

215715

Cape of Good Hope



CIRCUS INSPECTION CHECKLIST

Inspector: Nicole Venter Society: Cape of Good Hope SPCA

Date: Thursday, 24 April 2025 Time: 13:15 to 13:45 Place: Bellville

GENERAL

1. Name of person in charge David McLaren (ID 8311025075089) & Quinton Louw
2. Name of Circus McLaren's Circus
3. Postal Address P.O. Box 263466, Three Rivers, 1935
4. Physical Address as per licence 108 Christine Road, Homelands, Meyerton, Gauteng.
5. E-mail david@mclarencircus.co.za
6. Telephone / Cell phone numbers 084 406 8523
7. SPCA District Meyerton - Vereeniging SPCA
8. Location of circus performance Jack Muller Triangle Park, Frans Conradie Drive, Bellville
9. Dates of performances Tuesday, 22 April 2025 to ~~Sunday, 04 May 2025~~ Monday, 05 May 2025
10. Times of performances 15:00 to 17:00 & 19:00 to 21:00
11. Name of circus veterinarian Please see below comments.
12. Telephone number Please see below comments.
13. Address Please see below comments.
14. Date of last inspection by a veterinarian David said he had the vet out at Midvaal Lion Park in December 2024 and January 2025 and that that was his latest veterinary check-up.

Comment _____

Please refer to the inspection report uploaded to Welfare Tracker case INSP215715.

David informed me that he will only ever use the vets when absolutely necessary and if he is concerned about his animals. He told me that he uses the following vets when the circus tours in Cape Town:

Dr John McVeigh from Baker McVeigh Equine Hospital - Cape (462 Koeberg Road, Milnerton & 021 552 3450) for his horses.

Dr De La Rey Brugman from Stellenbosch Animal Hospital (1 Banghoek Road, Stellenbosch & 021 887 3052).

Tygerberg Animal Hospital (1 Kontiki Avenue, Bellville & 021 919 1191).

Other than having standby vets in case of emergencies when in the area, David's attending veterinarian is Dr Ryan Jeffrey from Krugersdorp Veterinary Clinic (133 Malmani Road, Krugersdorp, Gauteng & 076 462 5248). David said he uses Dr Jeffrey for annual check-ups on his animals.

PERFORMING ANIMALS PROTECTION ACT LICENCE

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO OBTAIN A PHOTOSTAT COPY OF THE LICENCE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

LICENCE

1. Licence No: PAL|02|GAUT|202|232|007
2. To whom is the licence granted:
 - a) Person: David Dallas McLaren
 - b) Permanent address: 108 Christine Road, Homelands, Meyerton, Gauteng.
 - c) Company: McLaren's Circus
3. Date of issue 14 November 2024 Date of expiry: 16 November 2025
4. Name of person that authorised the licence: Tshwane Chief State Veterinarian
5. District for which licence was issued: Issued by Tshwane State Vet.
6. Amount paid for licence. Not listed.
(This is to determine if the application is a new one or a renewal)

Animals used for training/exhibition

Species	Number	Exhibition	Training
Lions	3	X	X
Tigers	4	X	X
Camels	4	X	X
Llamas	2	X	X
Horse	1	X	X
Miniature Ponies	4	X	X
Ponies	3	X	X
B. Pythons	3	X	X
Poodles	8	X	X

ANIMALS INSPECTED

SPECIES	NO. & SEX	AGE	DIET FEEDING ROUTINE WATER	TYPE OF EQUIPMENT / FIXTURES USED ON ANIMALS (CHAINS, WHIPS, PRODDERS)	BODY CONDITION: ANY VISIBLE INJURIES/ILLNESS/ODD BEHAVIOUR/MANIPULATIONS (TEETH EXTRACTED, DE- CLAWED)	TRAIN	EXHIBIT
Lion "King"	1:0:0	6	Chicken & Predator Powder	Horse Lunge Whip (for cracking sound) Guide Stick & Meat Stick	Fair / Acceptable	X	X
"Diamond" Lion "Princess"	0:2:0	6 9	Chicken & Predator Powder	Horse Lunge Whip (for cracking sound) Guide Stick & Meat Stick	Overweight but Fair	X	X
Tigers "Rambo" (norm) "Tyson"	2:0:0	4	Chicken & Predator Powder	Horse Lunge Whip (for cracking sound) Guide Stick & Meat Stick	Fair / Acceptable	X	X
Tigers "Scar" (white) "Stasky"	2:0:0	2	Chicken & Predator Powder	Horse Lunge Whip (for cracking sound) Guide Stick & Meat Stick	Fair / Acceptable	X	X
Burmese Python (Normal)	1	Adult	Thawed Rats / Chicken	No equipment used - just handled.	Fair / Acceptable	X	X
Burmese Pythons (Albino)	2	Adult	Thawed Rats / Chicken	No equipment used - just handled.	Fair / Acceptable	X	X
"Alex" "Jack"	2:0:0	1.5 yrs	Tef & Epol Pellets	Horse lunge whip Halters & Animals styled with blankets	Fair / Acceptable	X	X
"Sisko" "Pancho"	2:0:0	2	Tef & Epol Pellets	Horse lunge whip Halters & Animals styled with blankets	Fair / Acceptable	X	X
Camels "Jimmy" "Jacque"	2:0:0	2	Tef & Epol Pellets	Horse lunge whip Halters & Animals styled with blankets	Fair / Acceptable	X	X
Poodle "Sasha"	0:1:0	13	Royal Canin Dog Biscuits	Training Commands & Treats Dogs Dressed Up	Old but no geriatric conditions noted. Fair & Acceptable.	X	X
"Cody" Poodles "Joey" "Jade"	3:0:0	3	Royal Canin Dog Biscuits	Training Commands & Treats Dogs Dressed Up	Fair / Acceptable	X	X
Poodle "Kimmy"	0:1:0	10	Royal Canin Dog Biscuits	Training Commands & Treats Dogs Dressed Up	Fair / Acceptable	X	X

