

INSPECTOR NOTE

Building:	
Street:	11 VOORTREKKER STREET
Suburb:	VREDENBURG
Postal Code:	
Date:	2026-05-14
Time:	14:11
Inspector:	LOUISE VAN ZYL

Type:	CASE DISCUSSION NOTE
Follow-Up Date:	2026-05-20

Comments:

Dear Ms Nickless,

Thank you for forwarding the video and for raising your concerns regarding the welfare of the animals at the property.

An inspector attended the premises and conducted a welfare inspection. During the inspection, it was confirmed that both the dog and the sheep had access to suitable shelter, including an open caravan and garage area which would provide protection from the rain and adverse weather conditions. Please note that this inspection was conducted without prior arrangement with the owner, and the available shelter was already accessible to the animals at the time of inspection.

While we understand your concern in seeing the dog outside during the rain, animals will at times choose to remain outdoors despite having access to adequate shelter. As suitable shelter was available and accessible at the time of inspection, there are unfortunately no welfare grounds for further intervention in this matter.

Please note that I have copied the relevant Law Enforcement officials into this correspondence, as they will be better placed to address and respond to queries that fall outside the mandate and jurisdiction of the SPCA.

Please refer to our remarks below in blue.

Kind regards,

Louise van Zyl

On Thu, May 14, 2026 at 9:29 AM Victoria Nickless <torinickless@gmail.com> wrote:
Hi,

Thanks for the call this morning.

Here's the evidence I spoke about yesterday. You never let me know where to send it.

I have some follow up questions after discussing with my partner -

- Did you question if he ever baths the Legend? All the animals are utterly filthy. Maybe it's not legally required as basic care, but it might help to at least confront him with the question. At the time of inspection, the animals were not found to be filthy or in poor condition, but merely slightly wet due to the rainy weather conditions. As the animals spend time outdoors and are exposed to natural weather conditions, it is not unusual for them to appear somewhat dirty or wet at times, particularly during rainy weather.

- Did you question if he ever cleans up his yard? It's full a sheep waste. At the time of inspection, some sheep droppings were noted in the yard, which is normal in an environment where sheep are kept, as they naturally relieve themselves frequently throughout the day. However, the droppings did not appear old or excessively accumulated, indicating that the area is cleaned. No dog faeces were observed during the inspection.

- Did you question why he hasn't gotten the Legend neutered? This matter was not addressed during the inspection, as Legend is currently 9 years old. Furthermore, the SPCA is not legally empowered to enforce the sterilisation of privately owned animals, as this falls under the applicable municipal bylaws

and would need to be addressed by the relevant municipal authorities, whom I have copied into this correspondence.

•Did he explained why he didn't actually take Legend with to the vet? It's insane to just hand out medication without actually seeing the animal. I believe if he actually does take the dog to the vet, they will find several problems. His back legs, I don't know if you noticed as he was probably excited, don't work normally. Either arthritis or hip dysplasia - I have a lot of experience with animals, I had to deal with arthritis in my own babas back legs a few years ago. The owner advised that Legend had already received treatment from a veterinarian for the ear infection, and the medication was shown to the inspector during the inspection. At this stage, there are no legal grounds for the SPCA to compel the owner to take the dog for further veterinary treatment, particularly as treatment has already been obtained. The matter has, however, been diarised for follow-up and the ear condition will continue to be monitored.

With regard to Legend's mobility, no signs of discomfort, pain, or difficulty walking were observed by the inspector at the time of inspection. As no obvious welfare concern was noted in this regard during the inspection, the SPCA cannot compel further veterinary intervention based solely on speculation without observable clinical signs at the time. The inspector will, however, also keep an eye on his mobility during the follow-up inspection relating to the ear condition.

A few weeks back I had an issue with Law Enforcement refusing to help with a dog running around in the road. I ended up going to speak to Constable Nolan as two employees were extremely rude and unhelpful.

