

TEAM LANGEBAAN NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

WITHOUT PREJUDICE

OFFICIAL P.R.O. REPORT BY JON AMIRA



RE: ILLEGAL HUNTING / POACHING LANGEBAAN

First Discovery (First Incident)

23 January 2023 residents residing in Padroa Street investigated the disappearance of their domestic cats in the adjacent vacant land.

The residents located their cats caught in illegal wire / steel cable snares. The cats were badly injured and were taken to a private veterinarian for treatment.

I visited the area with the sons of the resident, whereby they pointed out the location of the snares, which they had removed.

Upon further inspection we confirmed there was evidence of illegal over-night squatting. We found bedding, clothing, old food, litter, human excrement and empty alcohol bottles and many other forms of rubbish.

I instructed the resident to report the crime at SAPS Langebaan, however the officer at the time was reluctant to open a case docket, saying they had no way of investigating this crime.

The matter was reported to W/O Carpenter, who advised that the resident must go to SAPS Langebaan and open a case. I later learned that the resident did not follow it up.

I further reported the matter to Deputy Mayor Charmaine Laubscher, who tried to assist via Law Enforcement and SANPARKS.

On 24 January 2023 according to communication between Deputy Mayor Laubscher and myself, she advised that she had reported the matter to the SPCA as well.

On 25 January 2023 at approx 22:00 I visited the area with a colleague, where we identified an individual as an elderly coloured male, known as Corolus. He claimed to have no permanent employment, and stated he earned a small casual income from fishing.

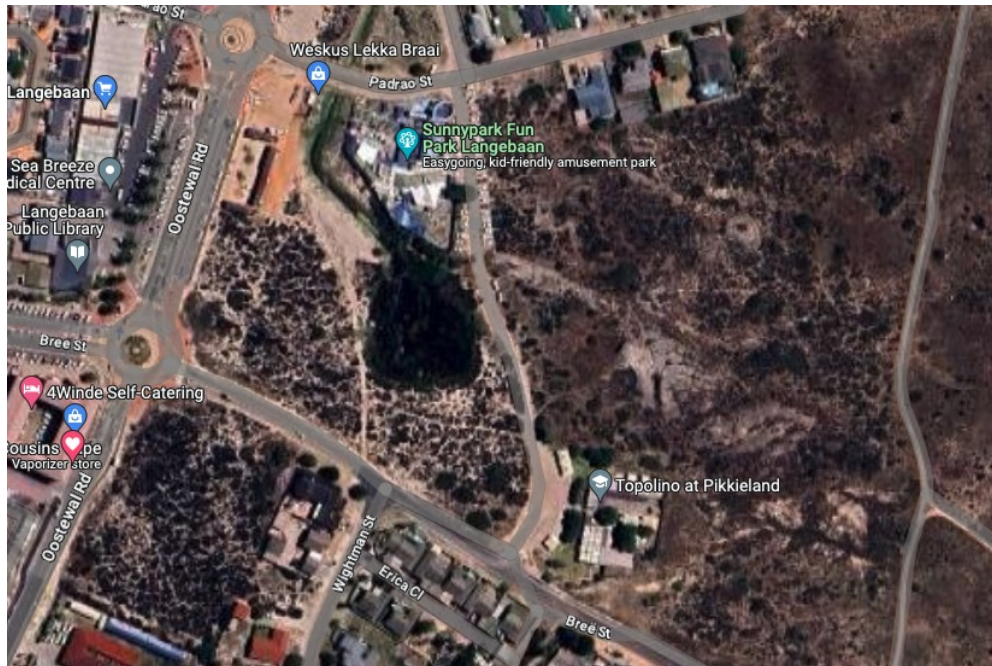
I continued to visit the area and managed to remove several more snares. Which I delivered to the SANPARKS offices and advised them of the incident.

On 26 January 2023, Deputy Mayor Laubscher arranged for a skip to be delivered near the area and along with our local security companies, ADT, Byers, Wolf, MSS and Alex Alarms, the area was cleaned.

I believe the land belongs to Saldanha Municipality, it is bordered by Sunny Park on the West, Padroa Street in the North, Topolino Pikkieland on the South and old Meeuklip farm on the East. (See screenshot 1.1 included on page 2).

I know this area well as we have previously arranged for community involved clean ups since 2020, in order to restore it to its natural beauty which is an ongoing battle.

Screenshot 1.1



Second Incident:

On Thursday 22 June 2023, I was contacted by Carol MacDonald from Langebaan Animal Care (LAC) to report a second incident of illegal snares.

Carol reported that the owner of Sunny Park, Albie Boonzaaier, had come across two cats caught in illegal snares, whilst pruning his fence line. One cat had perished and the other had sustained horrific injuries.

Shortly thereafter I posted an alert on our Community Neighbourhood Watch Whatsapp Street Groups and further published the alert to our Facebook pages, Langebaan News & Info, Crime Alert and Team Langebaan Neighbourhood Watch.

I was contacted by a resident, Louisa van Copenhagen, who had removed more snares, further West of the area, nearer to Pikkieland (opposite Bree Street and Wightman Street intersection).

23 June 2023: I visited the area during the morning for a brief inspection and then headed to the location above Pikkieland nearer to Meeuklip farm and Padrao Street, where we had previously cleared.

At this location, it was evident that someone had returned to use the area for illegal squatting and I located numerous snares set on small game trails.

I also found two dead Cape Foxes, which appeared to have been tossed aside into a shrub, they had no visible injuries.

I removed the snares and immediately reported this to Deputy Mayor Charmaine Laubscher and to Carol MacDonald.

I also reported the findings to SAPS Langebaan Station Commander Capt. Kim Whitton and further to our social media platforms and our NHW networks for awareness. This sparked a furious uproar and interest from residents.

Captain Whitton advised the matter must be reported to SPCA and I passed this responsibility to Carol MacDonald as well as the inclusion of Pierre Nell from SANPARKS.

At 22:00 during loadshedding, I returned to the area with Byers Security, we did not locate the individual, however we removed 4 new snares and another dead Cape Fox, which appeared to have died more recently, without any visible signs of injury.

24 June 2023: I returned to the area and cleared all the litter and excrement. I also located 6 more snares and another dead Cape Fox.

With the advice of Pierre Nel, Carol MacDonald collected the recently deceased Cape Fox from the veld and took it to Dr Cowen for toxicology test. Which later proved that the animal had likely been poisoned.

Louisa van Copenhagen contacted me privately and advised they had located another area where people had been illegally squatting which included more snares, which she removed.

25 June 2023:

We created a Whatsapp Group titled "Veld Watch" which includes concerned and active members of the community and overseen by Deputy Mayor Charmaine Laubscher for Saldanha Municipality, Pierre Nell for SANPARKS, Carol MacDonald for LAC, Station Commander Captain Kim Whitton for SAPS Langebaan and myself for Neighbourhood Watch.

Carol MacDonald led a clean up and inspection with community members of the area and located more snares.

26 June 2023:

I reported the matter to Law Enforcement via email and received a positive response.

26 – 28 June 2023 I have returned to the area for inspection and have been satisfied that no new snares have been set.

I also met with Law Enforcement on 28 June 2023 at the informal trading area opposite SPAR and discussed the illegal squatting as well as three well-known youth vagrants as suspects.

SPCA Vredenburg contacted me at approx 16:00 to make an appointment for their inspector to visit on the following day at 10:00.

29 June 2023:

Saldanha Municipality delivered a large skip for community members to dump refuse cleared from the veld.

SPCA Inspector did not arrive for their appointment. This is disappointing.

30 June 2023:

At 09.30 a small group of community members gathered opposite Pikkieland and cleared the veld of refuse and located two more snares.

In conclusion, I would like to thank Deputy Mayor Charmaine Laubscher for always being willing to assist our community efforts in respect preservation of this town, in every request that we have made, we have always received support from her offices of behalf Saldanha Municipality.

Thank you to Carol MacDonald for LAC's efforts and time and to Dr Cowen for her assistance in her practice, finally thank you to involved residents and roles players for their selfless assistance.

We will beat this hostile attempt to harm our wildlife.

End of report.

Jon Marc Amira

TLNHW