SPECIES	NO. & SEX	AGE	DIET PROVIDED/FEEDING ROUTINE / WATER	TYPE OF EQUIPMENT / FIXTURES USED ON ANIMALS (CHAINS, WHIPS, PRODDERS)	BODY CONDITION: ANY VISIBLE INJURIES/ILLNESS/ODD BEHAVIOUR/MANIPULATIONS (TEETH EXTRACTED, DE-CLAWED)	TRAIN	EXHIBIT
Poodle "Bella"	0:1:0	2	Royal Canin Dog Biscuits	Training Commands & Treats Dogs Dressed Up	Fair / Acceptable	X	X
Poodle "Jamie"	1:0:0	10	Royal Canin Dog Biscuits	Training Commands & Treats Dogs Dressed Up	Fair / Acceptable	X	X
Poodle	1:0:0	13	Royal Canin Dog Biscuits	Training Commands & Treats Dogs Dressed Up	Old but no geriatric conditions noted. Fair & Acceptable.	X	X
Horse	1:0:0	Adult	Tef & Epol Pellets	Horse lunge whip Halters & Animals styled with blankets	Fair / Acceptable	X	X
Ponies	3:0:0	Adults	Tef & Epol Pellets	Horse lunge whip Halters & Animals styled with blankets	Fair / Acceptable	X	X
Miniature Ponies	4:0:0	Adults	Tef & Epol Pellets	Horse lunge whip Halters & Animals styled with blankets	Fair / Acceptable	X	X

Total number of animals 32 animals inspected.

Any injured or unhealthy animals No but animals were being pestered by flies.

Reason for discrepancy between animals on licence and numbers inspected stay at his facility (Midvaal Lion Park) in Meyerton and so all of his animals are included on the PAPA but not all are touring with the circus.
 McLaren rotates which animals are used in the circus' tour and which animals

ACCOMMODATION / TRAILERS

SPECIES	NO OF ANIMALS PER TRAILER	SIZE	FLOORING/ BEDDING	MEANS OF ACCESS / FREE OR RESTRICTED ACCESS	OUTSIDE CAMP YES/NO (IF YES - SIZE, BARRIER, SHADE, FURNISHINGS, RETREAT)	VENTILATION/ SIDES OPEN OR CLOSED DURING TRAVELLING
Lions	2 to 3	14m ²	Wooden base / Sawdust & Straw	Free access throughout the day. Used as night rooms in evenings.	Approximately 400m ²	Yes
Tigers	2	14m ²	Wooden base / Sawdust & Straw	Free access throughout the day. Used as night rooms in evenings.	Approximately 400m ²	Yes
Snakes	3	2.5m ²	Mulch & Peat Moss	Free access throughout the day. Used as night rooms in evenings.	N/A - housed in one tank.	Yes
Llamas	2	7m ²	Wooden base / Sawdust & Straw	Free access throughout the day. Used as night rooms in evenings.	Approximately 100m ²	Yes
Camels	2	7m ²	Wooden base / Sawdust & Straw	Free access throughout the day. Used as night rooms in evenings.	Approximately 100m ²	Yes
Horse	1	12m ²	Wooden base / Sawdust & Straw	Free access throughout the day. Used as night rooms in evenings.	Approximately 500m ²	Yes
Ponies	3	12m ²	Wooden base / Sawdust & Straw	Free access throughout the day. Used as night rooms in evenings.	Approximately 400m ²	Yes
Miniature Ponies	4	12m ²	Wooden base / Sawdust & Straw	Free access throughout the day. Used as night rooms in evenings.	Approximately 400m ²	Yes
Poodles	8	10m ²	Dog Beds in Vehicle	Free access throughout the day. Used as night rooms in evenings.	Approximately 200m ²	Yes

ANIMAL ACCOMMODATION

NOTES FOR CHECK LIST

- Check on all living conditions: - size and conditions of cages, bedding used, type of feed and watering facilities used and adequate sheltering facilities. Check cleanliness of cages, stalls etc. Report excessive flies, bad smell etc. Check that adequate precautions have been taken to protect the animals against the elements such as wind chill, rain, heat or cold.
- Water to be freely available. Often watering is reliant on handlers, with animals showing thirst when offered food. Only when an animal refuses to drink water has it had sufficient.

