



24 October 2024

CHABAD OF THE WEST COAST

Dear Rabbi Deren,

RE: KAPPAROT AT CHABAD OF THE WEST COAST

The Cape of Good Hope SPCA hereby expresses its sincere gratitude for the opportunity to monitor the Kapparot ceremony at the 76 Porterfield Road, Blouberg Rise on Friday, 18 October 2024 and commends your consideration of animal welfare. Your invitation allowed us to engage with the community and ensure that the practices adhered to both religious and animal welfare standards.

While we respect and honour the tradition of Kapparot, we must address concerns observed during the ceremony that could be improved for future events. Our goal is to ensure compliance with the Animals Protection Act No 71 of 1962 and the Poultry Regulations under the Meat Safety Act 40 of 2000, while upholding the dignity of the animals involved.

Concerns observed:

- **Insufficient and Inappropriate Crates:** Larger crates that are species-specific and appropriate to hold chickens must be used to afford confined chickens with adequate space and ventilation. We recommend doubling the number of crates used next year to ensure all chickens will be able to be confined humanely at any given time whilst awaiting to be selected for prayer or to be slaughtered.
- **Access to Water:** Chickens did not have access to potable water while waiting for the ceremony. All animals must be provided with potable water at all times.
- **Slaughter Procedures:** The Rabbi performing slaughter did not ensure that both arteries had been severed and only paid attention to the trachea. This is unacceptable as chickens remained conscious after being slaughtered, something which will be addressed with the relevant Rabbi directly. We strongly urge you to consider the SPCA's assistance in implementing post-stunning techniques, which could alleviate suffering during the bleed-out process.

Considerations for Next Year:

- **Transportation:** Source chickens from nearby farms using appropriate transport crates to minimise stress and prevent overcrowding.
- **Holding Facilities:** Prepare holding facilities that provide adequate space, shelter, and ventilation well in advance of the chickens' arrival.
- **Feed and Water Provisions:** Ensure that sufficient supplies of feed and potable water are readily available for all confined chickens.
- **Treatment of Sick/Injured Animals:** Inspect chickens upon arrival for any health issues, establishing protocols for immediate care (including immediate slaughter as a form of treatment).

- Staff Competency and Handling: Train staff on humane handling techniques, and minimising noise and distractions to reduce animal stress. SPCA personnel will be able to demonstrate humane handling and capture of chickens.
- Slaughter Procedures: Ensure all necessary equipment is ready, and that slaughter is performed by competent individuals, with guidance available for less experienced handlers.

Importance of Post-Stunning:

We strongly advocate for the consideration of post-stunning methods. This practice can significantly reduce suffering and stress for the chickens involved. While Jewish law may preclude pre-slaughter stunning, there is no prohibition against post-stunning, which aligns with our shared commitment to compassion.

By adopting this method, you can demonstrate that your faith can evolve to incorporate enhanced humane practices without compromising its core values.

In conclusion, we appreciate your attention to these welfare considerations. By working together to implement these recommendations, we can ensure that the Kapparot practice reflects your deepest values of compassion while respecting your religious traditions.

Thank you for your consideration. The Cape of Good Hope SPCA looks forward to further collaborating with you to promote humane practices in the future.

Kind regards,



Nicole Venter

Inspector

Cape of Good Hope SPCA