

WELLINGTON SPCA

REPORT

Facility name: Mountain Green Farm

Area: GPS Coordinates: -33.572498, 19.059465, off Rooshoek Road,
Wellington, Western Cape

Contact information: Nic Goodwin and Miriam Goodwin (ID:5305300654181) –
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Date: 2025-03-03 to current

Inspector: Elani Graham

1. Background:

The Wellington SPCA had been informed that there is an emaciated horse, specifically a cremello horse named Barnes that is emaciated and in need of veterinary treatment. Complainants include several people namely Cape of Good Hope SPCA, NSPCA, Jade Barns, Gail Venecourt, Victoria Butler, Christelle Filmalter and Sandra Hardie.

2. Findings:

Animals present:

- A 30-year-old Carmello white gelding named Barnes
- An unsterilized Chestnut mare named Lady
- A horse named Sam (Not observed, at the property of Gail Venecourt)
- A Dark bay miniature pony named Mugg
- A Dark bay miniature pony named Bean
- A total of 8 cattle
- 3 Donkeys

Farrier: Dewald Pretorius

Veterinarian: Dr William Van Zyl (Wellington Animal Hospital Group)

Dentist: Louw Schabbert

3. 2025-03-03

At approximately 13h35, Trainee Inspector Hugh Lewis and I arrived at the property and noticed the gate was open. We then proceeded to enter the property. We saw three workers leaving the property and asked them whether the owner was there and they replied no. We explained to them that we would like to speak to the owner, and we will be leaving a contact warning. They then suggested we leave it with one of the workers who goes by the name of Dora Jansen. I issued Warning 066 for the owners to contact us within 24 hours.



Figure 1: Field where all livestock is kept seen on right hand side. Red arrow shows fire break line. Tree line below red arrow is where livestock enclosure starts.

4. 2025-03-04

Mr. Nic Goodwin responded to our warning and left his contact details for us. We arranged to meet at the property later the same day.

Trainee Inspector Lewis and I, returned to the property at approximately 14h15, arrived at the property and called Mr. Goodwin. He then allowed us access and explained to us where to meet him. We met with Mr. and Mrs. Goodwin and explained the nature other complaint We first saw Barnes who was emaciated but he was eating normally. The owners explained that they feed him 4 times a day (Oat hay and lucerne) and they use the brand called 'Golden years'. They explained he was more than 30 years old and barely had teeth left. I then asked them when the last time a veterinarian was there to check out all the equine and they mentioned that Doctor William Van Zyl who they normally use was there two weeks ago. We then asked them to bring Lady forward as well who was slightly underweight. Lady is in much better condition than Barnes.



Figure 2: Barnes' body condition.



Figure 3: Barnes seen from another angle whilst eating soft cut food.



Figure 4: Lady body condition.



Figure 5: Feed and tack room with marked bins containing special concentrates. Nic Goodwin seen on right.





Figure 6: Feed bin contents and ad hoc feed bales on site.

They also use a farrier called Dewald Pretorius every 6 weeks and they use Dewald Pretorius. They also mentioned that their dentist is Louw Schabbert and uses him when necessary or every 6 months. They also mentioned they use an equine Nutritionist named Jade Barnes.

The outside camps are very spacious, have no trees, have erected shelters, sprayers for fires and automatic water fillers.

We also discussed the possibility of euthanasia for Barnes. Mr. Goodwin said his first choice would be to call Dr Van Zyl, or to shoot the horse himself or call us when the time has come.

Mr. Goodwin was more than happy to send us the most recent veterinary report for Barnes from the veterinarian via email. We also agreed that I do a follow-up inspection within a month to see whether Barnes has gained weight or not.

5. 2025-03-05

I emailed Mr. Goodwin to provide us with a veterinary report. He sent the report from Dr Van Zyl the same day.

I noticed that the veterinarian mentioned that he consulted Barnes last on the 1st of June 2024 and that he was in fair condition back then.

6. 2025-03-10

I emailed Mr. Goodwin to ask whether we can get an updated report on Barnes as I noticed that the veterinary report is old. He responded the same day stating that it so happens that they have already arranged to have Dr William Van Zyl to inspect Sam (our warm blood) who is being collected and brought back to their farm on Monday 17 March 2025.

7. 2025-03-17

Mr. Goodwin emailed me to inform me that they were on their way to fetch Sam from Gail Venecourt so that Sam and Barnes can both be seen by Dr Van Zyl simultaneously, but Ms. Venecourt informed them that she was in Namibia and unable to assist them in returning their horse. They informed Dr van Zyl and he responded by saying that he is only available to visit them on the 24th of March 2025. Dr van Zyl also agreed to send the updated veterinary report as soon as possible after the visit.

8. 2025-03-24

At approximately 17h10, Mr. Goodwin emailed me to inform me that Dr Van Zyl was at his property at 14h00 and will send the veterinary report as soon as possible.

9. 2025-03-26

At approximately 18h17, Mr. Goodwin sent me the new veterinary report for Barnes (see attached document). Dr van Zyl stated that the horse has a body score of 1.5 which is low but normal for his age. He also found that Barnes possibly has arthritis and prescribed medication for this. He suggested that they follow-up within 5 days to see whether the medication is helpful. If not, they will continue to humanely euthanize the Barnes.

10. Conclusion

The owners of the horses mentioned that on the day of the fire when the horses were taken, they were not informed and busy fighting the fire. Jade Barnes took Barnes and Gail Venecourt took Sam by trespassing the property. All the other livestock were left behind. Since we have contacted Mr. and Mrs. Goodwin, they have been very compliant and aware of Barnes' situation and accept the reality of what needs to be done if Barnes' condition deteriorates. Barnes is being treated by Dr van Zyl and managed accordingly. The case is still active.

Follow-up due: 31 March 2025

Report Compiled by: Inspector Elani Graham