



11 June 2024

Oscars Arc WOOF Project
128 Russell Street,
Foreshore,
Cape Town,
8001

Dear Ms Lefson,

RE: WARNING LETTER REGARDING ABANDONMENT OF DOG AT CONSTANTIA VILLAGE

The Cape of Good Hope SPCA has received several complaints regarding an incident over the past weekend in which a dog was left abandoned at Constantia Village by the Oscars Arc WOOF Project. We are aware that Oscars Arc WOOF Project has a container at Constantia Village where dogs are displayed for adoption purposes and that members of the public are permitted to take dogs for walks without supervision.

In this incident, it has come to our attention that a member of the public, with the knowledge and consent of Oscars Arc WOOF Project, took a dog for a walk. The dog was not returned by closing time. The staff and volunteers of Oscars Arc WOOF Project left the premises without waiting for the dog to be returned, albeit intentionally or negligently. This resulted in the dog being temporarily abandoned, which is a contravention of Section 2(1)(p) of the Animals Protection Act 71 of 1962. The dog was only retrieved after concerned members of the public found the dog abandoned at the Oscars Arc WOOF Project and contacted Oscars Arc WOOF Project. The matter was also widely shared on social media.

We believe that the actions of Oscars Arc WOOF Project in this instance were reckless and negligent, demonstrating a clear lack of supervision. The Cape of Good Hope SPCA does not support the manner in which Oscars Arc WOOF Project conducts its adoption activities. This is not the first warning issued to Oscars Arc WOOF Project for contraventions of the Animals Protection Act 71 of 1962.

It is highly irresponsible for Oscars Arc WOOF Project to allow members of the public, who are not known to your organisation, to take dogs for walks without supervision. Such practices put the dogs at risk of being stolen or taken unlawfully, as evidenced by this recent incident.

The SPCA is appalled by this incident. Should such an incident occur again, the SPCA will not hesitate to open criminal charges under the Animals Protection Act 71 of 1962.

Sincerely,

Chief Insp. Jaco Pieterse
Manager: Inspectorate
Cape of Good Hope SPCA