

INSPECTION OF SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICE DOG UNITS



IT IS IMPORTANT TO TAKE NOTE OF THE FOLLOWING WHEN INSPECTING SAPS DOG UNITS:

The SAPS Dog Unit Checklist has been designed specifically for the inspection of the South African Police Service Dog Units.

When conducting a proactive or reactive inspection at the SAPS Dog Unit in your area it is important that the Inspector reports directly to the Unit Commander for introduction and explaining the reason for the inspection. If the Unit Commander is not available then the Inspector needs to ask for the Acting Unit Commander or Kennel Official.

Inspectors must be authorized under the hand of the magistrate of the district, in terms of Section 8(1) of the Animals Protection Act No 71 of 1962, to conduct inspections at the SAPS Dog Units.

Prior to conducting the inspection of the kennel facilities, we recommend that the Inspector takes the time to go through the checklist to complete all the relevant information and questions. It is important to note that some of the questions are for your own personal knowledge/observations whilst conducting the inspection.

Upon completion of the checklist the Inspector will understand the basic layout and operations of the specific SAPS Dog Unit and what needs to be inspected. It is important that the Inspector is accompanied by a SAPS Official at all times during the inspection. It is not recommended that the Inspector handles the SAPS dogs. If handling is required then the SAPS Officials should be handling the dogs for safety reasons.

The Inspector must ask to inspect the last SAPS Veterinary Inspection Team Report conducted at the Dog Unit. The SAPS Veterinary Team Inspection is an internal inspection done by SAPS and is conducted at least once annually. This report states the concerns that were noted at the specific Dog Unit during the inspection. The Inspector must pay close attention to the SAPS Veterinary Report and can then compare their findings with that of the SAPS Veterinarian.

Direct contraventions of the Animals Protection Act (APA) must be issued in writing to the SAPS Dog Unit in the form of an official written warning. Non APA contraventions can be pointed out as a separate recommendation. Warnings may only be issued for **direct** contraventions of the Animals Protection Act.

A copy of the warning issued to the SAPS Dog Unit must be forwarded to the NSPCA Special Projects Unit for further perusal. The NSPCA Special Projects Unit will forward a copy of the warning to the relevant heads at the SAPS for further investigation and perusal.

Please do not hesitate to contact the NSPCA on 011 907 3590 or specialprojects@nspca.co.za for more information or guidance on the inspection of SAPS Dog Units.

4. WORKING DETAILS OF DOGS	
Duty roster available for each dog? (including rest periods)	☒ Yes / ☐ No
Length of each shift?	2 day shifts 2 night shifts off 6 days
Travelling time?	PTA go to runs & get walked
Travelling conditions? i.e. rough terrain, etc	kennel official

5. KENNELS	
Number of kennels at the Unit:	+/- 60
Description of kennels:	
Adequate shelter?	☒ Yes / ☐ No
Size of kennels:	May not be smaller than 2m x 4m and 1.8m high <i>larger</i>
Condition of kennels:	☒ Good, in need of repair, loose wires, broken gate, etc
Maximum time spent in the kennels?	max 12 hours unless there's excu
Fence fighting observed?	☒ Yes / ☐ No
Description of exercise runs?	
Adequate shelter available in the exercise runs?	☐ Yes / ☐ No
How often are the dogs allowed into the exercise runs?	
How many hours are the dogs allowed to spend in the exercise runs?	
<i>Kennels closed every morning & then dogs in run.</i>	

6. HYGIENE	
Are the kennels and exercise runs clean?	☒ Yes / ☐ No
Cleaning/disinfectant products used?	
How often are the kennels disinfected?	<i>daily</i>
Are the dogs removed from the kennels during cleaning?	☐ Yes / ☐ No
What measures are in place to control flies & rodents?	
Is the grass at the Unit kept short to prevent ticks and snakes?	☐ Yes / ☐ No

7. FOOD AND WATER	
How often are the dogs fed?	<i>Once daily</i> <i>W/o Pelser</i>
Quantity of food?	<i>12.11 end</i>
Brands of food used?	<i>for vet</i>
General hygiene of food store? i.e. clean, dirty, smelly, etc	
Potable water available for all the dogs?	☒ Yes / ☐ No
Are there any poisons or dangerous chemicals kept in the feed room?	☒ Yes / ☐ No

8. HEALTH MANAGEMENT	
Dipping bath available?	☒ Yes / ☐ No
How often are the dogs dipped?	<i>needed</i>
Is the dipping bath in good working order?	☐ Yes / ☐ No
Other form of parasite control: i.e. frontline, flea powder, etc	<i>Feb tags</i>
General condition of dogs: i.e. poor, fair, good, obese, etc	
Any sick or injured dogs observed?	☒ Yes / ☐ No