



CIRCUS INSPECTION CHECKLIST

Inspector: Insp. Elani Graham & Lindokuhle Mbele Society: Cape of Good Hope

Date: 13/04/2023 Time: 13h41 Place: Brackenfell

GENERAL

1. Name of person in charge David Dallas McLaren
2. Name of Circus McLaren Circus
3. Postal Address P O Box 263466, Meyerton, 1935
4. Physical Address as per licence 108 Christine Road, Homelands, Meyerton, 1962
5. E-mail david@mclarencircus.co.za / supadawe@yahoo.com
6. Telephone / Cell phone numbers 016 424 1805 / 084 406 8523 (David McLaren)
7. SPCA District Kuils River
8. Location of circus performance William Dabbs Street, Brackenfell South, 7560
9. Dates of performances 14/04/2023 until 23/04/2023
10. Times of performances 15h00 to 17h00 and 19h30 to 21h30
11. Name of circus veterinarian Dr Ryan Jeffrey
12. Telephone number 076 462 5248
13. Address Krugersdorp Veterinary Clinic - Tein Country Estate, 133 Malmani Road in Krugersdorp
14. Date of last inspection by a veterinarian 04/12/2022

Comment

1. Trainee Inspector Lindokuhle Mbele and Inspector Elani Graham were granted access and were mostly accompanied by Mr. Karl Hildebrandt (Cell. no.: 079 519 2444).
2. They arrived at this premises on the 12th of April 2023 and were still busy setting up. All the animal enclosures were already set up on our arrival.
3. The horses and ponies have arrived. They include three (3) Welsh Ponies, two (2) Arabs, two (2) Fresians, and three (3) Mini horses.
4. "Mr. McLaren informed us that they are in the process of constructing bigger outdoor enclosures for the lions and tigers. These enclosures are set to arrive in the next 6 weeks." – Comment on the previous statement, these enclosures are still the same size as Chief Inspector Jaco Pieterse's previous inspections.

5. An email has been sent to Dr Baloyi of GDARD requesting the annexures that should accompany the PAPA Licence, as Mr McLaren did not have these to present to us. (This seemed to be received)
6. An email has been sent to CapeNature for confirm that Mr McLaren is in possession of a permit in terms of the Nature Conservation Ordinance for the wild animals that are used in the circus acts – a response is still pending. (Not sure of this outcome)
7. Upon my inspection, they only allowed us to take photographs from afar including the entire enclosures. I did manage to take close-up photographs until asked not to.

PERFORMING ANIMALS PROTECTION ACT LICENCE

LICENCE

1. Licence No: PAL/02 Gauteng/202/232/12
2. To whom is the licence granted:
 - a) Person: David Dallas McLaren
 - b) Permanent address: 108 Christine Road, Homelands, Meyerton, 1962
 - c) Company: McLaren Circus
3. Date of issue 17/11/2022 Date of expiry: 16/11/2023
4. Name of person that authorised the licence: Dr F Baloy
The licence is valid for anywhere in South Africa, unless prohibited
5. District for which licence was issued: by local By-Laws
6. Amount paid for licence. Not listed

(This is to determine if the application is a new one or a renewal)

Animals used for training/exhibition

Species	Number	Exhibition	Training
French Poodles	8	Yes, only 4	Yes, only 4
Lions (<i>Panthera leo</i>)	4	Yes	Yes
Bengal Tigers (<i>Panthera tigris</i>)	3	Yes, except Cindy	Yes
Camels (<i>Camelus</i>)	2	Yes	Yes
Burmese Pythons (<i>Python bivittatus</i>)	3	Yes	Yes
Goats	2	Yes	Yes
Welsh Ponies	3	Yes	Yes
Arab Horses	2	Yes	Yes
Friesian Horses	2	Yes	Yes
Miniature Horses	3	Yes	Yes

ANIMALS INSPECTED

LIONS AND BENGAL TIGERS

Microchip details of animals			
Lions	Female - 945000001772915	Tigers	Female - 4C40415169
	Female - 945000001772914		Male - 2C22C143A
	Female - 945000001907234		Male - 4C44232314
	Male - 4C4A11295B		

The trailer used for the transportation of the Lions and Bengal Tigers is of adequate size and construction for the transportation of the big cats. Even though the SANS 1884-3:2008 does not apply to circus animals, the trailer being used offers more space than what is accepted in the industry standards when it comes to the transportation of wild carnivores by road.



Figure 1 - trailer and enclosure used to transport/ hold the Lions and Bengal Tigers.

Whilst stationary, the trailer offers good ventilation and adequate protection from the elements when the side flaps are open. The trailer has five (5) compartments, as depicted in figure 2 below. The tigers are kept in the first two (2) compartments from the front, and the lions are kept in the three (3) back compartments. Whilst in motion, there is a ventilation hole in the front of the trailer that allows for air to flow through the trailer (on last year's inspections by our Society, Dr. Mendez confirmed that the ventilation hole is sufficient). There is an extra fan erected against the trailer for extra air flow on hot days.

The trailer also serves as the sleeping quarters and shelter for when the temporary holding facilities are erected for when the circus is operational. The flooring is solid and constructed from wood and easily cleanable – the holding facilities and trailers were clean on inspection.

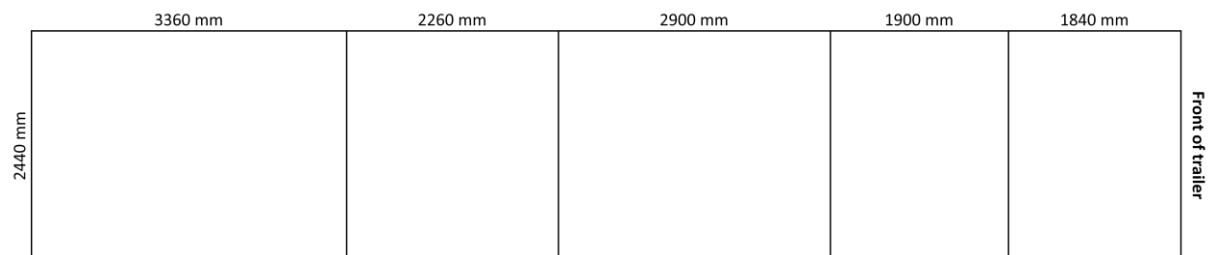


Figure 2 - depiction of trailer used to transport the Lions and Bengal Tigers

Note:- The lions and tigers have all their teeth and claws intact.

The outdoor area is constructed of metal barriers of sufficient height to prevent the lions and tigers from escaping. The outdoor area, in our opinion, is too small and should be enlarged. However, this cannot legally be enforced. The tigers' outside enclosure has additional electric bands to prevent them from jumping/ climbing over the metal barriers.

Size of the outdoor areas: Lions is 14.2 meters by 11 meters and the tigers is 7.5 meters by 8 meters.



Figure 3 - outdoor area for the lions



Figure 4 - outdoor area for the tigers

The outdoor area is connected to the trailer via a ramp in a tunnel. The tunnel material was adequate, and both ramps had gridding to prevent the lions and tigers from slipping when they enter and exit the trailer.

The lions and tigers are in acceptable condition with no obvious signs of injury or ailments. The lions and tigers have big balls to play with as environmental enrichment. Currently, there were wooden logs for them. The lions also have a wooden platform they can jump onto and lie on and under.

Feeding of the lions and tigers was not observed. According to Mr Hildebrandt, the lions and tigers are fed once a day in the evenings. Mr Hildebrandt claims they are fed whole chickens or beef cubes purchased from the supermarket. The lions and tigers had access to clean drinking water.

No contraventions in terms of the Animals Protection Act 71 of 1962 were observed with the lions and tigers.

BURMESE PYTHON

Type	Name	Sex	Weight	Length
Albino Burmese Python	Sunny	Female	Approx 8.5 kg	Did not measure – it was raining
Albino Burmese Python	Franky	Male	Approx 7.2 kg	Did not measure – it was raining
Natural colour Burmese Python	Rocky	Male	Approx 22 kg	Did not measure – it was raining

There are two wooden boxes inside a room in one of the trailers where the Burmese Pythons are being housed in. The room is well-ventilated, and the door was standing open when we arrived for free-flowing air. The wooden boxes also have suitable ventilation holes, which afford sufficient airflow. Appropriate substrate is provided inside the wooden tanks for the snakes. The heat bulbs were off and were covered with a frame to prevent the snakes from burning.

Water was provided in a plastic container that allowed for one snake to submerge in the water at a time. The snakes are fed chicken once a week/ once a month according to one of the females handling the snakes. One of the Albino Burmese Pythons is in the process of shedding. The Burmese Pythons are in acceptable condition with no obvious signs of injury or ailments.

I did not measure the length of the snakes upon my inspection. They also claimed not to be able to open the bottom enclosure containing the single Burmese Python for unknown reasons. The woman present was very defensive upon my inspection of the snakes.



Figure 5 - Albino Burmese Python and Natural Colour Burmese Pythons housed together in the top enclosure with a water container for the two Pythons.



Figure 6 – Natural Coloured Burmese Python inside bottom wooden box with water container. They did not want to open this enclosure.

No contraventions in terms of the Animals Protection Act 71 of 1962 were observed with the Burmese Pythons.

CAMELS

Type	Name	Sex	Age
Camel	Magnum	Bull (castrated)	7 years
Camel	Magiver	Bull (castrated)	16 years

Two (2) camels were inspected. Both camels are in acceptable condition with no obvious signs of injury or ailments. The camels had access to adlib feed, water and protection against the elements. The shelter folds up from the side of the transportation.

Previously Mr McLaren made use of a white sheet that was attached to the trailer to provide extra shelter. This time this sheet was not present. This sheet is not yet repaired. I believe they must add more shelter to for the camels.

The living conditions and the transportation of the camels were inspected. Both were found to be acceptable.



Figure 7 – Area where the camels are being housed.

FRENCH POODLES

During our inspection, we found five (5) French poodles belonging to Mr. David McLaren and other tenants and four (4) of them stay with him in his onsite trailer accommodation. An outside area has been created with barriers to keep the dogs confined around the trailer. The dogs have free access to inside the trailer and outside area. A gazebo is provided outside as shelter during the day. The dogs sleep inside the trailer at night. The dogs were found to be in acceptable condition. Apparently, there are four other French Poodles on site belonging to other owners of which one was free-roaming. Mr Hildebrandt claimed there to be eight (8) French Poodles on site in total of which four (4) are being used for the show.



Figure 8 – The four (4) Poodles inside their housing spot with Mr. McLaren.

EQUINE

Type	Name	Sex	Age
Welsh Pony	Tbc	Tbc	Tbc
Welsh Pony	Tbc	Tbc	Tbc
Welsh Pony	Tbc	Tbc	Tbc
Arabian Horse	Tbc	Tbc	Tbc
Arabian Horse	Tbc	Tbc	Tbc
Friesian Horse	Tbc	Tbc	Tbc
Friesian Horse	Tbc	Tbc	Tbc
Miniature Horse	Tbc	Tbc	Tbc
Miniature Horse	Tbc	Tbc	Tbc
Miniature Horse	Tbc	Tbc	Tbc

The horses and ponies were out of quarantine and ready to be used for the shows again. For the equine there were 3 portable stables of approximately 3 meters by 2 meters with extra gazebo providing shade on one side of the trailer. On the other side of the trailer, an extra gazebo for shade has been erected and the horses have access to the trailer for extra shelter. There was water available for all the equine and adlib feed.

There were only two horses in stables, one in an exercise camp next to the camels' trailer and the rest were in the bigger enclosure connected to the trailer and with the extra gazebo.

There are two caretakers for the horses, they receive concentrate and teff. I did not observe any welfare concerns with the equine. Their hooves were trimmed. They claim to know veterinarians and farriers all over the country.



Figure 9 – The three (3) portable stables with the erected gazebo and one empty stable.



Figure 10 – The inside of one of the stables with a bucket of clean water and the horse's hooves can be seen to be trimmed.

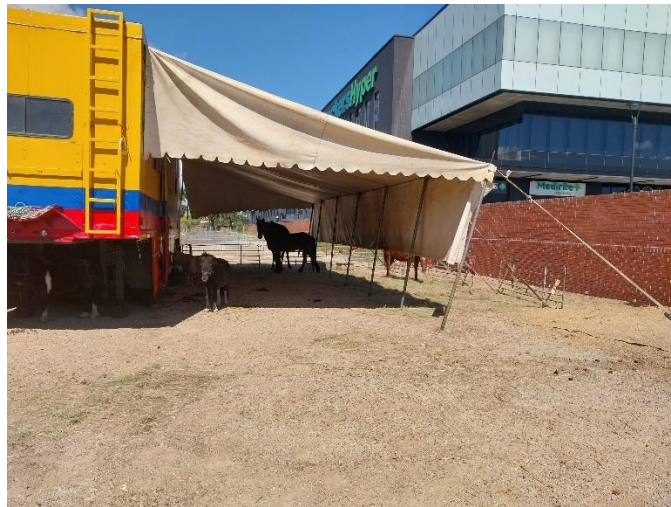


Figure 11 – The large camp with most of the equine that has a large gazebo for shade, multiple containers of water and adlib teff.



Figure 12 – Two (2) equine seen in large camp.



Figure 13 – Other three (3) equine seen in the large enclosure.



Figure 14 – One (1) equine seen in enclosure on the other side of the camels' trailer.

NETWORKING INSPECTIONS

TOUR ROUTE

Previous town/s:

Worcester
Stellenbosch
Bellville
Milnerton

Upcoming show/s:

Wynberg – 26/04/2023 until 07/05/2023
Athlone – 09/05/2023 until 14/05/2023