

INSPECTOR NOTE

Building: LANGVERWACHT ESTATE
Street: LANGVERWACHT ROAD
Suburb: KUILS RIVER
Postal Code: 7580
Date: 2026-10-05
Time: 14:08
Inspector: RUDOLPH PHILANDER

Type: EMAIL - RECEIVED
Follow-Up Date:

Comments:

From: Karen du Plessis <karenrolanda@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, 05 October 2026 13:21

To: Inspectorate – Cape of Good Hope SPCA <inspectorate@spca-ct.co.za>

Cc: Milton Mackier <milton@vvh.co.za>; Lita Potgieter <lita@creativeits.co.za>

Subject: URGENT Langverwacht Farm, Kuilsrivier: request for independent welfare assessment, shelter assistance and safe movement plan

Dear Inspector Trevor / SPCA Inspectorate,

In response to the 3rd 72hrs warning received on Friday, 2 October 2026:

I write regarding the wild white filly, "Baby," presently under my care at Langverwacht Farm, Kuilsrivier.

My overriding concern is Baby's welfare and physical safety. I am willing to cooperate fully with the SPCA and comply with reasonable welfare requirements. The difficulty is that Baby is exceptionally reactive, cannot presently be safely haltered or conventionally handled, and my attempts both to obtain necessary equine care and to provide the shelter required by the SPCA have repeatedly been interfered with.

Baby is presently in good bodily condition. She has access to water and appropriate feed, and I monitor her welfare daily by observing her appetite, movement, demeanour, body condition, water supply, feeding arrangements and general environment. Because she is extremely reactive, routine hands-on grooming is not presently safe. I do not force physical handling merely for grooming because this would create an unnecessary risk of panic, injury and loss of trust.

To my knowledge, Baby is presently not suffering from an acute veterinary emergency requiring an immediate forced movement. The outstanding welfare issues are appropriate shelter, reliable access to competent assistance, and a safe plan for handling or relocating her if relocation becomes necessary.

14 September 2026 – my request to the SPCA for assistance

On 14 September 2026, a farrier attended Langverwacht Farm to provide emergency/urgent hoof care to another horse at the request of, and as part of a course of care involving, a veterinarian. The farrier was required to clean, trim and assess the hoof so that his findings could be reported to the veterinarian and appropriate further treatment determined.

Mr Jarrod Davidoff objected to the farrier's presence, raised alleged trespassing issues, and prevented the intended treatment from being carried out.

I contacted the SPCA specifically because necessary equine care requested by a veterinarian was being prevented. A complaint was opened, but no inspector attended while the incident was taking place.

I subsequently received an SMS from the SPCA advising that my complaint had been investigated, that any welfare concerns had been addressed, that the matter had been finalised, and that detailed feedback could be obtained from the Inspectorate Department.

I now formally request that detailed feedback. Kindly provide me with the written investigation report or

detailed outcome concerning my 14 September complaint, as offered in the SPCA's SMS, including what was investigated, who was contacted, what information was obtained, what conclusion was reached, and on what basis the complaint was regarded as resolved.

This is particularly important because the underlying welfare problem was not resolved.

Baby's shelter

After the 14 September incident, Mr Davidoff—the same person who had prevented the farrier from carrying out the veterinary-requested hoof care—subsequently complained about Baby not having adequate shelter.

Before that complaint, I had already erected a substantial barrier wall/windbreak to protect Baby against the north-westerly wind and rain. That protective structure was removed on Mr Davidoff's instruction.

The SPCA thereafter required improved shelter for Baby. I did not ignore the requirement. I attempted to comply.

An adjacent paddock contains a mature tree and the position of a previous shelter. Inspector Trevor indicated, in substance, that the shelter could be improved by putting on a roof and extending one side.

That is what I proceeded to do.

My stable hand/groom, Justice, assisted me. We strengthened the shelter and were still busy completing the roof and the improvements recommended by Inspector Trevor.

On 17 September 2026, while that work was still underway, Mr Davidoff sent four men to the paddock. They dismantled the shelter that Justice and I had been strengthening. This occurred approximately an hour and a half before the compliance deadline given to me.

Justice was also threatened with arrest for alleged trespassing while assisting me with Baby's shelter.

The result was that the shelter could not be completed. I thereafter received a further SPCA warning concerning shelter.

This creates an extremely difficult welfare position: I am required to provide shelter; I attempt to comply with Inspector Trevor's recommendation; the shelter is dismantled before the deadline expires; the person assisting me is threatened with arrest; and I remain responsible for meeting the shelter requirement.

I am 60 years old. I cannot safely construct a substantial horse shelter entirely on my own, nor can I safely restrain, load or move Baby by myself.

Independent assessment and consultation with me

I respectfully ask that the SPCA assess Baby directly at her paddock and base welfare decisions on her actual condition and circumstances.

No prior arrangement was made with me by the inspectors to discuss the complaint, consult with me, or obtain my account as the person responsible for Baby's day-to-day care before attending Langverwacht Farm. Instead, the inspectors went directly to Mr Davidoff and discussed the matter with

him.

Because Mr Davidoff and I are involved in ongoing disputes, I respectfully ask that information supplied by either party be independently verified against Baby's actual condition and environment.

I am not asking the SPCA to take my side or his side, nor am I asking the SPCA to determine the wider disputes between us.

I ask the SPCA to assess the horse, not the dispute.

Except in a genuine emergency, I respectfully request that I be consulted directly before conclusions or compliance requirements are imposed. Any further inspection should, where reasonably possible, consider Baby herself, her body condition, behaviour and temperament, feed, water, paddock environment, shelter, freedom of movement, access to veterinary and equine assistance, and the practical risks involved in handling or moving her.

The access problem is relevant because it directly affects Baby's welfare. Persons coming to assist me have faced refusal of access, allegations of trespassing or threats of arrest. This has already affected a farrier and my stable hand/groom and creates obvious concerns about access for veterinarians, trainers and other experienced equine personnel.

If the SPCA instructs me to take a welfare step and my attempt to comply is then prevented—for example through dismantling shelter or threatening or excluding a groom, farrier, veterinarian or other necessary person—I respectfully ask that this be recorded as part of the welfare investigation before any conclusion is reached that I have failed or refused to comply.

Baby's welfare should not become collateral to disputes between people.

Moving Baby presents significant welfare and veterinary risks
Moving Baby is not a routine loading exercise.

She is presently kept in two adjoining paddocks with no vehicle access. For a vehicle towing a horsebox to reach a suitable loading position, a section of fencing would first have to be temporarily removed.

Baby cannot presently be safely haltered, led and loaded into a horsebox conventionally.

Alternative methods have therefore been discussed with a veterinarian. One possibility discussed involves veterinary sedation and moving Baby while recumbent using appropriate supporting equipment, potentially including a suitable tarpaulin, before transferring her into a horsebox. Another possibility mentioned involves an appropriately equipped trailer with controlled lifting or winching equipment.

I mention these possibilities only to explain the practical difficulty. I am not qualified to determine the appropriate medication, depth of sedation or anaesthesia, equipment or method of moving a recumbent horse. Those decisions must be made by an appropriately experienced veterinarian together with competent equine or large-animal personnel.

The veterinarian has expressed caution about the proposed procedure.

Baby may not respond to sedation exactly as anticipated. If she remains insufficiently sedated, recovers sooner than expected, attempts to rise, panics or moves unexpectedly during transfer, there is a potentially serious risk of injury both to Baby and to those handling her.

The equipment must also be suitable. Not every trailer is designed for such an operation, and some available trailers do not have appropriate side rails or containment.

The procedure therefore must not be improvised.

The veterinarian we approached has been on leave and, as I understand it, is returning shortly.

One possible interim destination is the upper/stable area. There is little or no natural grazing there. The alternative paddock in which I attempted to complete the improved shelter also has limited grazing. This can be managed by providing appropriate dry hay and supplementary feed.

The crucial issue is not simply whether Baby can physically be moved. It is which arrangement provides the safest overall welfare outcome and how any movement can be achieved without unnecessary distress or injury.

Request for the SPCA's experience and assistance

The SPCA may have previous experience with wild, unhandled or highly reactive horses, or with large animals that cannot be loaded conventionally.

I therefore genuinely request the SPCA's expertise and practical assistance .

Before any movement is attempted, I respectfully ask that Baby and the physical site be inspected and that the SPCA, an appropriately e

RUDOLPH PHILANDER 2026-10-05 14:08

Captured By: