

INSPECTOR NOTE

Building:
Street: 61 KARBONKEL ROAD
Suburb: HOUT BAY HARBOUR
Postal Code: 7806
Date: 2025-07-24
Time: 16:19
Inspector: RUDOLPH PHILANDER

Type: EMAIL - SENT

Follow-Up Date:

Comments: Dear Tatum,

Thank you for your email and for sharing your concerns regarding the case involving your dog. We understand the emotional toll this situation has taken on you, and we want to assure you that we take all such matters seriously.

However, I would like to clarify the reasons behind the current handling of this case. While we acknowledge that your neighbor, Mr. Wayne Gertse, allegedly made a verbal admission of guilt, it is important to note that such an admission, in and of itself, does not amount to formal evidence. In legal terms, someone stating they committed an act is considered hearsay, and unfortunately, hearsay evidence is not sufficient to secure a conviction in court. To proceed with charges, we must follow proper procedures outlined in the Criminal Procedure Act. This includes ensuring that a confession is obtained in accordance with these legal protocols.

At present, there is no direct evidence, such as an eyewitness account, to confirm that Mr. Gertse was responsible for burning your dog. While we understand the significance of your neighbor's admission, without an eyewitness or solid evidence, we are unable to move forward with criminal charges. This is not a decision made by the SPCA but is dictated by the legal system. Therefore, the case has been provisionally closed until we are able to secure the necessary evidence, such as a credible eyewitness statement.

Regarding the post-mortem, it's important to note that the veterinarians did not consider a post-mortem necessary since the dog was not deceased when it was handed over to the SPCA. Typically, post-mortems are conducted when an animal has passed away and the cause of death is unknown. If you had paid for a post-mortem to be conducted privately, we would have worked with the relevant veterinary professionals to assist with this.

We fully understand your desire for justice, and we share in your concern for your dog. However, as it stands, without sufficient evidence, we are unable to proceed with criminal charges. We encourage you to reach out to us should any new information or evidence come to light, particularly if an eyewitness can come forward to provide a clear account of the incident.

We truly appreciate your patience and understanding as we work within the legal framework to ensure that the right action can be taken.

We trust this provides clarification.

Kind regards

Chief Inspector Jaco Pieterse
Bachelor of Laws (LLB)

CASE CAN BE CLOSED BASED ON ABOVE - NFA.
RUDOLPH PHILANDER 2025-07-24 16:19

Captured By: