

19 august 2024

I, Denaë Braam (i.d. 810519 0079 086) adult female residing at 7 Avanti street, Klein Dassenberg, Atlantis in my capacity as a qualified animal behaviourist and active animal rescuer have witnessed and observed the following at the property of Hawk Hounds Riverlands

In January 2023 I was at hawk to take friends there to adopt a dog. This was a disaster, we found a deceased puppy in a puppy pen. Apparently the volunteers said the puppy died of parvo and it was just in there with the other puppies. This is a very contagious virus. We then found another large dog deceased in another encampment. We were told that it was euthanized that morning, but since André Verbiest does not believe in euthanasia, we have no idea about what happened to the large dog. This very same day I was allowed to remove a terrified dog and brought him home, by Monday morning I had to take him to the vet and had to hold him as the vet put him to sleep.

There was another medium male I was allowed to take home from Hawk in March 2023 and this dog to was terribly sick, landed up putting him to sleep on the Monday too, he tested positive for distemper and parvo.

On Saturday 17th August approximately 4pm in the afternoon I went to Hawk Hounds in Riverlands Chatsworth to help evacuate dogs

From the premises. When we arrived it was a very hostile environment, wet dogs, shivering and walking in water. We were able to convince them to let us remove 3 cats, 1 dog requiring medical treatment for mange and rickets. We also were able to remove 3 puppies that were in a 3mx1m cage.

The cats were in a room that had no ventilation and were being antagonized by the dogs barking at them continuously. The grey cat was pulling its fur out and bleeding from sites that it removed fur from due to the stress.

The dog's hind quarter was completely devoid of fur and with scabs from the itch of the mange.

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On Sunday 18th August I went to Hawk Hounds again, in my capacity as an animal rescuer and animal behaviourist to help catalogue the dogs verify sex/sterilisation and if medical treatment is required. I personally examined 100 dogs and found the following wounds:

- Dog number 25 (black, female labrador mix) found to be limping. After further investigation we removed maggots from her foot and it was swollen with a large gash/cut towards the phalanges in between the foot pads. (this dog was in a camp where there was water level up to 2 inches)
- Dog number 51 (long hair female mix breed) found in a cupboard hiding, shivering, living in her own urine/waste. On inspection of determining if she is sterilised I found a large (approx 8 inches x 4 inch) wound. This wound was open, as if it burst open on her abdomen.
- Dog number 91 (female mix breed) I also found an infected site on abdomen. It had a maggot on in picture.
- After much arguing with the staff and directors on site Dogs number 25, 51 and 91 were allowed to be removed for medical treatment.
- The problem is 80% of the dogs I inspected today have some form of ear infection. These "camps/packs" are not a healthy environment for these animals as they are spreading infections and viruses, not to mention being wet.



- Dog number 36 has one blind eye. It felt to me like this dog was very ill, there was no outward visible injuries i could find except ears and body being extremely overheated.
- Dog number 63 (female pitbull) possible skin cancer, ear infection, bite wounds on her head and 2 vaginal growths.

2 dogs in 1x2m cages

This was a extremely hostile environment to try and help with these animals today. The board members (directors), workers, staff and volunteers were not helpful and were verbally abusing us the entire time.

They lack experience in this NPO/NPC kennel or rescue center. You cannot just keep taking dogs in without getting qualified veterinary checkups.

There is no record keeping on these animals, everyone makes something up for each dog. They don't know their dogs. The dogs don't have names or numbers for that matter. They cannot tell you which dogs are friendly or not which are sick, which have been surrendered. They have no basic information on any of the dogs. They just won't release them either. They are hoarding these animals and they are failing the animals and the rescue system.

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The environment is too small for the number of dogs they have, they have separate "camps/pack" of dogs, the entrance dogs, then there are kennel roof dogs, these dogs do not get on the ground as they do not get along with the ground pack. They live on kennel roofs; they do their bodily functions on top of these kennel roofs too. There are dogs that live on the roofs of the buildings, they do not touch the ground either due to pack fights etc. This is just the front/entrance (first camp) to the property.

There are dogs that live in outbuildings and do not come outside, they do their business inside and do not leave the building.

There is a group of kennels behind the entrance with the aggressive dogs.

There is another back section with about 4 more packs of dogs that are also not thriving.

Dogs can get along in packs but you cannot keep 300+ dogs in an environment like this. They have a small property that should not hold more than 10 kennels with play and training areas.

The staff and members and caretakers do not have the experience or qualifications to be dealing with dogs in this capacity. They don't know how to make this decision to let animals go, they don't know how to physically check every animal to see if they are in fact in good condition. There are also not enough humans at this property for this number of animals.

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This is animal cruelty, they are stressed/barking and restless all the time. Most of them are hiding.

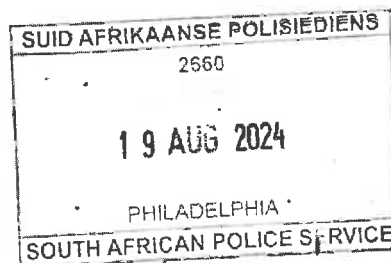
They do not clean after the animals when they ablate which makes for a disgusting environment for the animals and humans that walk around in there.

There are at least 3 out of 10 dogs that have bite wounds somewhere on their bodies and they are not cleaned, seen too or even noticed.

As someone with expertise in animal behaviour, I have observed some practises here that raise serious concerns regarding the well-being of the dogs. It seems that the current approach may not be fully equipped to meet their needs, which could inadvertently lead to outcomes that are detrimental to their welfare. I believe it is important to consider adjustments to ensure that the care provided aligns with best practices and avoids any additional harm.

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