Anyways, he informed me that it's legally required to neuter animals. Oh, and that all animals are the SPCA's problem. Not theirs, they just sometimes help out the SPCA. Is this the way it is meant to be? As previously mentioned, the SPCA is not legally empowered to enforce the sterilisation of privately owned animals, as this falls under municipal bylaws. The SPCA will assist the municipality where required, including with the facilitation of sterilisation where possible, but enforcement thereof remains the responsibility of the relevant municipal authorities, who will be able to advise further in this regard. Similarly, matters relating to dogs roaming in public streets also fall under municipal bylaws and are not matters that SPCA inspectors are legally authorised to enforce. SPCA inspectors are legally empowered to enforce the provisions of the Animals Protection Act only, and therefore matters falling outside of this legislation must be dealt with by the relevant municipal authorities. The relevant municipal officials copied into this correspondence will be better placed to respond further regarding your specific concerns relating to Law Enforcement and municipal bylaw enforcement.

- He then also proceeded to show me all the puppies his unsprayed female dog just had. So...he probably needs looking into as well. We are unfortunately unclear as to what is being referred to in this regard, as no puppies were present on the premises at the time of the inspection that was conducted by the SPCA.

If someone could actually provide accurate information that would be massively helpful.

I moved here on the 1st of February. Since then, I have exclusively seen un-neutered dogs running around town. I count 6 that I've seen personally unattended. And not all of these are street dogs. The dog I had an issue with in the road had escaped its gate. - someone else came and helped and I believe a rescue organisation recently went and checked up because there's been visible changes to the front gate. Please refer to our response above regarding matters relating to roaming animals and the enforcement of municipal bylaws, as these matters do not fall within the legal enforcement powers of SPCA inspectors.

*Yesterday, an extremely pregnant female and a puppy German Shepherd were running around in the road. We stopped and they eventually crawled under a gate, which we assumed is their house as the Pit Bull inside didn't seem fazed by them. Please refer to our response above regarding matters relating to roaming animals and the enforcement of municipal bylaws, as these matters do not fall within the legal enforcement powers of SPCA inspectors.
The house is 23 Hospital Street, Vredenburg.

Please can you go and investigate the above mentioned home. Those dogs got extremely close to the main road and would've most likely been hit.
There's a HUGE hole under the gate they just slipped out of, I'm assuming in search of something? *

(I believe my partner was going to phone, but has been busy with work.
We aren't able to always be at our phones. It's just not realistic.)

The amount of loose animals I've seen in an epidemic. Are there any programs in place to deal with this situation in the town? What is happening and whose responsibility is it truly? The enforcement of the Animals Protection Act falls within the powers of the SPCA, while the enforcement of municipal bylaws falls under the relevant municipal Law Enforcement authorities.
Should you wish to report any specific animal welfare concerns to the SPCA, you are welcome to contact our office directly on 022 289 0998, as we do prefer discussing welfare complaints in person where possible in order to obtain all relevant information. Our after-hours emergency number is 082 414 7153 for urgent animal welfare emergencies requiring immediate attention.

Please don't think I'm attacking anyone or any organisation. I just want to be able to rely on the systems that are meant to be in place. It has broken my heart moving here and seeing the constant mistreatment of animals. I need to know that changes are happening. We understand and appreciate your concern for the welfare of animals in the area, and please be assured that the SPCA shares that concern. Our inspectors attend to reported welfare matters on a daily basis and take action where legal grounds exist in terms of the Animals Protection Act. As much as we strive to assist as many animals as possible, we do rely heavily on reports from members of the public, as it is unfortunately not possible for inspectors to be present everywhere at all times.
For this reason, we strongly encourage you to contact our office directly should you witness any specific animal welfare concerns so that they may be attended to and investigated appropriately. The contact numbers provided above remain available for the reporting of welfare matters.
LOUISE VAN ZYL 2026-05-14 14:11

Captured By: