.

We engaged with the facility by issuing Warnings and Notices to Comply. We made suggestions on what could be done to improve the well-being of the chickens. With our guidance, it was decided that it would be best to relocate the chickens to more suitable housing. The chickens were moved to a house with more space, with an extraction fan to circulate the air adequately to prevent the buildup of ammonia and there is adequate lighting and windows to allow for normal circadian rhythms. They are currently sourcing infrared lights to provide warmth on cold days.

With the relocation of the chickens, the environmental enrichment was also improved. It is important that the husbandry systems encourage foraging behaviour. Domestic fowl will spend up to 35% of the day scratching, pecking and foraging. Perching space is important for the welfare of the animals. It reduces crowding on the floor, allows subordinates some refuge, and reduces aggressive behaviour.



Scratching and foraging behaviour in the pen is encouraged by providing a thick layer of hay on the floor and by placing a container with sand inside the pen. The latter is very popular and always in use. The layout of the pen also provides plenty of suitable places for perching. The enrichment put in place now allows the expression of normal behaviour of the chickens and they have a good degree of control and choice over their environment. This reduces stress-induced behaviour and the quality of life of the animals is significantly improved.

Practical Application of the 3Rs

The following are a few examples of the practical application of the 3Rs – replacement, reduction, and refinement.

A study on formulation strategies to improve the solubility and permeability of curcumin was modified from a rodent study to an in vivo study. The use of pig intestines replaced mice in the study, which resulted in the study being reclassified from a category C to a category A study.

A pilot study was approved to evaluate the health benefits of probiotic vegetables using multi-omics in BALB/c mice. This study aims to ensure that all envisioned objectives can be met without compromising animal welfare.

The main study will be approved only after the pilot study has been completed and the objectives have been met.

Two studies developing nasal sprays will use sheep tissues obtained from an abattoir instead of live animals.

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

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



Animal Ethics Committees

A large portion of the Animal Ethics Unit's time is spent serving as welfare representatives on established Animal Ethics Committees around the country. Our Animal Ethics Unit staff currently serve on 48 of these Committees and attended a total of 291 meetings during the reporting period.

Inspections and Corrective Actions

The purpose of inspections is to ensure that the institution complies with the Animals Protection Act (No 71 of 1962) and the South African National Standards – The care and use of animals for scientific purposes (SANS 10386:2021).

During the inspections, we take a close look at the following aspects:

- The health, behaviour and appearance of the animals, numbers and types of animals, as well as the reason for being housed at the facility.
- The housing environment, including size and density of housing, environmental enrichment protocols, feeding regimes and general environmental conditions (e.g. lighting, ventilation, noise).
- Population, health and pain management protocols, humane endpoint implementation and euthanasia.
- Adherence to and compliance with protocols and maintenance of relevant and appropriate documentation.
- General facility structure and infrastructure, maintenance, pest control and biosecurity measures

The Unit conducted 83 Inspections during the reporting period and 33 warnings/notices/requirement letters were issued during the period under review.

During inspections we ensure the facilities have appropriate enrichment techniques in place, to extend the range of activities available to the animals and increase their coping activities including physical exercise, foraging, manipulative and cognitive activities, as appropriate to the species. Environmental enrichment in animal enclosures shall be adapted to the species and individual needs of the animals concerned. The enrichment strategies in facilities shall be regularly reviewed and updated.



Positive Changes Introduced

After numerous inspections conducted at the Agricultural Research Centre (ARC) Irene in 2022, we gave notice to the General Manager on 25 May 2022 that due to animal welfare concerns (risk unavailability of food and medication), no applications for research would be approved by the National Council of SPCAs until the procurement challenges have been addressed.

On 1 August 2023, we were invited to a meeting to discuss the progress of optimising the procurement processes. During the meeting, we received an overview of the procurement process stages. Due to the positive feedback received from the financial and animal unit managers we decided to revisit the decision to not allow research to be done at the facility. Applications for research to be conducted at the facility will be reviewed and approved if they meet ethical standards and on the following conditions:

- A spreadsheet of the stock levels of the different animal units must be submitted to the Animal Ethics Committee at the monthly meeting.
- The animal housing that will be used during the research must comply with minimum standards and applications will not be approved if the housing of the animals is a welfare concern.

The Animal Ethics Unit overcame many challenges and worked tirelessly to achieve its goal of improving animal welfare at the facility and is thrilled with the outcome.

Improvement of Housing

In July 2023, Animal Ethics Unit Inspectors issued a warning to one of the facilities that the housing of animals at their Farm Animal Unit was prohibited until the welfare concerns were addressed and the infrastructure was upgraded to meet the minimum standards for animal housing.

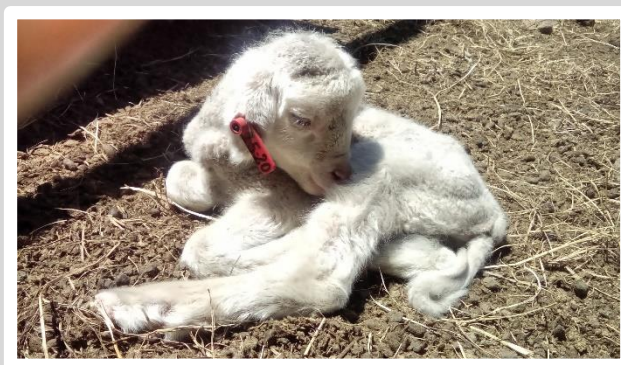
During that period, our primary issues were:

- The lighting system experienced malfunctions in its scheduled activation, and the light timers and controls are in an area that is not readily accessible for staff to perform the required adjustments.
- There is a lack of a backup power system.

We received feedback in November that the following improvements were made to address our concerns:

- The light timer has been connected to the generator providing power during loadshedding. This light timer will be connected to a UPS in January 2024 as soon as the Farm Animal Unit receives funding. The light timer is set to turn the lights off at 18:00 and on at 06:00. An alternative light source has been installed in the unit that is not connected to the light timer. This light source, while dimmer, can be turned on from inside the unit to provide lighting when the timer has turned the main lights off.
- The Farm Animal Unit has been connected to the generator providing power during loadshedding. The connection includes power to light sources, fans and electrical plug points.

The improvements made were taken into account, and it was concluded that the Animal Unit could move forward with housing sheep in the designated area.





Disaster and Emergency Relief

Our trained rescue teams are on standby 24/7 to respond to disasters and bring compassionate assistance to the animal victims.

National Council of SPCAs Inspectors have experienced a very challenging year and our Disaster and Emergency Relief Teams have worked in the Northern Cape, Free State, North West Province, Gauteng and Mpumalanga. We have provided critical support to wild animals, farm animals and domestic animals affected by numerous veld fires, disease outbreaks and drought.

The Climate Change crisis is resulting in widespread veld fires, storms, floods and drought which are increasing in intensity, duration and frequency and both people and animals are affected.

The unprecedented number of calls for assistance has stretched our financial and workforce capacity to the limit. However, animal victims in these situations suffer immense fear, pain and trauma and we have a duty of care to be there for them when they need us the most.

All operational staff have been placed on a roster with relief teams being used where necessary. Where there have been local SPCAs in the affected areas they have also assisted where possible.

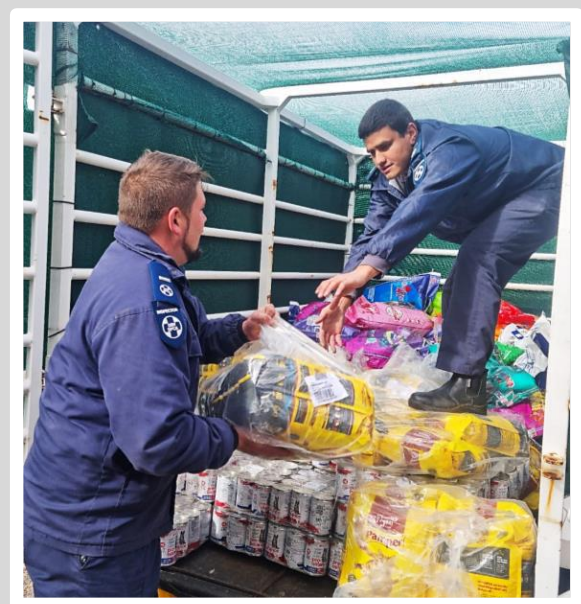
Animal victims in disaster and emergency situations need urgent assistance and the response has to be rapid and effective. Our teams have provided critical interventions to minimise and alleviate suffering, assist those affected and rescue survivors. Examples of the disaster relief brought to animals by our Inspectors are highlighted in the following text.

Flood Disaster Relief in Northern Cape

Buffelsrivier and Kommaggas lie in the Namakwa District Municipality in the Northern Cape. These towns were the destination for our assistance in July 2023. The flooding had a devastating effect on the area and caused the loss of both

human and animal lives. The communities were cut off from supplies and had no feed for themselves or their animals. Human aid organisations stepped in to take food supplies for the people and the National Council of SPCAs had to act to assist the animals.

