

POLLSMOOR PRISON

Date: Tuesday, 18 March 2025
Time: 09:23 to 10:32
Accompanied by: Sherwyn Loggenberg
Address: Pollsmoor Department of Correctional Services,
Steenberg Road,
Tokai, 7945
Area: Cape Town, Western Cape
Inspector: Nicole Venter
Report by: Nicole Venter

Background:

The NSPCA's Special Projects Unit requested a proactive inspection be conducted at Pollsmoor Department of Correctional Services due to the recent food shortages they have come across at various prisons. The last warning issued to Pollsmoor DSC K9 Unit was for dogs not receiving their prescribed medications, shelters inside the kennels not being clean, the dip tank not working, and dogs requiring deworming. This was warning 14366 which was issued on 05 September 2024.

Findings:

Upon my arrival, I met with Sherwyn Loggenberg. He introduced me to Ms Daniels (duty manager) and Precious and Cindy, the handlers on duty. I inspected the dogs in the kennels, two of which were out being walked and which I saw when driving in. The two dogs being walked were in a fair and acceptable condition. The dogs still inside the kennels were also in a fair and acceptable condition. The kennels were clean and all dogs had access to potable water.

The dip bath was still in a state of disrepair and contained accumulated water that was dirty and putrid smelling. Sherwyn said he could provide me with proof that they have escalated it and requested it be repaired. I was shown the bag of food which was just opened the day before. Sherwyn explained that a bag of food lasts them between 2 to 3 days. Sherwyn then showed me the food locked up in the storage and I counted an additional 36 bags of 20kg Olympic Dog Food.

I then asked to see the medication of any dogs currently under treatment and I was taken to the office and they placed all the medication on the table. I took the time to count the remaining tablets and workout how frequently they were being used. I noticed that the ear solution provided for one of the dogs named Racer was still too full to have been used as per the prescription instructions. Sherwyn, Precious, and Cindy explained that they tried to clean Racer's ears and place the medication in his ears but that he would not let them and they were unable to handle him adequately and safely.

I then told them I'd show them how to humanely muscle Racer so that they could clean his ears twice daily but Sherwyn said that due to Racer's aggression, he could not allow me to handle Racer and go inside his kennel due to the liability it would cause if he bit me. They then informed me that one of the handlers, Mr Maticka, was abler to handle Racer and that he'd be returning from leave the next day. I told them they'd have to send footage of Racer being given his treatment but that overall, they must receive training on how to handle the dogs so that an animal is never denied veterinary treatment.

DOGS CURRENTLY UNDER TREATMENT

Racer:

- Prescribed 50 tablets of paracetamol on 04 February 2025. 1 tablet to be administered twice a day. Paracetamol was supposed to be used up by Saturday, 01 March 2025, yet I counted 15 tablets remaining (as of 18 March 2025).
- Prescribed 30 tablets of prednisone on 04 February 2025. 1 tablet to be administered once a day. Prednisone was supposed to be used up by Thursday, 06 March 2025, yet 2 of the tablets remained unused (as of 18 March 2025).
- Prescribed Ottomax ear drops from 04 February 2025. Already one bottle has been used.

Mosa:

- Prescribed 15 tablets of Loxiflam (Meloxicam – pain treatment) on 05 March 2025 with ½ a tablet to be administered daily. Loxiflam is supposed to be used up by Friday, 04 April 2025. 7 were supposed to be used up as of today (18 March) but I counted a remainder of 10.5 tablets left meaning that only 4.5 tablets have been used, 3 less than what should have been used by now, which I again suspect means the dogs are not given medication on weekends. I also found old loxiflam which was provided on 13 February 2025 which were supposed to have been used up by Saturday, 15 March 2025, yet 5 tablets were still remaining as of 18 March.
- Prescribed 60 tablets of enalapril (kidney/heart problems) on 05 March 2025 with 2 tablets to be administer daily. Enalapril should be used up by Friday, 04 April 2025. 28 tablets are supposed to have been used up as of today (18 March) with a remainder of 32 tablets yet I counted a remainder of 40 tablets, meaning that 4 days' worth of tablets were not administered which I believe was during the weekend.

