



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

FW: Request for action: Hopefield Border Collies

1 message

NSPCA Liaison Unit Administrator <liaison@nspca.co.za>

Thu, Oct 31, 2024 at 9:50 AM

To: "committee@swartlandwestcoastspca.co.za" <committee@swartlandwestcoastspca.co.za>, "louise@swartlandwestcoastspca.co.za" <louise@swartlandwestcoastspca.co.za>, "info@swartlandwestcoastspca.co.za" <info@swartlandwestcoastspca.co.za>

Cc: Society Liaison Unit 3 <liaison3@nspca.co.za>, Society Liaison Unit 6 <liaison6@nspca.co.za>, NSPCA Liaison Unit Manager <liaison2@nspca.co.za>

Dear Colleagues,

I trust you are well.

Kindly see below and attached in relation to the complaint dispatched yesterday.

The complainants have also called the NSPCA to complain that insufficient work is being done by the Swartland SPCA as there are grave concerns present for the welfare of the animals concerned. Including no food and water for days on end.

Kindly urgently assist.

Kind regards,

Jaimin Patel *obo* Lisa de Bastos

Lisa de Bastos

Senior Administrator

Society Liaison Unit



**National Council
of SPCAs**

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF SPCAs - NSPCA

T: 011 907 3590/1/2/3

W: nspca.co.za

P O Box 1320, Alberton, 1450



Remember the NSPCA in your Will to protect what matters to you.

DONATE



This email is subject to the following [disclaimer](#).

From: Natalie Brink [mailto:witt.natalie@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, 31 October 2024 09:08
To: NSPCA Liaison Unit Administrator <liaison@nspca.co.za>
Cc: hnavervoer@gmail.com; inspectorate@spca-ct.co.za; inspmanager@spca-ct.co.za
Subject: Re: Request for action: Hopefield Border Collies

Good morning Lisa,

I am just checking in to find out whether any progress has been made since yesterday regarding the NSPCA obtaining reports and feedback from the West Coast SPCA?

Yesterday I sent a video showing that the puppies were without food and water. Mr Cilliers was requested to address this and has now placed a self-feeder into the puppies' space. Unfortunately, the food in the feeder is completely inadequate for the puppies (mix of sheep food and adult dog food) and they are not eating it. Although visually he complied with the request, I hope the SPCA recognises that this does not meet the basic needs of a puppy.

Regards

Natalie

On Wed, 30 Oct 2024 at 12:59, Natalie Brink <witt.natalie@gmail.com> wrote:

Thanks Lisa and I do understand and appreciate that you have to work within a framework.

But we have seen cases (most recently, the investigation and removal of animals at HAWK Riverlands) where the basic minimum requirement of shelter, food and water was met, but there are other issues and the SPCA got involved heavily (and publicly). This is the case with Mr Cillier's Border Collies as well and in my email I had listed the issues that I know of.

- The puppies have no food or water (basic needs) nor do they have any form of blanket, raised off-the-ground bed or mental and physical stimulation.
- The dogs seem to have food, but it isn't dog food, so they are not being fed.
- The dogs are without water for more than 2 days.
- One dog died. Was this investigated and was an autopsy done to determine the cause of death?
- Have the dogs been vaccinated (rabies), and is there a record of veterinary care for each dog?

I was hoping that instead of repeatedly just asking him to comply and pre-warning him of inspections, the SPCA could consider an angle that makes it a bit more difficult for him to operate. He breeds indiscriminately, selling puppies for R5000 or more, yet look at the conditions they live in and the care they are getting.

The risk you are running is that he mostly complies to the bare minimum when requested and warned, but as soon as the SPCA leaves or he moves his dogs to another location, this stops.

I am desperate for help for these dogs and I don't know where to turn.

On Wed, 30 Oct 2024 at 10:19, NSPCA Liaison Unit Administrator <liaison@nspca.co.za> wrote:

Dear Natalie

The National Council of SPCAs (NSPCA) ensures that all SPCAs adhere to the Societies for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) Act no. 169 of 1993. We can only intervene when the SPCA Act has been contravened.

The Swartland & West Coast SPCA will have to send us all their reports, feedback and photo's once they have attended to this matter.

Kind regards

Lisa de Bastos

Senior Administrator

Society Liaison Unit



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF SPCAs - NSPCA

T: 011 907 3590/1/2/3

W: nspca.co.za

P O Box 1320, Alberton, 1450



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This email is subject to the following [disclaimer](#).

From: Natalie Brink [mailto:witt.natalie@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, 30 October 2024 10:15

To: NSPCA Liaison Unit Administrator <liaison@nspca.co.za>

Cc: hnavervoer@gmail.com; inspectorate@spca-ct.co.za; inspmanager@spca-ct.co.za

Subject: Re: Request for action: Hopefield Border Collies

Good day Lisa,

The Swartland and West Coast SPCA is aware of the situation. Inspector Carien of the West Coast SPCA has been engaging with Mr Cilliers and performing site inspections since the beginning of October 2024.

Unfortunately, this has not resulted in any significant improvement. Given Mr Cilliers' history of keeping his Border Collies in unsuitable shelter, not providing food and water, and not providing veterinary care, I was hoping the NSPCA could step in for more drastic and immediate action.

Please can someone take this case seriously before Mr Cilliers disappears again, like he has done before and 28 (or more) Border Collies continue to suffer.