A team was dispatched to the area with vehicles and trailers loaded to capacity with emergency supplies of food, bowls medication and blankets. Inspectors met with community leaders and arranged for food to be distributed from the local community centres. Community members helped the team to offload the food and supplies and make up the care packs. These packs were to help pet owners for a short time until the roads were open and people were able to reach the shops in the nearby Springbok.



Due to the remoteness of the area and widely situated homesteads, not all owners were able to come to the central

food distribution points. In these cases, the Inspectors also undertook home visits to ensure as many animals and people as possible were assisted



The nearest veterinarian to these communities is in Springbok so owners do the best they can with basic care of their animals. During home visits, some owners asked the Inspectors to help with some minor issues and asked for advice on primary health care.

Inspectors checked the welfare of donkeys and horses as they encountered them in different areas. Fortunately, these animals rely on grazing and were not directly affected by the floods.

Flames of Destruction

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 the 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 commonly affected, however, domestic and wild animals are also victims. Some animals are burnt to death in the initial blaze and smoke inhalation is another common cause of 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 prolonged suffering.

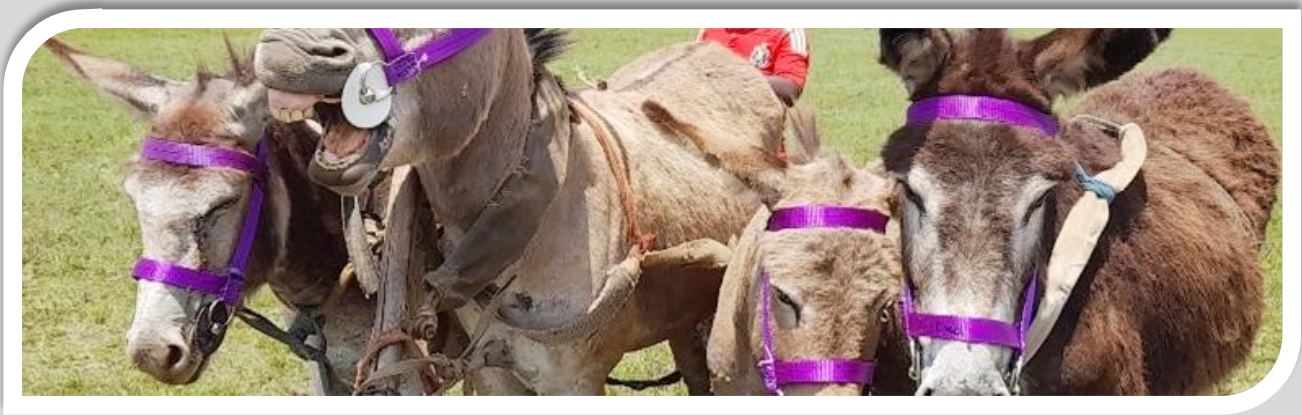
Our Disaster Response Team sprang into action over a long weekend in September 2023, rushing to the aid of animals affected by fires in Daniëlskuil and surrounds in the Northern Cape.

Farm animals and wildlife were all impacted, and our Inspectors worked tirelessly to provide the care and support they urgently needed.

Our trained teams walked the ground looking for injured farm and animals and assisted farmers in locating their animals and taking them to places of safety. Assistance was also provided to the injured and dying.

Surviving wild animals trapped in the fires were rescued and given emergency care. In cases where homes had been burnt to the ground, domestic animals were taken to places of safety.





Uplifting the Lives of Donkeys

The National Council of SPCAs promotes animal welfare education and responsible animal ownership for the benefit of both animals and people. By improving the welfare standards of working donkeys, we contribute to the upliftment of impoverished communities.

Appreciating these Hard Workers

On Workers Day (1 May 2023), the public holiday, we paid tribute to working donkeys around South Africa who often don't get a day off or get appreciated.

While hard work often pays off for human beings, many animals are worked relentlessly and rarely ever become 'richer' for the help they provide to humanity.

Donkeys are a clear example of this. These gentle creatures are some of the hardest working animals out there, carrying exceptionally heavy loads of water, sand, wood etc. in and out of their communities to help their people. They are also still used as a form of transport in many parts of South Africa and the world, carrying the sick and elderly to the hospital or children to school.



Yet, despite their hard work and the vital support they provide, they are found by our Inspectors living under some of the most inhumane conditions until we intervene.

One Donkey at a Time

Community interactions include vital animal welfare elements such as humane handling, humane harnessing, primary health care, and one donkey at a time we strive to make their world kinder

Some examples of the important work undertaken to improve the lives of these hard workers.



Harnessing Workshops

When educating people in impoverished areas about donkey well-being, the approach is to offer a "hand-up" as opposed to a "hand-out." The hand-up method involves empowering community members with the necessary skills and knowledge to improve not only their own situation but that of their donkeys. An example of this is a harnessing workshop which was held in Senwabarwana, Limpopo Province because there were concerns regarding harnesses and bits used on working donkeys in the area. The economic climate makes it difficult for owners and handlers to provide safe and suitable materials

to be used on the animals that pull the heavy carts. However, this is not an excuse to neglect or ill-treat the donkeys.

Poor harnessing that has been cheaply and incorrectly made continues to cause injuries and chronic pain for the humble working-class donkeys. Replacing inhumane bits, and teaching people to make and fit harnesses correctly reduces the number of wounds on the donkeys. Harnessing workshops encourage and teach owners to take responsibility for their animals and to use all their equipment humanely.



At these workshops, harmful bits were removed and destroyed and the owners were provided with new, suitable bits. Many animals were treated for internal parasites and minor cuts and injuries were also treated. Educational pamphlets were also handed out to the community to educate them on the care and treatment of their pets and other animals. Armed with education and relevant equipment, community members are in a better position to provide better care for their animals.



Education and Law Enforcement

The donkey project focuses on empowering donkey owners and users through education, leadership and demonstration. Working proactively, Inspectors attend to the primary health care needs of donkeys while educating owners and cart drivers about the importance of proper handling, feeding, rest, and harnessing to prevent injuries.

However, in cases of donkey neglect and overloading of carts by owners believing that there are no consequences, both education and law enforcement are used to remind owners to comply with the Animals Protection Act No. 71 of 1962.





Assisting Communities and their Animals

Through community assistance programmes, the National Council of SPCAs strives to assist poverty-stricken communities and their animals.

Neglected and Sick Dogs receive Emergency Assistance

In April 2023, while working in Port Nolloth and Alexander Bay, a two-man team of National Inspectors were alerted to the dire situation of neglected and sick dogs in the area. The Inspectors assessed the conditions and provided emergency relief to animals, and due to the magnitude of the problem they called for assistance. A further two teams were dispatched to assist.

When the team arrived in Alexander Bay, it was confronted with a dire situation. Many companion animals were suffering from mange, severe malnutrition, and sickness. Some of them also bore untreated injuries, further compounding their pain. The absence of local veterinarians, animal welfare organisations, or SPCAs meant that these innocent creatures had been deprived of the care they desperately required.

Our teams of Inspectors worked tirelessly in the area for two weeks and provided essential primary care and loving assistance to these desperate animals.

Together the teams undertook mobile dipping stations to address the massive tick burden and collected many unwanted dogs suffering from severe mange. They also investigated reports of animal cruelty, some animals were confiscated, and the necessary action was taken.

The teams found high levels of unemployment and poverty and no local veterinary services to assist animal owners. The



nearest veterinarians are in Springbok which is 240km away from Alexander Bay and even further from the communities of Kuboes and Sanddrif which were also assisted. Without transport and funds for private veterinarians, the animals are not receiving the medical care they need. Our interventions brought relief to animals and their owners.

Celebrating Mandela Day

On the 10th Anniversary of the passing of our Patron-in-Chief Nelson Mandela, we again seized the opportunity to help a needy community in his memory.

The Nelson Mandela Foundation theme for this year was “Climate, Food & Solidarity and reflects some of the most urgent challenges facing people worldwide” with a focus on “dismantling poverty and inequality by taking action against climate change and creating resilient food environments”.

Our target area for the day's activities was Phola Park, Thokoza in Alberton. A community with many marginalised people (especially the elderly and youth) and animals.



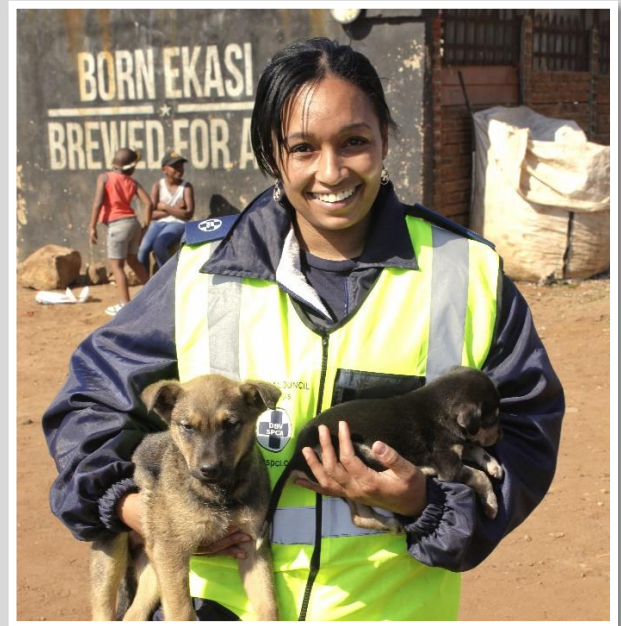
The administrative staff of the National Council of SPCAs work very hard behind the scenes and don't often have the satisfaction of dealing directly with the beneficiaries. So this was an opportunity for them to join the Inspectors and spend some time in the field.

