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INTERNAL REPORT TREINTJIES RIVIER FARM / PRINCE ALBERT

Date: 5th & 6th December 2023

Complaint: Pigs in Poor Condition

Address: Treintjies Rivier – Prince Albert

Directions from George : Travel through Oudtshoorn and then through De Rust and through Meiringspoort. Take a left turn from the N 1 at the Prince Albert sign. Carry on for approximately 45 km. Take the left turn before entering the main street of Prince Albert, which is Kerkstraat. Turn left at the sharp bend with the sign marked "Weltevrede." Follow the dirt road for about 8 km over a low-water bridge. Turn right immediately after that at the sign for Treintjiesrivier Plaas. Pass through two farm gates, and pig pens will be on the right side.

On November 5th, 2023, I received a complaint about pigs in poor condition at the address mentioned above. Brenda from Prince Albert Diere Sorg provided additional details, and I subsequently contacted Madeli Brand, an Animal Health Technician from Beaufort West, based in Prince Albert, for further information.

Madeli had visited the farm on Monday and provided guidelines to the owner, Mr. Johnny Brits, regarding the underweight pigs. She recommended deworming and advised separating the pigs, especially lactating sows with piglets. Prepared with directions from Madeli, I and Luciano Bayi from our Mossel Bay branch left George at 14:30 after necessary preparations and waited for authorization letter from NSPCA.

Upon reaching Prince Albert just before 17:00, we immediately proceeded to inspect the pigs since the court offices were closed. We found Mr. Brits feeding the pigs, and after introducing ourselves, he allowed a comprehensive check on all the pigs. Mr. Brits has repurposed two

cement dams into pens. These pens have been modified with additional poles, zinc, and fencing. The enclosures required maintenance, posing potential hazards.

The inspection of Mr. Brits' pigs revealed:

Animals seen:

1 Boar in good condition

1 Sow in good condition

3 Lactating sows in poor condition

16 piglets of various sizes (3 weeks to 3 months)



