



Louise van Zyl <louise@swartlandwestcoastspca.co.za>

Feedback on Complaints Regarding 891 Hoewe Street, Hopefield

1 message

Louise van Zyl <louise@swartlandwestcoastspca.co.za>

Tue, Oct 29, 2024 at 11:28 AM

To: Law Enforcement <lawenforcement@sbm.gov.za>

Cc: "Bester, Virgil" <Virgil.Bester@sbm.gov.za>

Bcc: Carina Bodenstein <carina@swartlandwestcoastspca.co.za>

Dear Coraizin,

I am writing to provide feedback regarding ongoing complaints received by the SPCA concerning the dogs kept by Dr. Cilliers at 891 Hoewe Street, Hopefield. It is our understanding that Dr. Cilliers is renting the property from an owner residing in Australia.

The SPCA has responded to multiple complaints, visiting the property on several occasions, including 4 October, 5 October, 7 October, 11 October, 17 October, 22 October, and 28 October. However, as you are aware, the SPCA is only permitted to seek a warrant from a magistrate when there are confirmed contraventions of the Animals Protection Act, following due process which includes issuing prior warnings where necessary. At this stage, no such contraventions have been identified that would enable an inspector to obtain a warrant.

We understand that some complainants are under the impression that the SPCA can enter a property and seize animals; however, as per South African law, animals are considered property. This means that without explicit authorization, removal of animals from private property would be illegal and may be construed as theft. Should the animals be taken without permission and brought to the SPCA, they would legally have to be returned to Dr. Cilliers if claimed.

I have explained to Hendrik, one of the residents involved, that some concerns fall within municipal bylaws—such as the sterilization, number of animals, the noise created by barking and breeding bylaws—which the SPCA is not authorized to enforce. We are closely monitoring the situation in terms of the animals' welfare, which remains our priority, but it is important to note that there are currently no grounds for further intervention.

The complainants, including Hendrik, allege that the occupant is not paying rent; however, while we cannot verify this claim, it cannot influence our decision-making in this matter. The property owner will need to follow a legal eviction process to remove the current occupant from the premises.

We hope this clarifies the scope and limitations of our role in this matter. Please feel free to reach out if further information is required.

Best Regards,



We speak and
care for all
animals

Inspector Louise van Zyl
Manager
Swartland and West Coast SPCA

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