

INSPECTION OF SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICE MOUNTED UNITS



IT IS IMPORTANT TO TAKE NOTE OF THE FOLLOWING WHEN INSPECTING SAPS MOUNTED UNITS:

The SAPS Mounted Unit Checklist has been designed specifically for the inspection of the South African Police Service Mounted Units.

When conducting a proactive or reactive inspection at the SAPS Mounted Unit in your area it is important that the Inspector reports directly to the Unit Commander of the specific SAPS Mounted Unit for introduction and explaining the reason for the inspection. If the Unit Commander is not available then the Inspector needs to ask for the Acting Unit Commander or stable Official.

Inspectors must be authorized under the hand of the magistrate of the district, in terms of Section 8(1) of the Animals Protection Act No 71 of 1962, to conduct inspections at the SAPS Mounted Units.

Prior to conducting the inspection of the stable facilities we recommend that the Inspector takes the time to go through the checklist to complete all the relevant information and questions. It is important to note that some of the questions are for your own personal knowledge/observations whilst conducting the inspection.

Upon completion of the checklist the Inspector will understand the basic layout and operations of the specific SAPS Mounted Unit and what needs to be inspected. It is important that the Inspector is accompanied by a SAPS Official at all times during the inspection. It is not recommended that the Inspector handles the SAPS horses. If handling is required then the SAPS Officials should be handling the horses for safety reasons.

The Inspector must ask to inspect the last SAPS Veterinary Inspection Team Report conducted at the Mounted Unit. The SAPS Veterinary Team Inspection is an internal inspection done by the SAPS and is conducted at least once annually. This report states the concerns that were noted at the specific Mounted Unit during the inspection. The Inspector must pay close attention to the SAPS Veterinary Report and can then compare their findings with that of the SAPS Veterinarian.

Direct contraventions of the Animals Protection Act (APA) must be issued in writing to the SAPS Mounted Unit in the form of an official written warning. Non APA contraventions can be pointed out as a separate recommendation. Warnings may only be issued for **direct** contraventions of the Animals Protection Act.

A copy of the warning issued to the SAPS Mounted Unit must be forwarded to the NSPCA Special Projects Unit for further perusal. The NSPCA Special Projects Unit will forward a copy of the warning to the relevant heads at the SAPS for further investigation and perusal.

Please do not hesitate to contact the NSPCA on 011 907 3590 or specialprojects@nspca.co.za for more information or guidance on the inspection of SAPS Mounted Units.

SAPS MOUNTED UNIT INSPECTION CHECKLIST

Date of inspection: 03/04/2023	Time of inspection: 12:40
Inspector(s): Thomas Molake	

1. SAPS MOUNTED UNIT INFORMATION

SAPS MOUNTED Unit: EMD	Province: Gauteng
Address: 16 Meerkat Road, Pretoria	
GPS Co-ordinates: S	E

Unit Commander: R. Botha (V. Singh)	
Tel No.: 011 977 7335	Cell No.: 089 937 8382 (081 041 5721)
Fax No.:	E-mail:
Unit Second In Command:	Cell No.:
Stable Official: M.A. Zwane	Cell No.: 083 362 9470

2. VETERINARY INFORMATION

SAPS Veterinarian: Bapfontein Animal Vet/Hospital	
Tel No.: 011 964 3919	Cell No.:
Fax No.:	E-mail: admin@bapfonteinvet.co.za

Local Veterinarian:	
Practice Details:	
Tel No.:	Cell No.:
Fax No.:	E-mail:

The SAPS Mounted Units make use of the SAPS Veterinarians based at Roodeplaat in Pretoria and Potchefstroom. But when the need arises in an emergency case they will make use of a local veterinarian.

