



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

Re: FW: Request for action: Hopefield Border Collies

1 message

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

Thu, Oct 31, 2024 at 1:30 PM

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

Cc: "committee@swartlandwestcoastspca.co.za" <committee@swartlandwestcoastspca.co.za>, Society Liaison Unit 6 <liaison6@nspca.co.za>, Society Liaison Unit 3 <liaison3@nspca.co.za>

Dear Lisa,

Please refer to the below and attached report, warning and photographic evidence as requested.

Background and Inspections

We received an initial complaint on 4 October 2024, reporting that dogs were allegedly abandoned on the property without food or water. Inspector Bodenstein went to do an inspection on the same day and confirmed that the dogs had access to food and water and appeared in good condition, with no violations of the Animal Protection Act.

Since the initial inspection, Inspector Bodenstein has conducted multiple follow-up visits to the property on 5th, 7th, 11th, 17th, 22nd, 28th, 29th, 30th, and 31st October. During these inspections, the animals consistently had adequate food and water, and their body condition indicated they were being fed. The only issue encountered was on 28 October, when Inspector Bodenstein issued a warning (attached) to address a non critical issue. Subsequent inspections confirmed compliance with the warning.

Although we oppose breeding on the property, this alone does not warrant animal removal. Additionally, our local law enforcement is aware of the situation, having visited the property to verify bylaw compliance regarding breeding.

We recognize that noise from the property is a major concern for residents. However, without evidence of APA violations or neglected welfare needs, there is insufficient legal basis to pursue a warrant for animal removal. Unfounded requests for warrants could jeopardise our credibility with the Hopefield magistrate, potentially hindering our ability to obtain warrants for future cases.

We are conducting daily inspections to closely monitor the dogs' welfare, ensuring food, water, and acceptable conditions are maintained. Given the heightened public concern, we can assure the community that we are doing everything within our authority to address this issue responsibly and effectively. Unfortunately, as the owner has been moving frequently, likely due to rental issues, it adds complexity but does not affect our legal grounds for action.

This case is especially challenging to manage due to the emotional concerns from the public, which we fully understand and share. We also regret that these animals lack human interaction throughout the day, though unfortunately, their basic needs are being met.

At this stage, we will continue daily inspections and will act immediately with regard to any welfare concerns.

Please let me know if any further information is needed with regards to this case.

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Dogs.jpg



Food.jpg



Mother with Puppies.jpg



WhatsApp Video 2024-10-29 at 08.32.38_2e264d44....



WhatsApp Video 2024-10-30 at 14.52.23_4871a226....

Best regards,



We speak and
care for all
animals

Inspector Louise van Zyl
Manager
Swartland and West Coast SPCA

Tel: 022 492 2781 - Swartland Darling
Tel: 022 289 0998 - West Coast Vredenburg
louise@swartlandwestcoastspca.co.za

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On Wed, Oct 30, 2024 at 9:40 AM NSPCA Liaison Unit Administrator <liaison@nspca.co.za> wrote:

Dear Colleagues

We trust this email finds you well.

Please refer to the below complaint for your investigation.

We kindly request that the aforementioned be conducted in terms of Rule 5.4.

Kindly forward the following documentation to us within a period of 7 days:

- A copy of your Cruelty Complaint Sheet
- Inspector's Report/Findings
- Any written Warnings/Notices
- Photographs of the animal/s and their welfare.

Please acknowledge receipt of this email.

Should you require any further advice and/or assistance in this regard you are invited to contact your Society Liaison Officer.

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



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

DONATE



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

From: NSPCA Liaison Unit Administrator

Sent: Wednesday, 30 October 2024 09:39

To: 'witt.natalie@gmail.com' <witt.natalie@gmail.com>

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

Subject: RE: Request for action: Hopefield Border Collies

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



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

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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.bccrcapetown.com



Virus-free. www.avast.com

4 attachments



1Size of Facility.jpg
111K



Size of Facility.jpg
134K



WARNING W6715 I3810 28102024.pdf
696K



Inspection Report I3810.pdf
2422K