Following the theme of the Nelson Mandela Foundation our team had prepared some vegetable seedlings for distribution as well as animal supplies of food, blankets and educational material. The team had a lot of supplies to load into the vehicles as well as health care medication and supplies.

When the team arrived they were met by many community members who were eager to engage and receive support. Some of them were already waiting with their pets.

The women in this community struggle daily to care for their families and provide nutritious meals. Selected vegetables, including tomatoes, onions, and spinach can add value to a meal and save money. They can be grown in pots or small gardens and are easy to maintain and care for and were gratefully received by community members.

Families came out bringing their animals to be assisted and the Inspectors were available to help them with their concerns. Home inspectors were also undertaken and Inspectors provided the necessary guidance to owners regarding suitable animal care and welfare.





All Animals Deserve Protection

Since ALL animals deserve protection, those animal welfare concerns that do not fall within the ambit of our other operational units are addressed by the Special Projects Unit.

Inspectors work toward improving, changing, and monitoring the welfare of animals that are used in illegal hunting, exhibition, safeguarding, recreational and sporting events. Special projects undertaken also deal with animals that do not fit into the traditional production, companion, or wild categories, for example, pests and problem animals, and monitoring and improving the welfare of animals being transported through the country's ports of entry.

Horse Races Monitored

Although the horses utilised in traditional racing are usually crossbred ponies, the National Council of SPCAs Inspectors are noticing an increase in thoroughbred horses being used in these races. Horses used in traditional racing do not always receive the same high-level care afforded to other horses in the racing industry. There are welfare implications regarding their diets, warm-up routines, transport, equipment, injuries and injured horses being raced, as well as the weight they are expected to carry. Traditional racing has been legalised in the gambling sector.

Inspectors monitor races that are selected randomly throughout the country to ensure that the welfare of the horses is not compromised. Interventions included the removal of sjamboks, whips and sticks and inappropriate bits and bridles. These interventions were necessary to prevent any unnecessary harm or discomfort to the horses participating in the race. Other welfare concerns, such as instances of horses being overridden and unsuitable offloading ramps.

Endurance rides bring with them their own welfare concerns since races are spread over a couple of days and across very rough terrains. Horses may become injured or lame and will

be pushed to finish these races by their riders, regardless of the animal's well-being. Thankfully rules and constitutions have been implemented to ensure that horses are assessed before they may continue or enter a race.



Movement of Animals by Road

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

Inspectors regularly visit South African land ports to ensure that the welfare of animals is not being compromised. 15 border operations at eight different border posts were conducted during the period under review. Some 67,489 kms

were travelled by Inspectors during 2023 in the execution of their duties.

Border inspections are important to ensure that the welfare of livestock being transported is not compromised. Vehicles transporting animals are stopped and inspected to ensure that the relevant regulations and legislation in place to protect animals are adhered to. Stocking densities and time travelled are also checked to ensure compliance with the various South African National Standards (SANS Codes) for the humane transportation of livestock and wildlife by road.



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

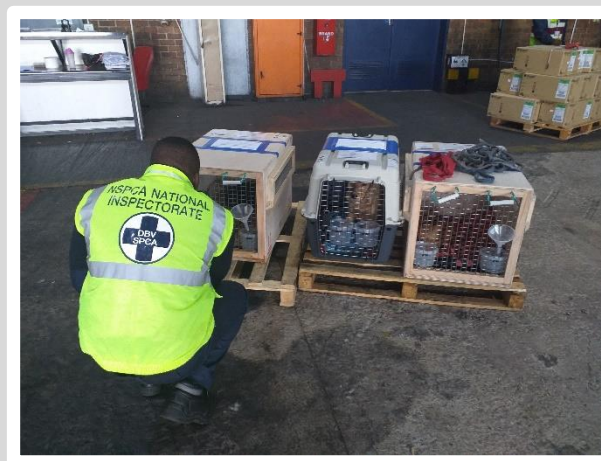


Animals Transported by Air

Inspectors conduct routine inspections at the OR Tambo International Airport as well as small airports around the country to ensure that all animal shipments comply with the Animals Protection Act no 71 of 1962 and the International Air Transport Association (IATA) Live Animal Regulations. In addition to these inspections, Inspectors respond to complaints of cruelty, tip-offs, instances of abandonment, delays, inadequate crating and smuggling. The Unit conducted

15 airport Inspections during 2023 and visited the warehouses of cargo companies to undertake 467 inspections. 5,297 animals arriving and departing from these warehouses were observed. Animal species commonly transported include day-old chicks, pigeons, exotic bird species, dogs, cats, rats, mice, livestock, horses, wild animals and aquatic species.

Inspectors continue to provide regular advice and support to the airport and border personnel on animal welfare, animal trade and illegal activities involving animals at the airports and ports of entry around the country.



Case Study

In 2023, The Special Projects Unit attended to a complaint about a shipment of 96 wild antelope species that were destined for India from OR Tambo International Airport.

Upon investigation, it was noted that the animals had been held at the cargo warehouse longer than expected due to paperwork discrepancies, which resulted in the flight departing without the animals. Inspectors discovered that one adult Eland was unable to stand, requiring immediate attention and another Eland had sustained an injury that needed veterinary treatment. The staff and shipper at the Cargo warehouse were alerted to these concerns and arrangements were made for the compromised animals to receive the necessary attention and the remaining animals to be taken back to the farm. A Warning was issued regarding these concerns and the importance of adherence to IATA Live Animal Regulations. Following the inspection, the animals were transported back to the farm and veterinary treatment was provided.

Dog Racing Remains Illegal

Dog racing is illegal in South Africa – since 1949. Across the world, dog racing has either been banned or there are united efforts to achieve bans in the last few outposts of this inhumane ‘sport’ in which animal cruelty is inherent. The Unit remains vigilant for any attempts made to lift the ban. The Unit received a letter from an attorney firm requesting a meeting to discuss the option of legalizing dog racing. A letter of response was sent indicating that a meeting would not be

attended since the National Council of SPCAs is opposed to dog racing and confirming that the activity remains illegal in South Africa.

A letter was sent to the National Gambling Board after a news article was shared on greyhound racing by Greater Good SA. The National Gambling Board responded that they supported the stance of the National Council of SPCAs and did not advocate for legalising greyhound racing.



A warrant was obtained after information was received about a dog race that was going to happen in Pietermaritzburg on 29 July 2023. The assistance of the Kloof and Highway, Pietermaritzburg and Umgeni SPCAs were called in together with the Pietermaritzburg SAPS K9 Unit and the Taylors Halt SAPS. The event organizers were hostile and did not appreciate the presence of the SPCA and SAPS, however after a while the group dispersed, and the race was stopped.

Intervention from the Special Projects Unit resulted in another race that was scheduled to take place in Piet Retief Mpumalanga on 30 December 2023 being cancelled.

Hunting with Dogs

The Special Projects Unit continues to work with Investigation Officers of South African Police Services as well as Prosecutors who are overseeing individual cases of hunting with dogs. Guidance and assistance with charges, affidavits, and dockets are provided.

Senior Inspector De Klerk and Inspector Mokoena presented at the Eastern Cape Department of Economic Development and Environmental Affairs Hunting with Dogs workshop held on 24 August 2023.

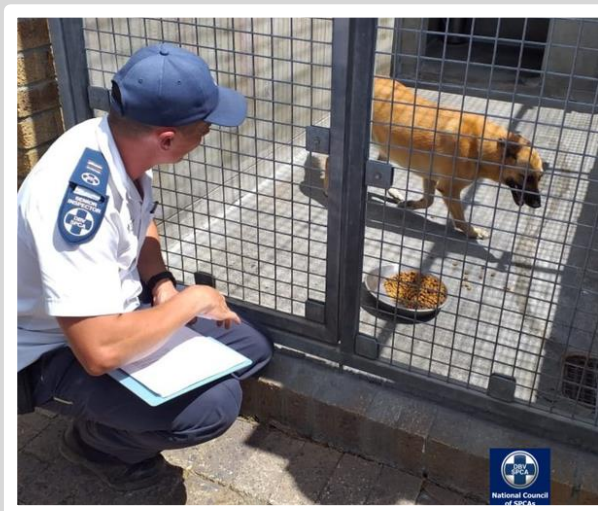
The ongoing issue of dogs used to poach wildlife has been discussed at length and a provisional working strategy is being formulated to get parties involved to find achievable solutions to this problem.

On 27 September 2023, Inspectors Moseki and Sibande were invited to attend a community meeting in Ermelo, Mpumalanga with regards to escalating and volatile hunting with dogs incidents happening in the area.