PIGS BELONGING TO
MR BRITS





BOAR BELONGING TO MR BRITS



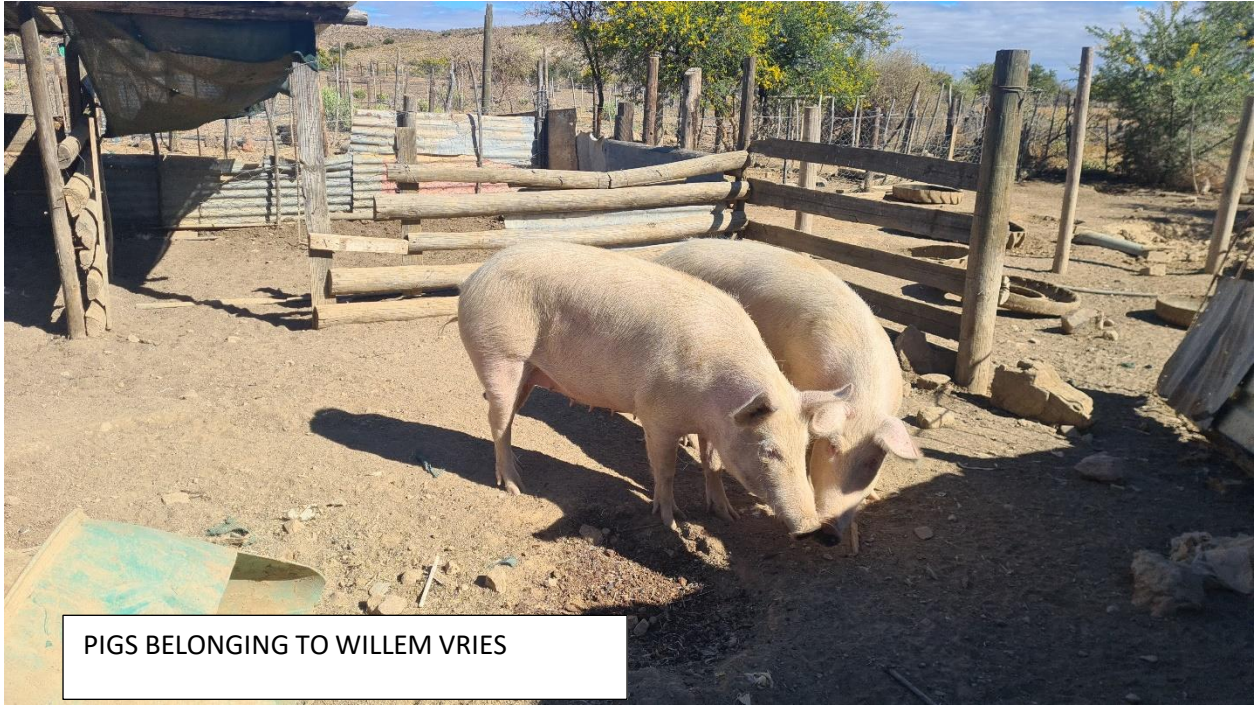
PEN OF MR BRITS



The boar and sow without piglets were in acceptable condition, but the three other sows, especially the one with the largest piglets, were in very poor condition, possibly due to over-nursing. Water was available in a cement container. We advised Mr. Brits on better piggery management, emphasizing the importance of weaning piglets earlier and separating the pigs.

Mr. Brits explained transportation challenges, residing 8 km from the farm, and having disputes with fellow farmers who also did not reside on the farm, but who does have transport. Arrangements were made to meet the next day at 11:00 after his course at the Department of Agriculture.

The next morning at 08:00, we conducted a comprehensive inspection of the entire farm, meeting Marie April, the vice-chair lady of the farm management, who shared insights about the farm's dynamics and ownership by the municipality. Various animals on the farm (not owned by Mr Brits) were observed to be in good condition, including goats and pigs owned by Jan Tellis and pigs owned by Willem Vries.



PIGS BELONGING TO WILLEM VRIES



GOATS BELONGING TO MR JAN TELLIS



PIGS BELONGING TO JAN TELLIS



PIGS BELONGING TO JAN TELLIS



PIG PENS OF MR JAN TELLIS



PIG PENS OF MR WILLEM VRIES

Mr. Brits' inconsistent presence on the farm due to transport challenges was highlighted. After that we went to the court and the magistrate promptly signed my authorization letter, and during our discussion, I provided him with a comprehensive overview of the case. He demonstrated a keen understanding of the ongoing disputes on the farm. I further elucidated my intention to issue a warning to the owner, Mr. Johnny Brits, outlining the necessary corrective measures.

I transparently conveyed that, in the event of non-compliance with the issued warning, I might need to return within a week or two to seek a warrant. The magistrate exhibited a cooperative attitude, assuring me of his readiness to facilitate the process should the need for a warrant arise. A meeting with Brenda from Prince Albert Diere Sorg and Sinesipho Matwa from the Department of Western Cape Agriculture followed.

Sinesipho confirmed the initial support provided to Mr. Brits by the department and confirmed that the department gave him 5 sows to start his business. I raised concerns about the lack of post-inspection procedures. A warning was issued to Mr. Brits.

Immediate follow-ups will be conducted by Brenda from Prince Albert Diere Sorg and the Animal Health Technician to ensure swift and consistent monitoring of the situation. Their regular checks within three days and subsequent weekly inspections will help track the progress and adherence to the issued warning.

Additionally, for comprehensive oversight, we will conduct a follow-up visit in one month. This approach ensures a collaborative effort, combining local expertise with our external assessment, to guarantee the welfare of the pigs and the implementation of the necessary improvements.

A letter expressing concerns about animal distribution processes would be addressed to the Department of Agriculture.

Continuing our inspections, we visited a community pig farm near the township, issuing a warning for an underweight piglet. Approximately 35 pigs under different ownerships were inspected.

In conclusion, the well-being of the pigs on Mr. Johnny Brits' farm is of paramount concern. The warning issued outlines specific areas of improvement, including the underweight condition of certain sows, the need for pen maintenance, separation of pigs, adequate feeding, sufficient water provision, and adherence to guidelines set by the Animal Health Technician.

It is emphasized that if substantial improvements are not observed within one week, our team will return to Prince Albert to obtain a warrant. The warning also conveys a call for responsible decision-making on the part of Mr. Brits. Given his awareness of the challenges, he is urged to honestly assess whether he can meet the necessary standards outlined in the warning.

Salome Bruyns

Senior Inspector

Garden Route SPCA

