

INSPECTOR NOTE

Building:
Street: 63 FIRST STREET
Suburb: VISCHKUIL AH
Postal Code: 1559
Date: 2025-07-15
Time: 15:20
Inspector: ANNECIA LE ROUX

Type: CASE DISCUSSION NOTE

Follow-Up Date:

Comments: The South African Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre (SAWRC), formerly known as Wildlife in Crisis, has been operating for over 25 years as a fully permitted wildlife rehabilitation facility. The centre handles between 4,500 and 6,000 cases annually, depending on circumstances such as oil spills and other mass incidents.

SAWRC works closely with several veterinarians, including Park Vet, Selpark Vet, Val De Grace Vet (Pretoria), Dr. Dirk Gouws (Roodepoort), and Terrace Road Vet (Edenvale). Monthly veterinary expenses average approximately R20,000 at Park Vet and R5,000–R6,000 at the other practices. Darting services, when required, are provided by Dr. Rob Campbell, Dr. Dirk Gouws, Park Vet, Springs Vet, and Dr. Clifford Bull. All veterinary cases and treatments are recorded by the attending veterinarians and are available upon request. A new system implemented by the centre ensures each animal's treatment record is emailed and filed with clinic documentation.

The centre is fully permitted to handle all indigenous wildlife up to the size of a waterbuck and holds CPB2–6 and TOPS (Threatened or Protected Species) permits. GDARD conducts monthly inspections and biannual audits, during which registers are verified against animals on site. Comprehensive registers are maintained for all cases, including species, location found, veterinary details, treatment outcomes, and release data. Volunteers hold varying levels of permits based on their experience and submit monthly reports that are consolidated for GDARD submission.

Animals may be kept for up to six months, with extensions approved via veterinary reports when necessary. Young mammals are given additional time for development before release. All mammals are vaccinated against rabies and receive a final veterinary assessment before being transferred to release enclosures. Releases are conducted primarily in spring and summer, with soft releases preferred to ensure adaptation and survival. Support feeding continues post-release until the animals are confirmed self-sufficient.

As the centre frequently handles TOPS species and animals at risk of poaching or muti-related harm, strict security protocols are maintained. The entire facility operates under 24/7 monitored camera surveillance with sound, motion detectors, alarms, and armed response. Public access to the rehabilitation area is prohibited to limit disease transmission (including Parvovirus, Distemper, HPAI, and Newcastle's Disease) and reduce animal stress, in line with permit conditions.

The centre operates entirely on sponsors, fundraisers, and donations and continues to uphold the highest standards of wildlife care, rehabilitation, and ethical release practices despite limited resources.

Captured By: ANNECIA LE ROUX 2025-07-15 15:20