Working Dogs and Horses

The National Council of SPCAs does not stand opposed to working animals **subject to welfare standards being met**. These standards include appropriate housing, rest periods, nutrition and health, environmental enrichment and adequate exercise for non-operational dogs and horses as well as the use of humane training methods and equipment.

Monitoring, maintaining and improving these standards are the main reasons for the National Council of SPCAs inspecting dogs and horses used for safeguarding, whilst they are both on and off duty.



During 2023, the Special Projects Unit undertook 63 inspections at facilities that use dogs and horses for safeguarding, detection, and border protection.

Facility	Inspections
SARS Customs and Exercise (detector dogs)	3
Department of Agriculture (detector dogs)	2
Department of Correctional Services K9 Unit	8
Department of Correctional Services Mounted Unit	3
ACSA Runway Dog Inspections	2
South African Police Services K9 Unit	35
South African Police Services Mounted Units	10



Crimes Against Animals

The Special Projects Unit remains the only dedicated unit in the country specialising in the investigation and combatting of crimes pertaining to animal fighting and animal sexual abuse and animal maiming.

Acts of violent, premeditated animal cruelty and organised animal crimes are a sad and all-too-frequent reality in our country. In addition to the animal abuse that is central to these crimes, they also signal an elevated violence threat to society.

Our team of Inspectors continued to investigate criminal acts such as these, including the horrendous and illegal practice of dogfighting and the sexual abuse of animals.

Conviction in Animal Cruelty Case

The Special Projects Unit, in collaboration with the Roodepoort SPCA, is pleased to report yet another victory in the fight against animal cruelty.

After nearly seven years, on 15 August 2023, Mr Gershwin Perreira was found guilty of 59 counts of animal cruelty. The Regional Court handed down a sentence of R8000 or four years of imprisonment, with half of the sentence suspended for five years, provided the accused does not commit further crimes against animals, during the period of suspension. In addition, Mr Perreira was declared unfit to own or be in charge of any dog for five years.

Magistrate Baloyi stated “that the seriousness of the crime must not be underestimated. It was distressing that some dogs were in so much pain that they had to be put to sleep. The victim impact statement gave further insight into the crime. The SPCA gave Mr Perreira guidance as to how he should take care of his dogs, but he chose to ignore such guidance”.

Background

On 15 August 2016, a joint operation was conducted with the South African Police Service (SAPS), resulting in the rescue of sixteen dogs from a Pitbull breeder. During the operation, the

animals were found to be in compromised conditions, with evidence of severe scarring indicative of cruelty.



The National Council of SPCAs, Roodepoort SPCA, and SAPS worked tirelessly to ensure that the animals were removed safely and that criminal charges were laid against the breeder. The case proceeded to the Roodepoort Magistrates Court, where our Inspectors and Veterinarian made numerous appearances to ensure that justice prevailed.

Owner Pleads Guilty to Mistreatment of Dogs

On 27 September 2023, Mr Kamil Gordhan, the owner responsible for the mistreatment of three Dogo Argentino breed dogs pleaded guilty at the Newcastle Court.

The initial investigations, conducted in January 2023, revealed that these innocent animals were living in deplorable conditions. Inspectors obtained a warrant to rescue the dogs, who were found confined to enclosures at a business premises. The dogs were emaciated, surrounded by their own waste, and without food and water. Thanks to the swift action, these dogs were rescued from their dire circumstances and

provided with the care and attention they so desperately needed.

Mr Kamil Gordhan was sentenced to R20,000 or 10 months imprisonment, wholly suspended for 5 years, on the condition that he does not commit a similar offence within this period. Additionally, he is prohibited from owning dogs for a period of 10 months.



Magistrate M Mthembu, in her judgment, expressed empathy towards animal cruelty cases. She acknowledged the invaluable role played by the NSPCA for its protection of animals, specifically pointing out that voiceless animals are in desperate need of such guardianship. She added that animals are not simply property but living beings and they should be treated as such.

34 Dogs Rescued from School in Kuruman, Northern Cape

In June 2023, the Special Investigations team responded to a distressing complaint about the mistreatment of animals at a Primary School in Kuruman. What we uncovered was deeply concerning. Upon investigation, we found 17 puppies and four adult dogs crammed into a small enclosure. Under our guidance, the Kuruman SAPS removed these animals from the dire conditions. The school's principal was cautioned about the cruel conditions.

To ensure that the problem was nipped in the bud, a follow-up inspection was done in August 2023, in collaboration with the Kuruman SAPS, which revealed unsettling developments. The principal's reluctance to grant us access to the premises raised suspicion, leaving the Inspectors curious about what lay behind closed doors. After some delay, we gained entry, only to discover four adult dogs locked in the enclosure. And that wasn't all – hidden in a classroom, we found 12 Pitbull puppies, accompanied by their chained mother.

After confronting the school Principal, he willingly surrendered all the animals to the National Council of SPCAs, claiming they were being utilised for security. He was issued a warning. In total, we rescued 34 dogs from the school, and the National Council of SPCAs is currently considering the appropriate legal measures against the parties involved. Follow-up investigations are ongoing.



Workshop: South African Police Service

In March 2023, our operational units presented to high-ranking officials of the Gauteng South African Police Services (SAPS). The 30 members of SAPS that attended were made up of members of the Hawks, Crime Intelligence, DPC Policing, PC Crime Detection, SAPS Legal, K9 Unit, Mounted Unit, and the Stock Theft Unit.

The purpose of the workshop was to create operative partnerships between all spheres of law enforcement, strengthening and reinforcing expertise essential in crime prevention. The focus of the workshop centered around animal law enforcement and the challenges and strategies were discussed. Workshops provide innovative and creative resources advancing crime prevention and justice for all. Presentations covered dogfighting, bestiality and animal laws. We believe that the workshop was a success and beneficial to all parties present. The National Council of SPCAs intends to present similar workshops to SAPS in other provinces.

Sexual Abuse of Animals

Bestiality is a shameful crime that is often swept under the carpet to protect perpetrators. This crime has a proven propensity to escalate to other violent and sexual crimes against people. During the past year, 21 cases were investigated.

**61 Dogfighting related and 21 bestiality actions were investigated in 2023.
42 animals were removed from the cycle of violence.**



Training for a Kinder World

A vital component of the National Council of SPCAs' work is the provision of training to prevent cruelty to animals and to work with communities to protect animals. Training includes educational work and practical assistance. The starting point is the upliftment of SPCA personnel who are actively involved in improving the lives of animals.

Overview of Courses

The National Council of SPCAs is fortunate to have the expertise of a wide variety of highly skilled lecturers who presented the various training courses in 2023.

The Training Unit planned, arranged, and hosted internal and external training courses during the past year. The planning of logistical aspects regarding training courses is vital to ensure that training is delivered professionally. Training course material, including handouts and presentations, was updated to ensure that the training process remains effective for both the lecturers and the delegates attending the courses.

Training provides an opportunity for Field Officers, Inspectors, Senior Inspectors and committee members within the SPCA movement to grow their knowledge and advance their careers. These courses provide delegates with training on the necessary skills to prevent cruelty to animals, for Inspectors to enforce the law and for committee members to manage Societies.

Training was also conducted externally with different stakeholders, including SAPS Officials, Stock Theft Officials, Traffic Officers and Animal Health Technician students at North West University. External training plays a crucial role in preventing cruelty to animals as these stakeholders are provided with the necessary knowledge and skills to better assist the animals. It also provides them with the opportunity to enhance their skills within the work environment.

The Training Unit is very proud to be part of developing, supporting and mentoring Inspectors and Field Officers. These key personnel are significant role-players in their own communities. They provide education, assistance, rescue, primary health care and welfare support to animals and owners. We salute these dedicated people.



Inspectors Training Course

13-24 February 2023

13 Delegates attended the Inspectors Training Course – Free State (2); Gauteng (3); KwaZulu Natal (1); Limpopo (1); Mpumalanga (1); North West (1); Western Cape (4).

The first Inspectors Training Course of the year was successful. Delegates provided the following feedback:

“All the course presentations were of high standards.”

“Overall the course was good.”

“Great lessons, thank you!”

“Very enjoyable, interactive lessons and the questions to test our knowledge throughout really helped.”

Field Officer Training Course

17-21 April 2023

A Field Officer Training Course during April 2023. Field Officers play a vital role in improving the welfare of animals through education and fieldwork.

13 Delegates attended the Field Officer Training Course – Gauteng (3); KwaZulu Natal (4); Limpopo (1); Mpumalanga (2); North West (1); Western Cape (2).

The following feedback was provided by one of the delegates: “I will be able to assist my community with more detailed information when educating.”



Refresher Inspectors Training Course

15-26 May 2023

13 Delegates attended this Refresher Inspectors Training Course – Gauteng (6); KwaZulu Natal (3); Limpopo (1); North West (1); Western Cape (2).

The first Refresher Inspectors Training Course of the year was successful, and the delegates participated in legislation discussions, and practical activities and conducted inspections at farm and equine facilities. The Inspectors participated in a role-play activity where delegates acted out scenarios and participated in a court case. The delegates found this activity extremely beneficial to practice and gain knowledge on court proceedings.

The delegates provided the following feedback after participating in law discussions and the moot court case activity:

“Extend the court case scenario.”;

“Will be opening more cases and will do everything in my power to get my SPCA back on track and keep the doors open.”;

“I have much more confidence in opening cases and applying the law.”

11-22 September 2023

On this successful Refresher Inspectors Training Course 12 Delegates attended – Eastern Cape (1); Gauteng (6); KwaZulu Natal (4); Western Cape (1).

Inspectors Training Course

21 August–1 September 2023

14 Delegates and 1 Observer attended the Inspectors Training Course – Eastern Cape (1); Gauteng (4); KwaZulu Natal (6); Mpumalanga (1); North West (1); Western Cape (2).

Delegates from six different provinces attended the last Inspectors Training Course of 2023. The delegates attended lectures on legislation, participated in practical activities and conducted inspections as part of practical learning. The facilities inspected as part of the farm practical were an abattoir and a vending site that sells livestock and poultry. The delegates conduct inspections and assist animals in need during these training days.

The trainees also inspected an equine facility where they were also afforded the opportunity to learn how to handle a horse and how to safely interact with horses. This exercise replicates a typical callout as a first responder where delegates will have to rescue horses that have escaped onto public roads, where the safety of people and animals is a high risk. This exercise also builds confidence and skills which are vital when handling animals.

The following feedback was provided by one of the delegates: “It was a great course, very informative and of excellent quality”.

Senior Inspectors Training Course

06-17 November 2023

7 Delegates attended the Senior Inspectors Training Course – Free State 1; Gauteng 6.

To qualify to attend the Senior Inspectors Training Course, the delegate must have achieved certain milestones and have been qualified as an Inspector for at least 3 years. This is a very challenging course but provides career advancement and recognition. At the senior level, the delegate’s field training requires their demonstration of animal welfare skills and abilities with equine, farm animals, and wild animals. They also undertake more complex inspections of wildlife facilities testing their knowledge of different species and their welfare requirements.



SPCA Committee Training Courses

Committee Training Courses are conducted in different provinces to provide committee members with the opportunity to learn and network with other Societies. The topics of discussion include but are not limited to, committee

responsibilities, staff management, pet adoption and animal care.

03-04 June 2023 (Eastern Cape)

20 Delegates attended the Committee Training Course – Amahlathi (3); Assisi (3); East London (3); Grahamstown (1); King William’s Town (4); Mthatha (2); Port Alfred (2); Uitenhage (2).

08-09 July 2023 (Limpopo)

12 Delegates attended the Committee Training Course – Lephalale (2); Letaba (1); Louis Trichardt (5); Polokwane (2); and Phalaborwa (2).

Training Animal Health Technician Students

As 2023 drew to a close, our staff remained focused on a core priority: education and training. From 28 November 2023 to 1 December 2023, our team trained final-year Animal Health Technician students on animal welfare at the North West University.

A total of 85 delegates attended the course; some eager to learn as they venture out in the next phase of their careers.

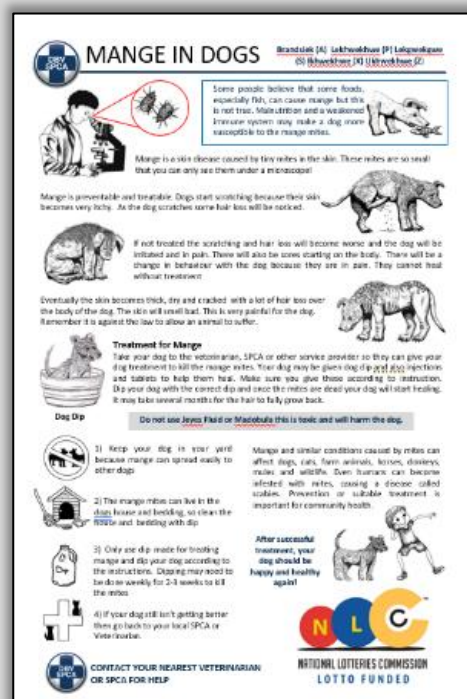
Our team not only provided sessions based on theory but incorporated practicals to equip students more effectively. Although animal health technicians primarily focus on animal health care, incorporating legislation and animal welfare in their curriculum is highly beneficial to the animals we serve.

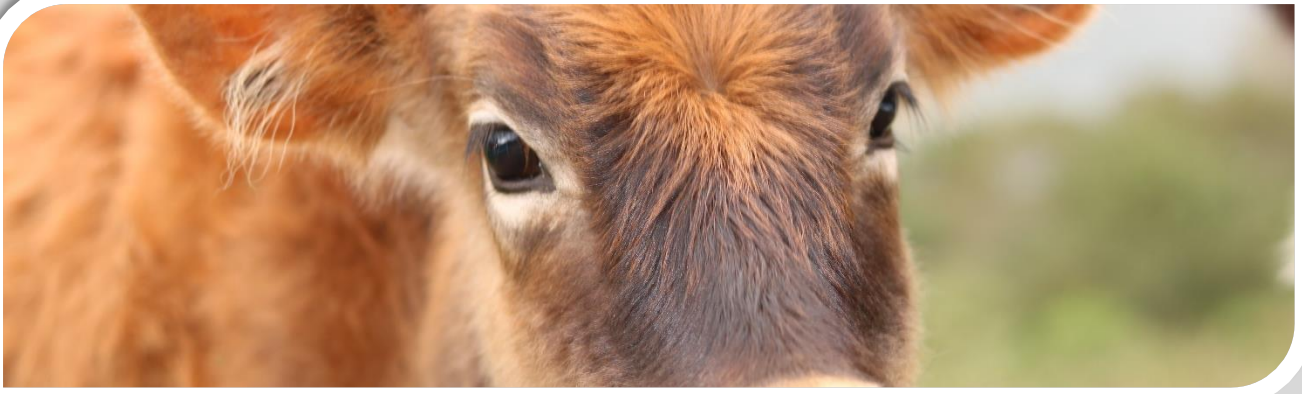


Educational Guides and Pamphlets

During 2023 several animal welfare educational guides were reviewed, updated and printed. The guides assist SPCA Inspectors and Field Officers as well as interested parties in identifying a wide variety of animal welfare problems and achieving meaningful solutions.

- SAPS Guide
- Veldfire Guide
- Transport Guide
- Donkey and Farm Animal Welfare Guide
- Mange in Dogs Pamphlet
- Activity Book for Children





Protecting Farmed Animals

The Farm Animal Protection Unit strives for positive change and the improved welfare of all farmed animals

The Farm Animal Protection Unit Inspectors operate nationally and conduct random, proactive inspections in addition to reactively investigating all complaints received. During the past twelve months, 715 inspections were undertaken around South Africa to inspect the welfare of farm animals and ensure compliance with the Animals Protection Act, No. 71 of 1962 and relevant National Standards.

Facilities inspected included: abattoirs (red meat, poultry, crocodile, rabbit, ostrich), feedlots, poultry farms, hawkers, sale yards, dairy farms, ports of entry and exit, private and municipal livestock pounds, commercial and emerging piggeries, ostrich farms, prison farms, rabbit farms, crocodile farms, cull outlets, aquaculture farms, petting farms, alpaca farms, mohair farms, research farms, and agricultural colleges and schools. The Unit also monitored the live export of animals as well as Qurbani, and rodeos.

Appropriate action was taken to address welfare concerns encountered during inspections. These actions included recommendations for improvements as well as warnings to correct oversights. Where contraventions of the Animals Protection Act No. 71 of 1962 were encountered, charges were laid. New cases were registered with the South African Police Services and one conviction was secured after the accused was found guilty of animal cruelty.

Avian Influenza Outbreak: A Welfare Concern

Avian Influenza is a highly contagious viral disease, with a high mortality rate, that affects both domestic and wild birds and can be readily transmitted between birds causing suffering and death. The suffering of poultry due to avian influenza is an often overlooked aspect of this devastating disease. The virus attacks the respiratory and digestive systems leading to severe respiratory distress, coughing, sneezing and difficulty

breathing. The pain and discomfort these birds endure are often hidden from the public eye but their unnecessary suffering is real.



Culling infected birds is the most effective method to prevent the spread of avian influenza within poultry populations. However, it is crucial to emphasise that humane methods must be employed during the culling process to minimise the suffering of affected birds. The National Council of SPCAs strongly opposes the inhumane methods being utilised to combat the virus like ventilation shutdown and forced moulting.

In August 2023, Inspectors from the Farm Animal Protection Unit and local SPCAs monitored the culling at three infected

farms where a total of 65,000 layer hens had to be culled. This culling of diseased animals is not the function of the SPCA, however, when the authorities and farmers fail to act, we cannot stand by and let the animals suffer and allow the disease to spread and cause further suffering and death to other birds. Our role is to ensure that where the culling of diseased animals is necessary it is undertaken in the most humane manner.

Outbreaks ravaged poultry flocks across South Africa, causing widespread devastation. The National Council of SPCAs actively engaged in response efforts, assisting in the humane culling of affected animals. In some distressing cases, our interventions have prevented producers from resorting to desperate measures or inhumane culling methods

One of the farmers who has environmentally controlled houses threatened to cull an infected house with 15,000 hens by pumping the house with Phostoxin which is a pesticide and then mechanical shutdown which involves shutting off the ventilation, which causes asphyxiation of the birds. This was halted by the National Council of SPCAs, and we will not hesitate to prosecute any person who resorts to such inhumane methods of culling as such methods cause pain and suffering and contravene the provisions of the Animals Protection Act 71 of 1962.

The National Council of SPCAs has formally addressed the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, and other key stakeholders, expressing grave concern over the government's delay in authorizing the importation of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) vaccines.

This critical situation is exacerbated by bureaucratic hurdles in accessing HPAI vaccines, potentially leading to a significant welfare disaster. The National Council of SPCAs aligns itself with the South African Veterinary Association and urgently called upon the government to expedite the evaluation for the evaluation for emergency importation of HPAI vaccines and facilitate swift local registration of these life-saving vaccines.

Julius Malema Charged for Cruelty

The National Council of SPCAs was horrified after observing a video and has received numerous complaints from the public regarding the video circulating on social media platforms. The video, which trended widely, depicts the intended slaughter of an animal at a farm in Magaliesberg.

The aforementioned video clearly shows Mr Julius Sello Malema attempting to paralyse a cow by pithing it (i.e., attempting to pierce or sever the spinal cord of the animal to kill or immobilise it). It is evident from the video that Mr Malema uses two small knives and inflicts more than 11 stabs and over 60 instances of twisting the knife into the fully conscious animal's poll.

Mr Malema repeatedly inflicted pain and caused unnecessary suffering to the animal and it is evident that the animal endured significant distress.

The Animals Protection Act 71 of 1962 is a crucial piece of legislation that aims to protect all animals from unnecessary pain, suffering, and cruelty. It is essential that all individuals, including public figures and leaders, who are expected to set an example, uphold and respect these laws.

After a thorough investigation into the contraventions depicted in the video, criminal charges were laid against Mr Malema in accordance with the Act. The National Council of SPCAs will work closely with law enforcement and the Prosecuting Authority to ensure a comprehensive investigation and prosecution of the case.

Abuse of Crocodiles

The National Council of Societies for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is committed to protecting all animals, no matter their species. That is why the NSPCA remains dedicated to winning its case against the owner and employees of a certain crocodile farm in Limpopo.

In 2021, we received reports of severe animal cruelty occurring at the farm and wasted no time in sending a team of Inspectors to investigate. Inspectors were horrified to find carcasses of juvenile crocodiles that were viciously hacked with pangas (bush knives), which would have resulted in a prolonged and excruciating death for each of them. Video footage was also obtained by the NSPCA and the staff can be seen hacking the animals indiscriminately- without any regard for the immense suffering they were causing. When questioned, they claimed they were following instructions from the owner of the crocodiles and the farm, and that the crocodiles were being destroyed because the owner no longer needed them for farming.

The National Council of SPCAs laid criminal charges of animal cruelty in terms of the Animals Protection Act no 71 of 1962, and has been fighting for justice ever since. The case was set to be heard at the Gravelotte Magistrate Court on 23 March 2023. However, due to one of the accused requesting legal representation, the case was postponed to 22 June 2023.

After numerous postponements and challenges, the case remains ongoing and had been set down for hearing in January 2024, but was once again postponed.

Despite this delay, the National Council of SPCAs remains determined to get justice for these crocodiles who suffered unnecessarily and hold those responsible for their suffering accountable for their actions.

It is important to remember that all animals, including crocodiles, are sentient beings that deserve protection from abuse and cruelty. Just because they are not traditionally viewed in the same manner as our furry companions does not mean they are not worth fighting for. The NSPCA will continue its important work to ensure that all animals are treated with the respect and dignity they deserve.

Failure of SARS Online System: Animals Badly Affected

In June 2023 the Unit was inundated with complaints received from livestock transport companies and farmers who were held back at various border posts due to a glitch in the SARS online system. Some callers complained that sheep had died on trucks after being stuck at border posts for more than 24 hours.



As various border posts were affected, each one had to be contacted to ascertain the status of the online system failure. Some farmers coming into South Africa had turned back to their respective countries however some trucks were more than 10 hours away from their point of origin as far as Windhoek and could not turn back. Our Inspectors entered into immediate discussion with the respective SARS officials and were advised of the severity of this situation and their accountability. We advised that manual processing must be considered in these types of cases and after significant intervention on our part, this matter was resolved.

South African National Standards

The Farm Animal Unit promotes animal welfare by motivating the development of National Standards through the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS). The Poultry Welfare Standard, Rabbit Welfare Standard, Aquaculture Standard and revision of the Crocodiles in Captivity Standard are all currently under development.

Standards are used as supporting evidence when compiling dockets for contraventions of the Animals Protection Act 71 of 1962.

African Horse Sickness

African Horse Sickness (AHS) is a highly infectious, non-contagious, vector-borne viral disease affecting all species of Equidae. In South Africa, outbreaks occur every year throughout the year except for the AHS-controlled area of the southern Cape.

In February 2023 the Unit received a complaint about horses dying of African Horse Sickness in the Eastern Cape. More than 70 horses and mules were inspected in the area and three horses were humanely euthanased to prevent further suffering.

Engaging Emerging Farmers

The National Council of SPCAs received an invitation from the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development to present to Emerging Farmers on Animal Welfare and Legislation. Inspector Mpho Mokoena from the Farm Animal Protection Unit dedicated three days to educating and raising awareness among the farmers in Wolmaransstad, in the North West Province.



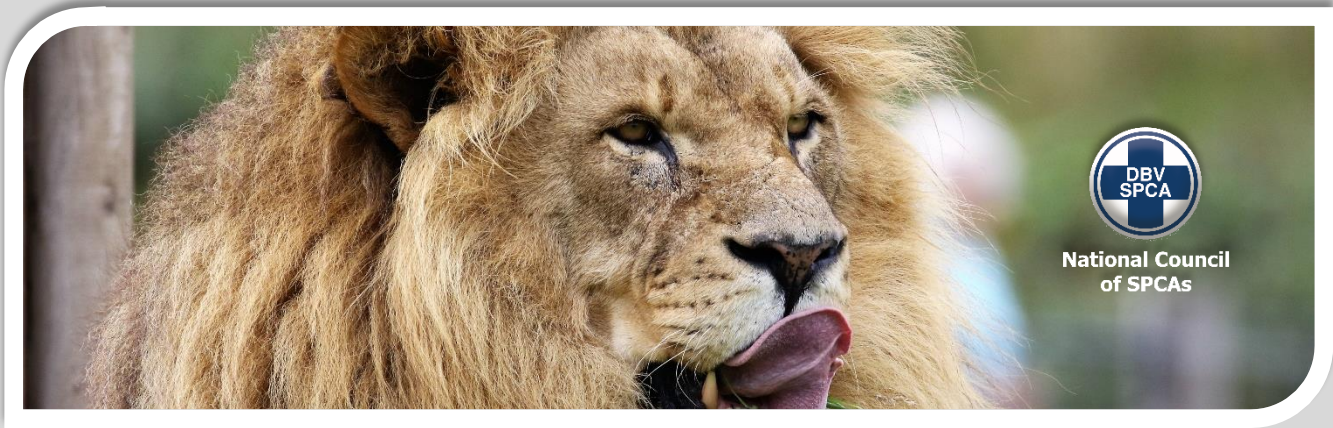
We firmly believe that education and awareness are crucial in preventing animal cruelty, and this opportunity provided us with a platform to impart valuable knowledge to emerging farmers on the care of farmed animals.

South African Sheep Tragedy Continues

Five live exports from East London to the Middle East were undertaken between October 2019 to July 2023.

During the most recent live export to the Middle East in July 2023, approximately 40,000 sheep and 3,000 cattle were exported. The National Council of SPCAs encountered various violations in terms of the Animals Protection Act 71 of 1962 as well as the Government's guidelines for the Exportation of Live Animals by Sea.

Please see page 6 for an update on the Live Animal Export to the Middle East.



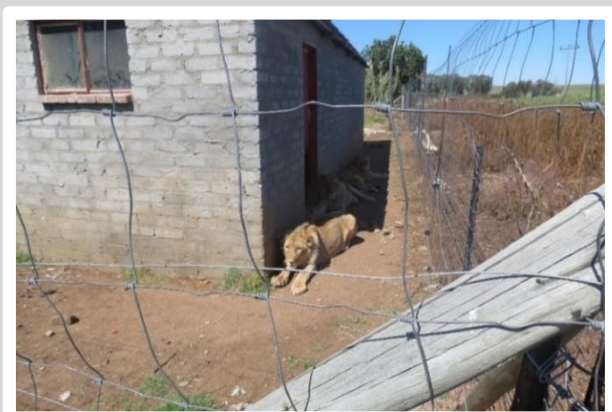
Protecting Wildlife

The Wildlife Protection Unit is a dedicated specialist operational unit equipped to ensure that wild animal welfare is always considered for any human-related activities, for both free-living and captive wildlife.

