

SPRINGS SPCA
INSPECTOR REPORT

IHAN12095

Complaint Reference No.

Building:
Street:
Suburb:
Postal Code:
Inspector: ANNECIA MORTON
Date of Inspection: 2024-10-20
Time of Inspection: 18:00

RESPONDENT'S DETAILS

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

REPORT

Access Granted By:
Comment:
Were Animals Seen on the Property: Yes
Relationship to Property Owner: Other
Captured By: ANNECIA LE ROUX 2025-01-23 12:27

CHECKLISTS

CONFINEMENT OF ANIMALS	Free roaming - in property	
ADEQUATE SPACE AVAILABLE	Yes	
CLEAN LIVING ENVIRONMENT	Yes	
WATER AVAILABLE	No ***	
ADEQUATE SHELTER AVAILABLE	No ***	
ANIMALS IN GOOD CONDITION	No ***	PORCUPINES DECEASED
VETERINARY PROBLEMS / HEALTH CO	Yes ***	PORCUPINES TAKEN FOR AUTOPSY

General Report Comments: On Sunday the 20th of October 2024, the Springs SPCA was doing a combined operation with Delmas SAPS and other stakeholders due to the numerous reports of illegal hunting with dogs taking place in the area. This operation was initiated in response to numerous community complaints and evidence suggesting that organized groups were using hunting dogs, often in violation of animal welfare and conservation laws.

On Sunday the 20th of October 2024 at around 06:43 we were alerted to a hunting incident at the Farm Hekpoort in Delmas. We went out to assist and on arrival, I noted five (5) minors with their five (5) dogs, the minors had four (4) Porcupine in their possession. The Porcupines had sustained fatal injuries these injuries were consistent with dog bites.

The five (5) minors with their dogs were sitting on the side of the road where they had been detained, one of the minors had a wooden pole that had one of the porcupines tied onto it by its legs. Another of the minors held a bludgeoning stick. The remainder three (3) porcupine were found in the field just behind where they were sitting that they came from. These had also sustained fatal injuries to the one tied to the wooden pole.

I contacted Captain Hartley to update her on our findings at the scene, including the presence of the minors, the deceased porcupines, and the involvement of hunting dogs. Captain Hartley acknowledged and informed me that her team was already en route to our location.

I continued to document what was noted on the scene, this included photographic evidence of the four (4) Porcupine, the minors and the three (3) remaining dogs as two (2) had managed to run away. One of the dogs had sustained an injury to one of its legs as it was limping terribly. This dog ran away with another that was part of the hunting pack.

On Captain Hartley's arrival, the minors were taken by SAPS to the Delmas SAPS for processing, the dogs were loaded into the SPCA vehicle. The porcupine were loaded into the immigration vehicle, the three (3) dogs were loaded into the Springs SPCA vehicle. We all proceeded to the Delmas SAPS. Upon arrival, evidence was logged in accordance with chain-of-custody requirements to ensure proper documentation for legal action.

At the station, the SPCA vehicle was parked in a shaded area to ensure the comfort of the dogs, and food and water were provided to them inside the vehicle. Meanwhile, the evidence—including the four deceased porcupines and two sticks associated with the incident—was formally logged into the SAPS 13 evidence register under number 470/10/2024.

Each porcupine was individually sealed and tagged with evidence bag numbers: PAB000451074, PAB000451161, PAB000451162, and PAB000451160. The two sticks—one used to secure a porcupine and another believed to have been used by one of the minors in the act—were bagged under evidence number PAR000360022.

Following protocol, the evidence was subsequently released into my custody to facilitate transportation to the Johannesburg Wildlife Veterinary Clinic, for autopsy and DNA testing, the findings from wildlife veterinarian Dr Peta-Danielle Muller-Deibicht will be submitted as a report to the case Investigating Officer upon completion

The three (3) dogs were transported to the Springs SPCA, where they were registered into the SPCA system. Each dog underwent an initial health assessment, and received treatment for external parasites as well as internal, along with food, water, and a safe environment to aid in their recovery. The dogs will remain in SPCA custody as part of the ongoing investigation, ensuring their welfare while the case proceeds.

As an operational SPCA inspector of 4.5 years' experience, I recognize the elements of the illegal activity of poaching with dogs. This crime is rife in my area of operation and has multiple animal welfare contraventions associated with it for both the hunting dogs and the wildlife victims. A particularly concerning aspect of this issue is the involvement of minors in these activities. The engagement of youth in such illegal poaching operations raises serious ethical and legal concerns. These minors are often exposed to violent practices and are at risk of adopting behaviors that desensitize them to animal and human suffering along with disregard for conservation and animal-related laws. These minors are under the influence or guidance of adults who exploit their youth to avoid harsher repercussions.

ACTIONS

ANIMAL/S SEIZED

IHAN12095

REPORT OUTCOMES

ANIMAL(S) CONFISCATED

PAB000451074, PAB000451161, PAB000451162, and PAB000451160

ANIMAL CRUELTY CHARGES LAID

INSPECTION ANIMALS

Description:

NIL