



INSPECTION REPORT

INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date: 2023/02/17

Start Time: 10:43

End Time: 12:15

Facility: African Tails

Address: 56 Koeberg Road, Brooklyn, Cape Town, Western Cape.

Manager/s: Alma Schaap

Tel: 021 510 7360

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Email: admin@africantails.co.za

FINDINGS

1. Interview with Alma Schaap:

- Four staff had been subjected to internal disciplinary hearings. Alma pleaded guilty and got a written warning. The 3 field staff, Yanga, Mbulelo and Micheal, all pleaded not guilty and got final written warnings.
- She says that the heat on the day was in the region of 30 degrees.
- The 3 dogs that suffered from heat stroke on the day of the incident were medium sized dogs.
- The vehicle has 9 cages in the front section and 5 cages in the back section. That is 14 cages in total plus 7 cat boxes.
- She says that the way the operation was run was the first time they had ever had to operate like that and usually operate differently.
- Since the incident the PDSA did not work with them again until recently when they asked them to finish the campaign in Dunoon. She did tell PDSA that the vehicle is not ready yet and that the only way they could assist is if they do not use the back cages again.
- On Monday, 13 February 2023, they did do the first collection of 14 dogs collected over 2 trips using the vehicle. The paperwork for the animals to be collected was also done in advance and not on collection like previously.
- The first trip was 7 dogs and 2 cats. The second trip was again 7 dogs and 2 cats. There was no incident on this day.
- The following Monday, 20 February 2023, will be the last trip with the vehicle in its current state to collect the remainder of the 28 animals which totals 14 dogs.
- The vehicle is set to go in for amendments to be made on 23 February 2023.

- The training on Heat Management mentioned in the report was really just general animal welfare training. No Visual Training Material was actually used as explained in the report.
- They have had the vehicle since 2019/2020 when they bought it from ARRO but they have only actually used it once before in 2021 and only for short distances. The incident with the PDSA was only the second time they had ever used the vehicle.
- At present, no changes had been made to the vehicle from the day of the incident but only because of the waiting period to have the alteration made by the company who will do the job.
- The Professional Opinion that was mentioned in the report is also the opinion of this company who will be doing the alteration.
- No new training has been provided to the staff since the incident but Alma is going out with the staff to teach them and oversee what they do on site while on the job.
- No new SOPs or Protocols have been implemented by the company since the incident but she states that they are planning on doing that in the near future and that the SPCA is apparently going to assist them.
- No staff member drives in the back of the vehicle where the cages are during transport.
- The vehicle has only ever been used for large campaigns and they use a different vehicle for general small collections and transportation of animals.
- At the facility they only have 2 of their own animals. Flippie (M/Sterilised/8/Microchipped) and Teets (F/Sterilised/10/Microchipped).
- Today, they are busy with a sterilisation project which takes place over one day ever second month, so they do have other animals here being sterilised. The sterilisation is being conducted by Dr van der Berg. Animals are brought in by their owners and collected by their owners on the same day once the animal has woken up. While they are sleeping they are kept in folding mesh cages with blankets in some of the other rooms. While they do sterilisation days, they 2 office dogs are kept in the Wendy house and taken for walks.

2. Interview with Mbulelo:

- At the time of this investigation, this staff member had been suspended and was available for an interview.

3. Interview with Yanga:

- He confirms that they had been loading the dogs that day and that it was very warm. Approximately 32 degrees.
- He says they started to first loaded the dogs into the front sections cages and then they loaded 3 dogs in Riverside.
- He says they usually keep the doors open while they are sourcing animals and one person stays with the vehicle to prevent theft.
- When they wanted to drive to PDSA, the closed the doors and they believed all dogs had been fine at that stage. The dog that was found dead at PDSA was the last dog that was loaded in the vehicle before they left.
- When they arrived at the PDSA, the first offloaded the dogs in the front section and found one dog with heat stroke. The PDSA staff took the dog in for treatment.

- They then moved to the back section and found another dog with heat stroke and the dead dog. PDSA took both dogs in and provided treatment for the dog with heat stroke.
- He confirmed that this vehicle was only ever used for the sterilisation project and Kalbaskraal and Dunoon during his time working for them.