Major Victory for South Africa's Lions

The National Council of SPCAs celebrated a major victory for lions in the country's first successful case against the cruelty, and negligent confinement of these wild animals.

An initial inspection in January 2022 of the farm Steilfontein in Petrus Steyn (Free State) housing various feline predators, revealed several welfare concerns. The evidence acquired during inspections proved that the animals were being made to suffer unnecessarily. This inspection revealed concerns that would remain consistent in the subsequent three inspections that followed.



Gert Classen from Steilfontein Farm was charged with 7 different counts of contraventions of the Animals Protection Act 71 of 1962, including failure to: provide sufficient and adequate shelter against all elements; provide potable water at all times; provide hygienic living conditions; provide sufficient space for his animals in his care which included lions, tiger, caracal, serval, cape foxes and chickens.

Initiating legal proceedings in June 2022, the case concluded on 30 August 2023, where the court found the accused guilty of contravening the Act. The court sentenced the accused to a fine of R4,000 or 12 months imprisonment, which sentence was wholly suspended for 5 years. In this precedent-setting outcome, the Court stated that the accused should alert his fellow captive predator breeders and the National Council of SPCAs should alert the public.



We will continue the fight to protect all animals, and those who disregard their essential freedoms will be held responsible.

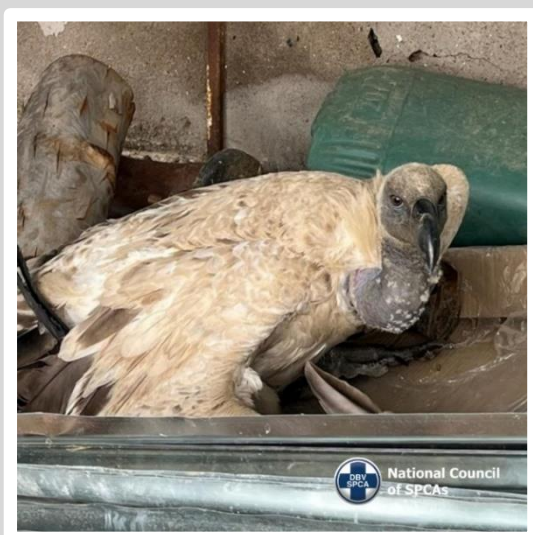
Wildlife Under Threat

Our South African wildlife is increasingly under threat from poaching, ritual killings and capture for the illegal trade markets. There is a thriving trade in wild animals and their body parts for use in 'traditional' medicines and practices and it is believed that many animals are destined for these markets. The Wildlife Protection Unit works with South African

Police Services and Nature Conservation Authorities to investigate these issues of growing concern and to hold perpetrators accountable.

Our Inspectors responded rapidly to tip-offs involving wildlife in need.

- In the Stella Vervet Monkey Case, the Inspector found a group of children carrying a bag, on approach they fled into the nearby community. The Inspector opened the bag and found a severely injured monkey who was in such a condition that he was euthanased on-site to prevent further suffering. The investigation is ongoing and educational presentations have been arranged in the local schools.
- The Wildlife Protection Unit received a complaint about an individual attempting to sell a Cape Vulture on Facebook. The photographs accompanying the complaint were shocking, as the Vulture was tied with a nylon rope to a steel bar. The Cape Vulture was removed by Inspector Duan Matthee from the harsh conditions and taken for veterinary examination before being transferred to an NSPCA-accredited facility. We are laying charges against the suspect found in possession of the Cape Vulture.



- On the outskirts of Mafikeng, another tip-off led an Inspector to a property where they found a Southern African Python hidden in a sack among filth and body parts of dead pythons. The suspect was arrested, and the Python was taken to an NSPCA Accredited Rehabilitation Facility for immediate care. The National Council of SPCAs has laid charges and the suspect will appear in court. The confiscated Southern African Rock Python made a great recovery and the veterinarian advised he was fit for release.

Working with the relevant authorities a safe and suitable area was identified and we are thrilled to advise that he is back in the wild where he belongs. His release went very well and he is living in a protected nature reserve in North West Province.

- A concerned member of the public alerted the Wildlife Protection Unit to the attempted sale of a Pangolin. The cooperation and assistance of the informant enabled the Unit's Inspectors to react swiftly and take action. The Directorate of Priority Crime Investigations was contacted, and our inspectors participated in the operation to intercept the seller during a sting operation in the North West province. This resulted in the successful arrest of the seller by the HAWKS but unfortunately, the pangolins were not found. A court date is awaited.

Ensuring the Welfare of Wildlife

During 2023 staff of the Wildlife Protection Unit travelled 133,895 km in the carrying out of their duties.

The Unit has resolved 418 complaints about cruelty to wildlife across South Africa. A total of 310 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. A total of 76 warnings and welfare compliance notices were issued for contraventions of the Animals Protection Act No. 71 of 1962.

As a result of our direct interventions 23 wild animals and birds (indigenous and exotic) were removed and countless others were impacted positively by the actions of Wildlife Protection Unit Inspectors

Appeal Against 3D Seismic Survey

In December 2023, the National Council of SPCAs officially submitted a formal appeal against the proposed 3D seismic survey off the Southeast Coast of South Africa, highlighting critical concerns related to animal welfare and environmental impact.

The appeal, submitted under the Regulations of the National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998, emphasised the National Council of SPCAs' statutory mandate to prevent cruelty to animals and called attention to the insufficient consideration of animal welfare aspects in the preliminary assessment and authorisation.

The Applicant for authorisation significantly downplays the potential damage to the environment and adverse effects on animal welfare. The National Council of SPCAs amplified the importance of legal precedent, established by our Courts, including the Constitutional Court, which emphasises the need for animal welfare to be recognised as a vital aspect of our lives and for considerations in that regard to take the forefront in any decisions which may affect animals.

This marine ecosystem will be overthrown by industrial activity, for economic gain at the expense of the environment and animals. Turtles go deaf, whales cease their songs, and seals lose track of migratory routes during mating season.

The National Council of SPCAs called for an urgent and thorough review of the seismic survey authorisation. We emphasised the need for a conscientious and equitable approach. The appeal signals the National Council of SPCAs' commitment to protecting marine life, the environment, and future generations.

Relief for Abandoned Crocodiles

The Wildlife Protection Unit received a distress call regarding abandoned crocodiles at a wildlife lodge. Reports were that the crocodiles were deprived of food and water and that the dam on the property was bone dry. Inspectors were dispatched to assess the situation.

Upon arrival, it became evident that there was no owner or caretaker on site. Shockingly, the person hired to care for the crocodiles was no longer receiving payment or funds to feed animals, leaving the reptiles in a dire state of neglect. Inspectors discovered the crocodiles living in squalid conditions. The absence of water exacerbated their distress given the extreme 49°C temperature on the day of the inspection.

Taking swift action, the Wildlife Protection Unit Inspectors alongside a Trainee Inspector from the Phalaborwa SPCA, cleaned the hatchling dam, providing fresh water and food. The dam for the larger crocodiles was also refilled and food



was secured for the crocodiles from another farm.

Recognising the urgency of the situation, the crocodiles were signed over to the National Council of SPCAs and essential permits and warrants were obtained. A veterinarian was engaged to unfortunately euthanase eight severely compromised crocodiles to prevent further suffering.

Tragedy for Tortoises

The Wildlife Protection Unit received a complaint regarding tortoises in Beaufort West, Western Cape which have been injured, incapacitated and killed on the Transnet railway lines.

The tortoises climb into the railway tracks, in hopes of pursuing richer landscapes on the other side and as a result find themselves trapped, with no way of escaping once they have entered the tracks. The tortoises are forced to walk within the tracks without access to resources that are essential to their survival, causing them to suffer the effects of starvation, dehydration and heat exhaustion. Many tortoises face prolonged suffering and death when trains pass over them, severely damaging their shells.

Since October 2023 eighty tortoises have been rescued between Beaufort West and Leeu Gamka. The National Council of SPCAs has requested assistance and alerted relevant stakeholders (i.e. Cape Nature Conservation, Transnet) after consistent communications with Transnet a meeting was scheduled.

The Beaufort West SPCA and the International Flight Training Academy (IFTA) regularly patrol the 60km stretch of railway line that has been identified as a hotspot for tortoises becoming trapped. Rescued tortoises are transported to and released within a nearby nature reserve, where they can live a life without the interference of human inventions.

At the scheduled meeting, Transnet submitted a National Tortoise Conservation Plan for consideration. The plan entails and supports methods to mitigate the impact of tortoise mortalities across more than 30,000 km of rail network infrastructure across South Africa. The National Council of SPCAs will continue to collaborate with key role players to ensure the successful implementation of the National Tortoise Conservation Plan.



when disaster strikes,
we're there for them
help us. help them.



Communications Unit

Team members strive to convey animal welfare messages and represent the National Council of SPCAs as the leader in animal welfare in Africa. Reaching the public is the aim of this unit's portfolio – to promote the work of our operational units for all species and to garner and sustain moral and financial support.

We Spread the Word for Animals

23 Media Statements on various animal-related issues were issued during the period under review. These resulted in wide coverage which included follow-up television and radio interviews with staff of the National Council of SPCAs.

