

SWARTLAND WEST COAST SPCA
INSPECTOR REPORT

I5301

Complaint Reference No.

Building:
Street: 0 R27 OPPOSITE GROTTTO BAY
Suburb: DARLING
Postal Code:
Inspector: JAMESON OCTOBER
Date of Inspection: 2026-02-18
Time of Inspection: 08:30

RESPONDENT'S DETAILS

Name:
Company:
Identification:
Email:
Tel 1:
Tel 2:

REPORT

Access Granted By: No one at home
Comment:
Were Animals Seen on the Property: No
Relationship to Property Owner: Worker
Captured By: LOUISE VAN ZYL 2026-02-18 16:15

CHECKLISTS

General Report Comments: Dear Lisa, With reference to the complaint received regarding the horses on the property of CapeNature opposite Ganzekraal, we provide the following feedback. The reserve is situated on the border of Mamre and Swartland, and the area is effectively a grey area between Swartland and the Cape of Good Hope SPCA, as it spans both jurisdictions.

As previously explained to Jaimin, this property has been the subject of ongoing concerns for a number of years. Owners from the Atlantis and Mamre areas have reportedly been placing their horses illegally onto the CapeNature reserve. It is alleged that fencing on the Mamre side of the property is being cut to gain access, after which the horses are herded into the reserve. There is currently also a dispute between certain Mamre residents and CapeNature regarding ownership and responsibility for the property, which further complicates the matter, particularly in identifying responsible owners.

Our inspectors conducted an inspection of the area on Monday, 16 February 2026. The property forms part of a nature reserve and spans approximately 3,000 hectares. As can be seen from the attached photographs and video footage, it is an extensive area of bushveld with very limited road access. During our initial visit, no horses were observed.

A follow-up inspection was conducted on the morning of 18 February 2026, during which we were accompanied by Mr Luke Linde of CapeNature. After an extended search through dense bush (approximately 2 km on foot), we located a herd of horses. Upon closer assessment, three horses were identified as being in a severely compromised body condition. Photographic evidence has been attached.

The horses are semi-feral in nature and do not approach humans. As soon as we attempted to move closer, they fled, which made close examination and any alternative intervention impractical. Given the severity of their condition a decision was taken that humane euthanasia was necessary to prevent further suffering.

Mr Linde contacted the reserve manager, Mr Johan Visagie of CapeNature, who, in consultation with us, agreed that the three horses should be humanely destroyed. A qualified marksman was engaged, and the three horses were euthanased accordingly.

The remaining horses observed from our vantage point appeared to be in acceptable condition at the time of inspection. There is a borehole on the property which provides a water source for the horses.

We have reached an operational understanding with CapeNature that they will notify us immediately should any horses present with welfare concerns in future, and that they will monitor the situation until our arrival when required.

We have made attempts to contact the complainant, Ms Robyn Fergusson, to provide feedback, but have not yet been able to reach her. We will continue our efforts to inform her of the outcome.

Furthermore, Mr Visagie has advised that individuals from Mamre and Atlantis who are responsible for placing horses on the reserve will be issued with final notices to remove their animals from the property. Failing compliance, CapeNature intends to apply for a court order authorising the removal and/or destruction of the horses. We have requested that CapeNature keep us informed should this process proceed.

In the interim, we will continue to monitor the situation as far as practically possible, and CapeNature has undertaken to notify us of any further welfare concerns. NFA

ACTIONS

OTHER	3 HORSES EUTHANASED
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REPORT OUTCOMES

Case finalised - NFA

REFERRED TO CAPE NATURE