



CIRCUS INSPECTION CHECKLIST

Inspector: Nicole Venter Society: Cape of Good Hope SPCA

Date: Monday, 05 May 2025 Time: 13:23 Place: Somerset West

13:50

GENERAL

1. Name of person in charge David McLaren & 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 Gordon High School, De Beers Avenue, Somerset West
9. Dates of performances Wednesday, 07 May 2025 to Sunday, 11 May 2025.
10. Times of performances 15:00 to 17:00 & 19:00 to 21:00
11. Name of circus veterinarian Please see comments below.
12. Telephone number Please see below comments.
13. Address Please see comments below.
14. Date of last inspection by a veterinarian December 2024 & January 2025 - by David's attending veterinarian - Dr Jeffrey.

Comment Please refer to the inspection report uploaded to Welfare Tracker case INSP216075.
David informed me that he will only ever use the below listed vets when absolutely necessary and if he is concerned about his animals. He told me he has accounts with the following vets when touring in Cape Town:

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

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 the above-mentioned standby vets (only used in case of emergencies when in the area), David's attending veterinarian is Dr Ryan Jeffrey from Krugersdorp Veterinary Clinic (133 Malmari Road, Krugersdorp, Gauteng & 076 462 5248). Dr Jeffrey is apparently used for annual check-ups on all David's animals.

Circus still be set up upon my arrival. I was accompanied by Quinton as David is not here. Lions still be pestered by flies.

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 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) <i>Sunny</i>	1	Adult	Thawed Rats / Chicken	No equipment used - just handled.	Fair / Acceptable	X	X
Burmese Pythons (Albino) <i>Francis</i>	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 Lions again being posted by flies, especially one female.

Reason for discrepancy between animals on licence and numbers inspected McLaren rotates which animals are used in the circus' tour and which animals 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.

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) +/- 10 metres

Roads: +/- 20 metres

Noise (generators, coolers, etc) None heard during inspection.

Fumes: None smelt or seen during inspection.

Are members of the public allowed to walk around freely amongst trailers? No.

There are private guards with reflective vests and radios. They patrol the grounds around the circus. There are also barriers -placed and each time I inspected, I am only able to get through when David accompanies me and takes me certain areas.

Are safety barriers in place? Yes.

TRANSPORTATION

ARRIVAL

- Check general condition of animals on arrival. Any transport injuries? _____

Transport and offloading no seen but also no injuries seen on the animals during inspection.

- 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.

All animal trailers which are well maintained. The big cat trailers have a slight scent of ammonia, but each time I inspect, the floor is actually dry and clean upon touch. I think the wood has just soaked up the scent overtime and even though I can sometimes smell it, it is not overbearing and due to the floor actually being dry and clean each time I test, this is not actionable. Additionally, the smell was only there during one of my inspections.

- Observe loading of animals into transport vehicles. Report goading of animals.
Not inspected - I will try and arrange with David so that I can monitor this process at least once whilst he is in Cape Town.
- Check that animals are not left in cages on the transport vehicles for long periods without shelter from the elements.
Not inspected - I will try and arrange with David so that I can monitor this process at least once whilst he is in Cape Town.
- Check that animals have been watered prior to journey. (Depending on the length of the journey).
Not inspected - I will try and arrange with David so that I can monitor this process at least once whilst he is in Cape Town.

OBSERVING PERFORMING ANIMALS

- Check to see how the animals enter the arena (are they goaded with whips or do they enter willingly?).

Not inspected - I will arrange with Jaco (SPCA) and David (circus) so that I can monitor this process at least once whilst the circus is in Cape Town.

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 - I will arrange with Jaco (SPCA) and David (circus) so that I can monitor this process at least once whilst the circus is in Cape Town.

- Check to see if animals are enticed with food or are goaded to ensure that they perform.

I will arrange with Jaco (SPCA) and David (circus) so that I can monitor this process at least once whilst the circus is in Cape Town. Additionally, I have already asked David about the process. Dogs are given treats for performing tricks as per commands given and the large cats are enticed with meat that is placed on a stick for them to take. I will monitor this when I inspect one of the performances.

- Check to see if any drugs are administered to the animals.
David has told me they don't use anything of the sort, and I will also monitor for signs of such when I inspect one of the performances.
Animals are apparently trained daily before the shows take place and each animal spends 10 to 20 minutes training in the ring. Quinton will apparently evaluate the behaviour of the tigers and lions during training and if they are 'in a mood' or reluctant, then they won't be used in the show that day.
- Nature of tricks and behaviours each animal is asked to perform during their routine.

Will monitor when I inspect one of the performances. However, when I asked David, I was told the following in terms of Animal Performances. Please see below / next page.

Predators: Lions and tigers perform tricks such as removing offered meat from meat stick, climbing up onto a pedestal, lying down on command, jumping through hoops, and walking around the show ring. Lions and Tigers spend approximately 9 to 10 minutes in each show.

Poodles: Do simple dog tricks on command, run around the ring, jump through dog hoops. Dogs spend 5 to 10 minutes in the show ring. Two of the dogs, Joey and Jade, are not used in the show.

Camels, Llamas and Equine: Equine do liberty and walk around the ring and bow. Camels and llamas are styled in blankets and are walked around the show ring. These animals spend 5 to 10 minutes in the show ring.

Pythons: Pythons are handled by Quinton, and he walks around the ring showing the audience the Pythons. They spend 5 to 10 minutes in the show ring. After the show, Quinton handles the Pythons whilst members of public take photos with him.

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	Bellville	Tuesday, 15 April 2025	Sunday, 04 May 2025
Next stop	Somerset West	Sunday, 04 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 to expect the circus by Monday, 12 May 2025. Date: Swellendam SPCA to be notified today, 05 May 2025.
- 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.
- Were any warnings given to circus? If so please attach to report.** Warning 21259.
Warning 13634: external parasite control measures required for animals being pestered by flies.
- 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. The only concern that was addressed whilst the circus was in Cape Town was the issue of animals being pestered by flies.

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