

WELLINGTON SPCA

REPORT

Facility name: Brandvlei Correctional Services

Area: Brandvlei, Worcester, Western Cape

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Date: **2025-03-15**

Time: 12:18 – 14:12

Inspector: Elani Graham

1. Background:

The Wellington SPCA had been informed that there is a possible cost containment issue relating to the availability of feed at agricultural prisons. Therefore, I was requested to carry out an out of area follow up inspection at the Brandvlei Correctional Services in Worcester. This was after Inspector Jason Page has been there on the 6th of March 2025. I was asked to specifically follow up on Warning 14701.

2. Findings:

I arrived at the facility at 12:18 and concluded the inspection at 14:12. I first announced my arrival at the offices and requested to speak to Zalusile Sogiba. I explained that I was there

for a follow-up inspection on the warning left by Inspector Jason Page. Mr. Sogiba was on the farm already. Therefore, I waited for him to finish up and assist me.

Upon his arrival, he informed me that he sent a response email to Cape of Good Hope SPCA the 14th of March 2025 at approximately 17h14. I then asked him to forward me the email with the Plan of Action for the issues mentioned in the warning. He forwarded it to me, and we went through it step by step.

Castration of calves:

He spoke to the veterinarian, and they concluded to immediately cease using rubber bands as a form of castration on 6-week-old calves. The veterinarian (Dr. Rabe from Durbanstraat Direkliniek) advised that they start using a medication Bedizzo instead and surgically castrate the bulls when needed.

Shelter for Dairy Cattle:

Mr. Sogiba mentioned that this will take longer to process as they must obtain materials and go through the application procedure for this. He also wants to include it in his new financial year budget. Another concern is that there are heavy duty electricity lines over the enclosures where the shelter needs to be built. He said that realistically they would be able to finish the shelter by 30 June 2025.

Emergency Slaughter:

Depending on the cause of the need for emergency slaughter, they will notify their veterinarian to determine whether the meat is suitable for consumption or not. We concluded that the easiest method is to shoot and cut the animal and then proceed to bury the carcass or take the carcass to the abattoir for processing. This is with immediate effect.

Truck non-slip flooring:

Mr. Sogiba claimed that they are already busy with fixing the grid of the truck and that this will be concluded by 24 March 2025.

Rubble in Dairy Cattle enclosures:

Mr. Sogiba claimed that they had already started removing hazardous material from the enclosures but that they needed a digger to remove the larger rocks. The digger is in working order, but this will be a tedious task. He claimed for this to be resolved by the 30th of April 2024.

Mr. Sogiba and I then went to the farm so he could show me the progress he wants to make and what he already started with. We went to the dairy cattle section of the farm. He first showed me the enclosures that Inspector Page asked him to clean from hazardous material. I emphasized and showed him what Inspector Page meant and showed him materials that need to be removed from the enclosures besides the rocks. I could see that they have started clearing the smaller rocks out.



Figure 1: Rocks, planks, poles and other hazardous material seen in dairy cattle enclosures.

We then spoke about the way forward with the shelter of these camps. He is planning to build shelters that stretch over at least two enclosures to not build individual shelters and save time, money and labour. This is also when we noticed the electrical lines hanging over the enclosures. His solution is to stay away from metals and rather source PVC materials for the roofing and wooden poles for the structure.



Figure 2: Example of where they plan to put connecting shelter between enclosures.

He then proceeded to show me the calves, and facility for the dairy cattle and then the crops they grow to feed the livestock on the farm.



Figure 3: Crops being grown for animals.

We then went to the Maintenance department to see how far the repairs for the truck grid is going. Upon arrival, the grid was not in the vehicle. Mr Sogiba informed me that then it is in the workshop being fixed. They plan to make one grid out of the two pieces by welding it to fit perfectly into the truck. They have two of the same trucks they use to transport animals. They are also able to manually remove the sides and back gate of the truck and fit it on either of these two trucks.



Figure 4: Truck that they are being repaired for fitting suitable non-slip flooring.

Mr. Sogiba told me that he will send me veterinary reports from the veterinarian to show that he confirms whether carcasses are suitable for slaughter or not and the cause of death. He did send me the reports on 17th of March 2025 at approximately 04h32.

3. Action taken:

All the necessary feedback and documents were sent to Inspector Navesh Singh from the NSPCA to allocate follow-up inspections.

4. Conclusion:

Even though concerns were observed and addressed, none of those pertained to the lack of feed or animals starving. They have sufficient food available to them for at least the next month and supplements for the next two months at least. Additionally, they also grow their own feed at the facility and allow the animals to graze freely. They did and are in the process of complying with Warning 14701.

Report Compiled by: Inspector Elani Graham