3. GENERAL MANAGEMENT

Number of horses at the Unit?	11 horses
Number of stables available?	20
Number of paddocks that can be used?	3 mesquite paddocks
Number of camps unable to use?	
Is there a "SAPS 84" file available with information on each horse?	☒ Yes ☐ No
Is the medical information available for each horse?	☒ Yes ☐ No
Breed of horses used: i.e. TB, X-Breed, ARABS; FRIESONS; BOERPERD;	

11 horses

Function of horses?	* Ground controlling * Controlling * Crime prevention
Identification used: i.e. (Microchip, tattoo, none)	(none)

4. WORKING DETAILS OF HORSES?

Duty roster available for each horse? (including rest periods)	(Yes) No
Length of each shift?	Unit Commander rotated duty Varies as they do different operations.
Travelling time?	In the morning (Normally before 9am)
Travelling conditions? i.e. Rain, etc	Varies

(Rational basis)

5. STABLES

Number of STABLES at the Unit:	20
Description of stables:	Brick & steel roof.
Adequate shelter?	(Yes) No
Size of stables:	
Condition of stables: i.e. good, in need of repair, loose wires, broken gate, etc	(good)
Maximum time spent in the stables?	± 4 hours, they spend most of their time in the paddocks. When they are off duty.
Any fighting observed?	Yes (No)
Description of paddocks?	mainly open field that is secured.
Adequate shelter available in the paddocks?	(Yes) No
How often are the horses allowed into the paddocks?	Everyday
How many hours are the horses allowed to spend in the paddocks?	They spend most of the time in the paddocks.

new time especially dirty.

6. HYGIENE

Are the stables and paddocks clean?	(Yes) No
Cleaning/disinfectant products used?	Betadine
How often are the stables disinfected?	After 6-9 months.
Are the horses removed from the stables or paddocks during cleaning?	(Yes) No
What measures are in place to control flies & rodents?	fly traps
Is the grass at the Unit kept short to prevent ticks and snakes?	(Yes) No

Inspection is conducted every hour.
3 officers are on standby.

7. FOOD AND WATER	
How often are the horses fed?	Twice
Quantity of food?	Supplements
Brands of food used?	Barn Food & Roding
General hygiene of food store? i.e. clean, dirty, smelly, etc	
Potable water available for all the horses?	Yes / No
Are there any poisons or dangerous chemicals kept in the feed room?	Yes / No

8. HEALTH MANAGEMENT	
How often are the horses dipped?	Body spray
Is the dipping method in good working order?	M/A
Other form of parasite control:	Body spray
General condition of horses: i.e. poor, fair, good, obese, etc	
Any sick or injured horses observed?	Yes / No
If yes, provide details?	
Any signs of behavioural problems?	Yes / No
If yes, provide details?	

9. TRANSPORTATION	
Method of transport:	Horse boxes
Maximum length of time horses confined in transport:	Maximum 30 minutes
Are horses been safeguarded by equipment during transport?	Yes
General roadworthiness of vehicles:	Yes
Are the transport horsebox clean?	Yes / No
Are the doors secured to prevent escape or theft?	Yes / No
Is ventilation suitable?	Yes / No
Is there potential for exhaust fumes entering the horses' space?	Yes / No

10. RETIRED HORSES

What do they do with retired HORSES?

They keep it as a pet.

Where are they kept?

At the facility.

Is a rehoming policy in place?

N/A

Yes / No

Are pre and post home checks done?

N/A

Yes / No

11. PROBLEMS / CONCERNS / COMMENTS

We did not find any welfare concerns during our inspection. The facility will be visited again next month (May 2025) to monitor the situation at the facility.

Action taken? i.e. warning, recommendations, education, etc

None.

Follow-up action?

Next month (May 2025)

INSPECTOR:

Thomas Mubale

SIGNATURE:



NB! After a Society conducted an inspection at a SAPS Mounted Units all inspection reports, including warnings and photos, must be forwarded to the National Council of SPCAs for scrutiny and to enable the NSPCA to pursue any contraventions with the relevant Provincial and National Directorate of the SAPS.