

On the 31st of July 2023 the Garden Route SPCA, I Inspector Thembinkosi Malinga accompanied by members of the Garden Route SPCA and NSPCA went to the Albertina Abattoir. Upon arrival at the premises 57 calves were observed, with the umbilical still attached. Upon further investigation we could see numerous contravention of the Animals Protection Act 71 of 1962.

Upon arrival at the premises it was around 17h25 no one was at the premises, the front gate was open and we allowed ourselves in, I could hear the calves mooing. I observed 57 bull calves that were kept in two overcrowded lairage. The lairage floor was very wet with no drainage, it had openings which causes the calves not be protected from all-weather elements. Food and water was not seen, empty food feed containers or milk feeding equipment (Bottle feed) was also not seen. At 18h30 I then contacted my superior informing her about my findings and request of assistance and further advice on the situation.

Upon further inspection I observed two calves that were lying on the wet floor without moving nor expressing normal behavior. I removed the two calves from the lairages, the two calves had already collapse and were in a dying state. The calves were humanely euthanized under Section 5 of the Animals Protection Act. About 30 minutes later I continued with the investigation I observed another two that collapsed, they were also removed from the lairages and euthanized under Section 5 of the Animal's Protection Act.

At about 18h30 the owner, Mrs. Jasmine arrived at the premises, she stated that the animals are from different farms and were headed to Riversdale Abattoir to slaughter. I queried the owner why are the animals kept in such poor conditions, when last did they have feed (Bottle feed) and why keep such animals of this age without taking proper precaution including unforeseen occurrences. She stated that when loading around 14h30 she only noted two calves that had welfare concern (animals were cold and shivering) she then added to say that the calves were bottle fed around 16h30. The owner phoned SAPS on the scene and they arrived at about 19h10, I explained to the constable the reason for my presence on the premises is to improve welfare of the animals that are in need even if it goes humane destruction of the calves to end unnecessary suffering or allow the omission of such cruel acts.

The owner went home to provide proof (milk and feeding equipment) that she did provide feed to the calves, owner came back with the milk and black foundation plastic to cover the lairages. the owner did put up the plastic back which did not improve the welfare and the condition of the animals that were cold and shivering. The NSPCA arrived on scene around 20h15 to assist in the matter. The owner signed over 52 calves that were still in the lairages. As we still investigating the calves another was found collapsed it was taken out of the lairages and humanly euthanized.

As we were humanly euthanizing the calves more were found either collapsing or shivering as they could not stand the cold weather as at 21h00 it was 8 degrees Celsius with dew point of 7 degrees Celsius. All animals were humanely euthanized at about 10h30 and the last calf that was euthanize was found not moving or showing signs of severe cold and it could not stand up by its own (not expressing normal behavior).