Aargo:

- Prescribed 100 capsules of Creon (enzymes for pancreatic condition) on 05 March 2025 with 3 capsules to be administered twice daily. 92 capsules are remaining as of 18 March whereas 42 capsules should have already been used with only 58 remaining. When I addressed that it didn't seem they were administering this daily, Precious explained that Aargo's treatment actually started last month and that they still had some capsules remaining from the old bottle of Creon. She then got the empty bottle out of the trash and showed me the empty bottle. She explained that she placed the few remaining tablets into the new bottle. However, that still means that they had 11 days' worth of old medication from the old bottle, meaning that Aargo didn't receive treatment for at least 11 days. Again, I suspect that dogs are not receiving treatments on weekends.

Animals inspected:

Kennel:	Dog:	Breed:	Gender:	Date of Birth:	Microchip No.:	Duty:
1	Milo	Labrador	Male	2015/10/24 [9]	00075D3684T	Narcotics
2	Rolex	G. Shepard	Male	2018/02/02 [7]	00072AA978T	Narcotics
3	Thunder	Rottweiler	Male	2018/01/21 [7]	00075B4EAGT	Patrol
4	Jia	Rottweiler	Female	2019/03/02 [6]	00072A747ET	Patrol
5	Young Boy	Rottweiler	Male	2021/06/21 [3]	00075CDFBCT	Patrol
6	Racer	G. Shepard	Male	2015/01/18 [10]	00075CCA8IT	Patrol
7	Daisy	Rottweiler	Female	2020/01/18 [5]	00075B4B3CT	Patrol
8	Mosa	Rottweiler	Male	2019/05/07 [6]	00075CCCDDT	Patrol
9	Aargo	G. Shepard	Male	2021/07/08 [4]	00075D7ABOT	Patrol
10	Diesel	Rottweiler	Male	2018/06/28 [7]	00075B0F7OT	Patrol
11	Rocky	Rottweiler	Male	2017/06/20 [8]	00075D29BCT	Patrol
12	Cleo	Rottweiler	Female	2019/08/05 [6]	00075B66EBT	Patrol
13	Kaizer	G. Shepard	Male	2016/12/30 [8]	00075CDA58T	Patrol

Action Taken:

Warning 13628 was issued on site to address Racer receiving medication and for the dip bath to be drained and cleaned and proof that it will be repaired sent.

A letter of concern was emailed to Mr Kanzi Wiseman, the unit commander. The letter requests feedback regarding if dogs receive care on weekends and how it will be ensured that every dog can be humanely handled by staff going forward.

Follow Up:

- I must receive video footage of staff treating Racer's ears at 10:00 and again at 17:00 tomorrow, 19 March 2025. Warning 13628 instructs that the required footage must be sent to me over WhatsApp on 078 801 3362. If the footage is not received as requested, a follow up inspection must be conducted on Thursday, 20 March 2025. If this follow up inspection takes place, I will show the handlers how to humanely muzzle a dog with a leash and how to have one hold them comfortably so that ear treatment can be given. I will then have each of them sign a document saying that I provided them with such guidance / training.
- I must receive written correspondence confirming when the dip bath at the facility will be repaired or proof that it has been escalated accordingly. Along with this, I require confirmation that the dirty, foul smelling water has been drained from the dip bath accordingly. If I don't receive feedback, follow up correspondence can be sent to request feedback.
- I must receive confirmation that dogs are cared for on weekends, which must include proof such as weekend schedules, by 16:30 on Tuesday, 25 March 2025. If such is not received, then an unannounced inspection must possibly be conducted on Saturday, 29 March 2025 (to be approved by Chief Inspector Pieterse) to determine whether it is evident that the dogs do receive basic care on weekends.
- I must receive confirmation that the department will train staff to adequately handle all dogs in their care by 16:30 on Tuesday, 25 March 2025. If such is not received, during a follow up inspection, I must make each handler handle every dog in front of me whilst I record them doing such. Additional to this, another feedback request can be sent in writing.
- I must receive feedback regarding the Department's policy on dog retirement by Tuesday, 25 March 2025. If feedback is not received, a follow up email can be sent.