4. Interview with Michael:

- He says that when they sourced animals, Mbulelo was made to sit with the vehicle with the doors open while they looked for the animals. But he says that it does happen that sometimes he will have to leave the vehicle to assist with finding a house or get an animal which means the doors will have to be closed.
- At the second collection point by the Riverside shacks, Mbulelo had to go out with them and close the doors of the vehicle. They only collected maybe 4 dogs there which took 30 to 40 minutes.
- He thinks that all 4 last dogs had to be loaded into the back section of the vehicle. They then drove approximately 30 to 40 minutes to get to the PDSA.
- He says them and the PDSA staff started offloading animals in the front section of the vehicle when they found the first dog with heat stroke and the PDSA took it for treatment.
- They then moved to the back section to offload and found another dog with heatstroke and the one dead dog. These dogs had been taken by the PDSA.
- He says this was the first and last time he used this vehicle.

ACTION TAKEN

Warning AT17022023 issued stating:

In order to use vehicle CAA43605 on Monday the 20th of February 2023 -

- 1. To not use any of the 5 back cages in vehicle CAA43605 until such a time as suitable amendments have been made to prevent suffering to animals;*
- 2. To not leave vehicle CAA43605 with its doors closed when animals are confined inside for any amount of time, unless during transit;*
- 3. To not leave vehicle CAA43605 unattended with animals inside at loading sites;*
- 4. To not load the front cage area of vehicle CAA43605 with more than its intended carry capacity by placing extra cages inside the vehicle;*
- 5. To not transport more than the required 14 dogs on the day and to do so over two (2) separate journeys;*

In order to use vehicle CAA43605 after Monday the 20th of February 2023 -

- 6. To not use vehicle CAA43605 again until suitable amendments have been made to the vehicle to allow for the safe and humane transport of animals, with specific mention made to ventilation and heat management;*

FOLLOW-UP

No follow-up inspection required at this time.

Snr. Insp. A. Marais
Inspectorate Department
CAPE OF GOOD HOPE SPCA

PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE



**Front section cages. Doors are to be removed and replaced with mesh doors to allow more ventilation.*



**Cat boxes in front section.*



**Window in front section.*



**Sealed ventilation hole 1 in front section. To be reopened and turned into a proper ventilation hole.*



**Sealed ventilation hole 2 in front section. To be reopened and turned into a proper ventilation hole.*



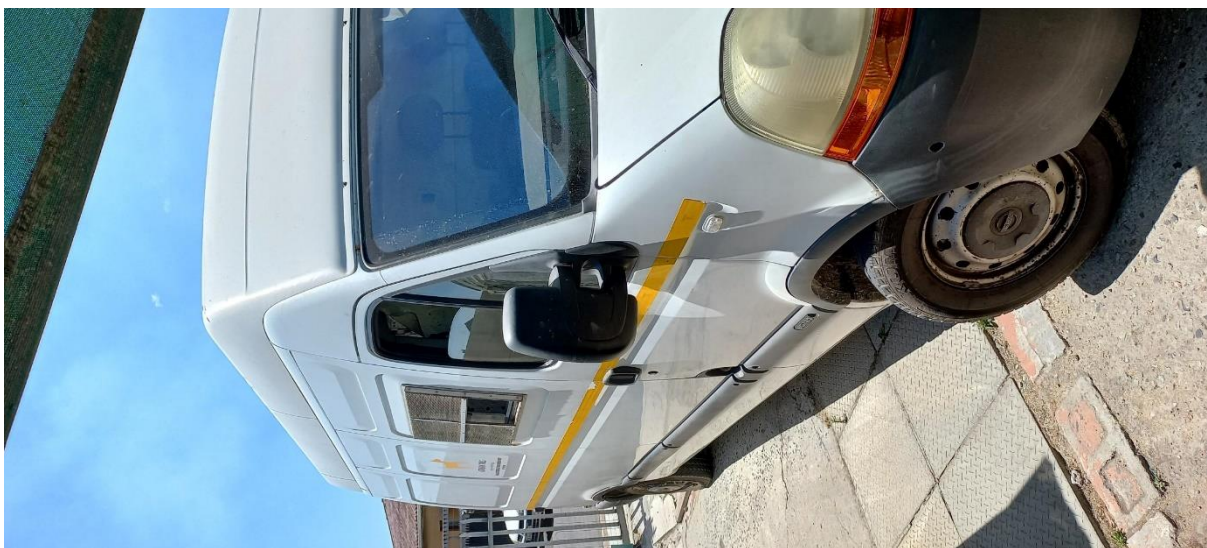
**Door in front section. Window with mesh to be installed to allow for better ventilation.*



**Front of vehicle.*



**Back section cages. Doors close directly onto the cages. They are not sure if this will be used again or what alterations the company will be making yet.*



**Right side of vehicle.*



**Left side of vehicle.*



**Back of vehicle.*