Kind regards

Natalie

Volunteer

Border Collie Rescue Cape Town

www.bcrcapetown.com

On Wed, 30 Oct 2024 at 09:37, NSPCA Liaison Unit Administrator <liaison@nspca.co.za> wrote:

Good day

Thank you for your e-mail sent to the National Council of SPCAs.

Your complaint was forwarded to the Swartland & West Coast SPCA for further investigation. Feedback will be provided within 7 days by the responsible SPCA, copied to us.

If you do not receive a response or if the problem is not resolved please contact the society directly on Tel: 022 492 2781.

Kind regards

Lisa de Bastos

Senior Administrator

Society Liaison Unit



**National Council
of SPCAs**

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF SPCAs - NSPCA

T: 011 907 3590/1/2/3

W: nspca.co.za

P O Box 1320, Alberton, 1450



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This email is subject to the following [disclaimer](#).

From: Natalie Brink <witt.natalie@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, 29 October 2024 19:44

To: NSPCA <nspca@nspca.co.za>; Natasha Murray - Cape of Good Hope SPCA [inspectorate@spca-ct.co.za] <inspectorate@spca-ct.co.za>

Cc: hnavervoer@gmail.com

Subject: Fwd: Request for action: Hopefield Border Collies

Dear NSPCA and Inspector Jaco Pieterse of the Cape of Good Hope SPCA,

Please see below email sent to the West Coast SPCA.

Kindly also note that I have copied Mr Hendrik van Romburgh, a resident and concerned citizen, who is a witness to the circumstances and has been appealing to the SPCA. It is my understanding that other residents are also witnesses to the cruelty (see affidavits) and are ready to take the matter to the media.

Please urgently assist.

Regards

Natalie

Volunteer

Border Collie Rescue Cape Town

www.bcrcafetown.com

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Natalie Brink** <witt.natalie@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, 29 Oct 2024 at 19:33

Subject: Request for action: Hopefield Border Collies

To: <info@swartlandwestcoastspca.co.za>

 Affidavit 1.jpg

 Affidavit 2.jpg

 Affidavit 3.jpg

 Affidavit 4.jpg

 Affidavit 5.jpg

 Affidavit 6.jpg

 Affidavit 7.jpg

 Affidavit 8.jpg

 Affidavit 9.jpg

 Affidavit 10.jpg

 Affidavit 11.jpg

 Food being collected for testing.mp4

 Food containers overflowing, the dogs are not eating the what we assume is sheep feed.jpg

 Taken Monday 28 October after Mr Cilliers filled food and water bowls.mp4

 Taken Sunday, 27 October - no food or water, Mr Cilliers was not at the location since Friday 25 ...

 Video showing puppies, no food or water.mp4

 Video showing puppies.mp4

Dear Louise and Inspector Carina, West Coast SPCA

I am writing to again express my concern regarding the basic care and living conditions of the approximately 28 Border Collies living at Erf 891, [Hoewe Street, Hopefield](#).

Mr Jan Cilliers is renting a pigsty at the above-mentioned address to house his Border Collies (including 2 litters of puppies). The pigsty is not designed for dogs and lacks proper sanitation, ventilation, and space for the dogs to move freely and exhibit natural behaviours. This environment poses significant health risks and contributes to the animals' physical and psychological distress.

While technically, the animals are provided with some form of shelter, as well as periodically with food and water, the conditions are far from what is considered adequate and humane.

Summary of some of the details I am aware of:

- In April 2021 Mr Cilliers' Border Collies were removed by the Stellenbosch Animal Welfare Society with a "Search and Seizure Warrant". Border Collie Rescue, Cape Town assisted in the rehoming process of the seized Border Collie and is aware of the severe parasitic infestation and lengthy veterinary intervention some of the dogs required
- Mr Cilliers was inspected and monitored by the Swartland SPCA in Chatsworth in April 2024, removing and disappearing with all dogs between SPCA visits
- Mr Cilliers and his assistant Ms Dalinda Scholtz sell Border Collie puppies for a minimum of R5000 each, advertising on Gumtree
- One dog has died at the Hopefield address already
- A number of the dogs had escaped the Hopefield pigsty and were roaming freely
- The dogs are not vaccinated, and no veterinarian has been to the location
- The ventilation of the building is completely inadequate, especially during the hot summer months
- The dogs have gone for a whole weekend without food and water when Mr Cilliers is not there between Friday and Monday on at least one occasion
- The food provided appears to be sheep or goat food instead of dog food, the dogs are not eating it

I have attached affidavits written and signed by numerous concerned residents. I recognise that they convolute the following three matters and ask that you focus only on the matter pertaining to the dogs' care:

1. Noise complaint due to barking – Please ignore, Law Enforcement is investigating this matter
2. Refusal to vacate the premises – Please ignore, the owner is handling this matter
3. The poor conditions and care of the Border Collies – this is the matter being raised by this letter for the attention and action of the SPCA

I have also attached several videos showing the poor conditions. Residents can provide CCTV footage indicating Mr Cilliers' entry times and the period between his visits.

I again urge the West Coast SPCA to take more proactive action instead of continuing to monitor the situation and requesting Mr Cilliers to comply. This is enabling Mr Cilliers to continue evading the law and risking the death of more dogs.

Regards
Natalie Brink

Volunteer

Border Collie Rescue Cape Town

www.bcrcape town.com

6 attachments



image002.png
3K



image003.png
6K



image004.png
3K



image005.png
2K



image006.png
3K



Video showing puppies with adult dog food.mp4
4428K