



16 October 2024

Independent Police Investigative Directorate (IPID)
Benstra Building
473B Stanza Bopape Street
Pretoria
0001

E-mail: Complaints@ipid.gov.za

Dear Sir/Madam,

**RE: URGENT INVESTIGATION REQUEST REGARDING AN INCIDENT OF ANIMAL
CRUELTY BY A POLICE OFFICER FROM STEENBERG SAPS**

I am writing on behalf of the Cape of Good Hope SPCA to formally lodge a complaint and request an urgent investigation into a distressing incident involving an officer from the Steenberg SAPS, which constitutes severe animal cruelty.

On Wednesday, 09 October 2024, in Lavender Hill, it was reported and witnessed by community members that a police officer from Steenberg SAPS committed a deliberate act of cruelty by running over a dog three times with a SAPS vehicle. According to eyewitness accounts, the officer drove over the dog, then stopped and reversed over the dog, and then proceeded to run over the dog a third time, ultimately leaving the scene without any attempt to assist the gravely injured animal. The officer was identified by community members as Sgt Rodger Martins.

The dog was subsequently uplifted by SPCA personnel and taken to a veterinary clinic, where due to the severity of its injuries, including a broken femur protruding through the skin, it was humanely euthanized to alleviate its suffering. The Cape of Good Hope SPCA has opened criminal charges against the officer in terms of the Animals Protection Act 71 of 1962 at the Steenberg SAPS under CAS 160/10/2024.

Given the serious nature of this allegation and the involvement of a SAPS officer, we urge IPID to take immediate action. We request that:

- The officer in question be suspended with immediate effect pending the outcome of your investigation and the criminal investigation.
- A thorough investigation be conducted to ensure that appropriate disciplinary actions are taken against the officer.
- Steps are taken to assess and rectify any underlying issues within the SAPS that may allow such behaviours to manifest – this is not the first instance of this nature by SAPS officials.

We are prepared to provide all necessary documentation, including veterinary reports, eyewitness statements, and photographic evidence to assist with your investigation.

This complaint is lodged with a grave concern for community safety and the ethical conduct expected of members of SAPS. We trust that IPID will address this matter with the urgency and seriousness it warrants.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue. We look forward to your prompt response and are eager to assist in any way necessary to facilitate this investigation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pieterse', with a large, stylized initial 'P'.

Jaco Pieterse
Chief Inspector
CAPE OF GOOD HOPE SPCA