Note: Such refusal to drink can also be a symptom of illness. Water may be withheld up to an hour prior to a performance. However water should be freely available at all other times.

- Shelter
Animals such as horses, camels and elephants in circuses do not have the same freedom of movement as free-ranging animals with access to natural shade or shelter. Therefore, effective artificial shelter must be provided, as these animals may be more susceptible to the possible effects of a chilling or cold wind, rain or heat stress from the sun. Where natural shelterbelts and trees do not provide protection from adverse weather suitable artificial shelter must be provided.
- Position of animal trailers / accommodation:

How far from the following: Music (Speakers, microphones) +/- 10m to 20m

Equine: +/- 5m, Big Cats: +/- 20m, Camels & Llamas: +/- 50m - no signs of distress
Roads: was seen in the animals and the road near the horse camps was not very noisy or busy.

Noise (generators, coolers, etc) No excessive noise observed during inspection.

Fumes: No obnoxious or hazardous fumes noted during inspection.

Are members of the public allowed to walk around freely amongst trailers?

No - there are barriers placed all around and I am only able to access the animal camps when David takes me through. As seen during my last inspection, David hired men to walk the perimeter of the circus. I spoke to one of these guards during my inspection at the Wynberg site. They are equipped with reflective vests and radios.

Are safety barriers in place? Yes

TRANSPORTATION

ARRIVAL

- Check general condition of animals on arrival. Any transport injuries? Didn't inspect animals during transport but the animals are in fair condition, other than being pestered by flies.
- Observe offloading procedures and length of time before animals are offloaded and / or fed and watered.
Not inspected - animals already offloaded and circus set up.
- Check that water is made available to the animals immediately after arrival.
During my inspection, all animals had access to potable water.

- Rest period before performance A few hours of rest (max 2 shows & 1 training session per day).
- Length of travel between venues Approximately 1.5 to 2 hours.

DEPARTURE

- Check all transport vehicles prior to the circus departing to next venue. Pay particular attention to the flooring.
Not inspected.
- Observe loading of animals into transport vehicles. Report goading of animals.
Not inspected.
- Check that animals are not left in cages on the transport vehicles for long periods without shelter from the elements.
Not inspected.
- Check that animals have been watered prior to journey. (Depending on the length of the journey).
Not inspected.

OBSERVING PERFORMING ANIMALS

- Check to see how the animals enter the arena (are they goaded with whips or do they enter willingly?).
Not inspected.

Example: Inexperienced animals entering the arena are sometimes initially blinded by the intense spotlights as well as startled by the music over the loudspeakers.

- Check where animals are held just prior to the performance and the length of the time they are kept there after their performance.
Not inspected.
- Check to see if animals are enticed with food or are goaded to ensure that they perform.
Not inspected, however, speaking to David, I was informed that they use meat for the big cats (lions and tigers) and treats for the dogs.
- Check to see if any drugs are administered to the animals.
Not inspected but David said he does not use drugs or sedation methods. Animals additionally appear clinically alert and not under sedation.
- Nature of tricks and behaviours each animal is asked to perform during their routine.
Not inspected.

NOTE: Always have two SPCA officials observe a performance: - one official observing the animals backstage and the second, observing the animals being taken back to the pens. Check that the equipment and apparatus used on or for animals are humane and in good state of repair.

NETWORKING INSPECTIONS

TOUR ROUTE

	Venue	Arrives	Departs
Last stop	Wynberg	Tuesday, 15 April 2025	Tuesday, 22 April 2025
Next stop	Somerset West	Monday, 05 May 2025	Sunday, 11 May 2025

NOTE: Contact the next SPCA in good time with all relevant information and a copy of this report.

- Name of person contacted at next SPCA Swellendam SPCA should expect McLaren's arrival on Monday, 12 May 2025.
Still COGH SPCA for one more area - Somerset West. Date:
- Make a particular note as to any changes to the registered list of animals i.e. change of type or numbers of animals recorded by previous SPCA.
Not applicable - I was not provided with the checklist done by the previous SPCA.
- Were any warnings given to circus? If so please attach to report.**
No warnings issued for the inspections conducted at the Stellenbosch, Milnerton and Wynberg sites. Warning 13634 issued for flies at Bellville site.
- Full details concerning any unhealthy or injured animals must be recorded in this report and given to the next SPCA.
As of yet, no injured animals seen during inspections. However, animals were being pestered by flies at the Bellville site.

The completed checklist must be forwarded to the NSPCA Liaison Unit after the inspection.