Newsletters were compiled and distributed throughout the year. This is an important method to keep supporters informed of our activities and thank them for their support. Our newsletters are sent to 18,604 recipients on our database.

Seasons Greetings from Marcella Meredith



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.

The generous pro bono assistance of the **Casson Media** team, who host and update our website is acknowledged with great appreciation.

Publications

After a short hiatus, the National Council has again secured a recurring publication slot with Servamus, the community-based Safety and Security Magazine, which focuses on law enforcement issues. The first three articles prepared by staff members of the National Council of SPCAs and submitted for publication are –

1. The Dark Underbelly of Dog Racing: Unmasking the Link to Organised Crime
2. Hidden Suffering: The Unacceptable Plight of Transported Livestock in South Africa
3. Safeguarding Animal Welfare at South Africa's Borders

Campaigns

Throughout the year we undertake various activities and campaigns aligned with national and international activities to raise awareness and support for critical issues such as Rabies Awareness and Control.

Wild Animals Belong in the Wild Campaign

A video for the "Wild Animals Belong in the Wild" campaign was compiled and submitted to Onyx Screen Media (Pty) Ltd which aired this widely on media stations at Shell Garages.

The cost of lighting the video was to the value of R802,700.00 which we received free of charge. The media house subsequently doubled this lighting time to a double platinum package.

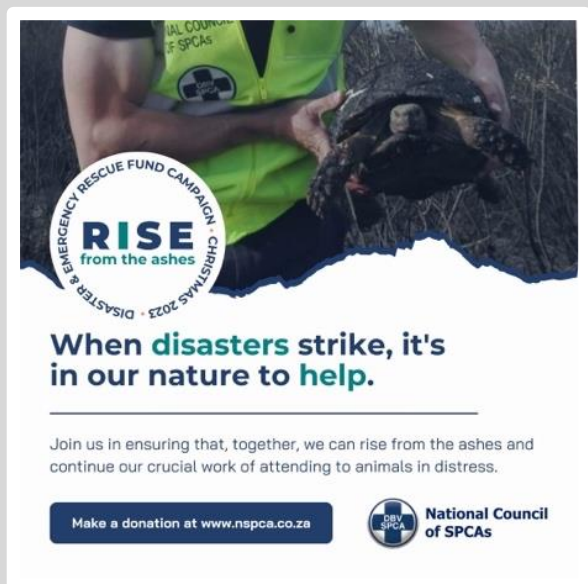
Rise from the Ashes Festive Season Campaign

With 2023 being one of the worst years for Disaster and Emergency Responses for the National Council of SPCAs, the Disaster and Emergency Response Fund was critically low. The

National Council of SPCAs was invited to run a matched fundraising campaign by a potential donor, which involved a fundraising campaign via social media during December 2023, encouraging patrons to donate to our cause.

A donation webpage was set up, where donors would form part of our “400 Club”, with their names and donations being displayed on virtual plaques on our website.

The overall themes for the campaigns included “When disaster strikes, it’s in our nature to help” and “Help us reach them”.



Giving Tuesday Campaign

Our Giving Tuesday campaign was a prominent feature on our social media platforms in November 2023. Our posts called on corporations and individuals alike to make a difference in the lives of animals – domestic, farm and wild



Global Climate Change Week Campaign

After the publication of the United Nations General Comment 26 campaign, which emphasised the need for measures to mitigate climate change and violence against children, including exposure to animal cruelty, the National Council of SPCAs undertook a campaign during Global Climate Change Week (16 – 20 October 2023), stressing the effects on the environment and the link to animal suffering.



The campaign consisted of striking designs to raise awareness of the climate crisis and encourage action to protect our planet and all its inhabitants.

Advertising

JCDecaux

The National Council of SPCAs’ pro bono billboards, ‘We Protect Them All’ are still in circulation by JCDecaux. Since the onset of the reporting period, engagements have been held with JCDecaux for an updated design into 2024 and 2025.

Ad Outpost

Ad Outpost offered pro bono “Maxi”- and “Mini-Boards” on the M2 Highway, stretching from Sandton to Soweto (both sides), wherein the National Council of SPCAs designs are permanently affixed to lamp poles and thus displayed when no active client billboards are displayed.



The ideation behind the campaign was to tell a story as people drive, instead of a singular design. Drivers have approximately 5 seconds to view any billboard, therefore it was important to include impactful designs and copy.

District Media Group

During the reporting period, the National Council of SPCAs received notification that the pro bono digital billboards offered by District Media Group during the previous reporting period have been flighted. These digital billboards are displayed at Sandton City, Sandton Gautrain Station, Umlazi and Soweto.



SPAR Good Mileage Win-a-Car Competition

As part of SPAR's 60th Birthday celebrations, the National Council of SPCAs was fortunate to be one of the four competing charities in their GOOD MILEAGE win-a-car competition.

SPAR's message was to deliver more good mileage and smiles to the community in which it operates. The four charities clocked up votes from their supporters who voted for them on the SPAR website. Leading with over 1 million public votes the National Council of SPCAs happily won the competition. The wonderful news was shared with us on Wednesday, 28 June 2023, when Brent Lindeque (The Good Things Guy) delivered the brand-new Special Edition Hyundai i20 to our offices in Alberton.

It most certainly was a time for celebration when the good news was received! The National Council of SPCAs extends its deepest gratitude to SPAR for this great initiative in giving back to the community. The vehicle will help us to extend our reach to more animals in need of assistance across South Africa.

THANK YOU to our Supporters and Donors

We express our gratitude to our many Animal Champion Supporters who have shared our passion for animals throughout 2023.

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

To the various Trusts and Foundations, companies, individual 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 a beneficiary in respect of shopper cards or pledged support through payroll giving – a special thank you to you all.

A Legacy of Love

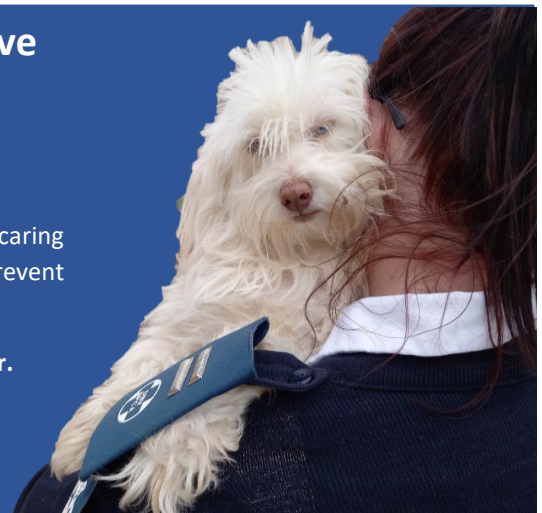
One of the most meaningful ways that you can make sure that your love for animals counts beyond your lifetime is by remembering the **National Council of SPCAs** in your Will.

This simple action will ensure that you leave a legacy of love in the caring hands of an organisation you can trust to do whatever it takes to prevent cruelty and protect animals in years to come.

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



**National Council
of SPCAs**





Actions for Animals in 2023

We ended the suffering of animals.

We helped animals caught in disasters.

We protected animals and prevented cruelty.

We improved conditions for working animals.

We empowered people through animal welfare training.

We achieved justice for animals through the legal system.

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

Interventions for Animals

- 67 dogfighting-related actions were taken.
- 17 animals were removed from the cycle of violence.
- 21 animal sexual abuse cases were investigated.
- 3,602 wild animals were rescued.
- 6,224 animals were assisted in traffic accidents and disasters.
- 1,903 working donkeys and mules were assisted.
- 2,035 horses were assisted.
- 481 dogs and cats were assisted.
- 1,313,673 farm animals were assisted.

General Inspections

- 1,973 inspections were undertaken around South Africa.
- 467 cargo warehouses at airports where animals are held were inspected.
- 19 inspections at commercial land border posts were undertaken.
- 28 sporting/entertainment events were monitored.
- 63 inspections were undertaken at facilities holding working dogs and horses.

Law Enforcement

- 374 warnings were issued to improve animal care.
- 6 successful prosecutions were secured.
- 111 court cases for animal welfare offences are pending.
- 19 days were spent attending to court cases.

Administrative

- 2,336 manhours were spent reviewing animal research protocols.
- 2,818 animal research protocols were reviewed.
- 291 Animal Ethics Committee Meetings were attended.
- 263 Meetings with external parties to benefit animals were attended.

Community Assistance

- 1,100 donkey owners and users were assisted.
- 59 horse owners and users were assisted.
- 312 dog and cat owners were assisted.
- 715 farm animal owners were assisted.

Training and Education

- 40 practical training sessions were conducted on-site in areas of SPCAs.
- 606 SPCA delegates attended internal training courses.
- 119 delegates attended our specialised external training courses.
- 5,119 Learners were educated on donkey/domestic/farm animal welfare (community work).

554 674 kms were travelled around South Africa in the line of duty.

Somewhere an animal is
calling for help.

Add your VOICE in answer by
supporting one of our
life-saving projects.

www.nspca.co.za

DONATE TODAY



**National Council
of SPCAs**