

SPCA Inspection Report

Botrivier Farm

Date: 21 July 2026

Address: Karwyderskraal Road & Swartrivier Rd, Botrivier

GPS: P58P+WG Bot River

Owners: Mr. Albertyn (Cell: 072 461 4069) / Mrs. Albertyn (Cell: 082 564 5712, Email: Albertynalda@gmail.com)

Inspecting Officer: Inspector Mark Syce, SPCA

Attending:

- Thembinkosi Nomkala – SPCA Education Department
- Takesure Razah – HAWS Kennels Supervisor
- Cassidy Witbooi – HAWS Inspector

1. Arrival

The inspection team arrived at the farm at approximately 10:30am. The owners were not present; farm workers advised that Mr. Albertyn was in Bredasdorp at the time. Permission was requested and granted by the workers present to inspect the cattle on the property.

2. General Herd Inspection

A total of 313 cattle were inspected across the property for general wellbeing and for any concerns under the Animals Protection Act No. 71 of 1962. The animals were distributed across four camps:

Camp	Number of Cattle
Main Grazing Camp	217
Juveniles	27
Second Camp	43
Calves (0–6 months)	23

All animals in these camps had access to feed, water, and shelter, and were assessed to be in fair to good body condition.

[Herd/camp photographs]





Figure 1. Juvenile Camp



Figure 2. Main Grazing Camp



Figure 3. Second Camp



Figure 4. 0 to 6mths Camp

3. Cattle of Concern

Three cattle were identified as being of particular concern, with approximate ages of 10, 11, and 7 years (as reported by farm workers). These three animals were found to be emaciated and limping.

Workers reported that:

- A veterinarian had attended the farm to treat the three cows approximately two weeks prior to this inspection.
- The cows had been in this condition for a period of approximately 2–3 months.

[Photographs of the three affected animals — body condition and gait]



Figure 5. Emaciated Cow 1



Figure 6. Emaciated Cow 2



Figure 7. Emaciated Cow 3

4. Telephone Conversation with Mrs. Albertyn (21 July 2026)

During the inspection, a farm worker handed Inspector Syce his phone, stating that Mrs. Albertyn wished to speak with him. A summary of that conversation follows:

Mrs. Albertyn asked who was calling and why the inspection was taking place. Inspector Syce identified himself and explained that the SPCA was there to inspect the cattle. Mrs. Albertyn questioned why all the cattle were being inspected and suggested the SPCA should instead focus on cats and dogs in the townships.

Inspector Syce explained that standard SPCA procedure is to inspect all animals on a property once a complaint has been received, and that the organisation attends to the welfare of all animals where concerns are raised.

Inspector Syce proposed that the matter could be resolved without conflict if the farm answered the SPCA's questions and provided a veterinary report. Mrs. Albertyn asked who would cover the cost of obtaining this report. She stated that the animals were being treated with Rimadyl (administered at 21-day intervals) and that the animals were being properly cared for. She indicated that they were considering euthanising one of the cows the following week.

The conversation became heated, with Mrs. Albertyn stating that her husband should perhaps simply shoot all three cows with his shotgun, and asking rhetorically whether the same reasoning would apply to putting down her dog or her mother.

Inspector Syce responded calmly, clarifying that this was not being suggested, and reiterated that the first step was for the farm to respond via email and provide the veterinary report. Mrs. Albertyn provided her email address and contact number, and Inspector Syce confirmed he would follow up by email.

5. Departure

The inspection team left the farm following the telephone conversation.

6. Follow-Up Correspondence with Mrs. Albertyn (22 July 2026)

Following the telephone conversation of 21 July 2026, Mrs. Albertyn responded to Inspector Syce's email. Her response was submitted in Afrikaans, and Inspector Syce replied in kind. A summary of the correspondence is as follows:

Mrs. Albertyn apologised for her reaction during the previous day's telephone call, explaining that she had been having a difficult day. She proceeded to answer all outstanding questions raised by the SPCA.

Veterinary Report

Mrs. Albertyn confirmed that a veterinary report would be provided. She advised that their veterinarian was currently on leave and due to return in approximately two weeks. Inspector Syce queried whether the report would only be submitted once the veterinarian returned, or whether it could be obtained while the veterinarian was still away.

Mrs. Albertyn further advised that a second veterinarian had also been consulted, and had given the same recommendation: to continue the Rimadyl (Predef) treatment on a weekly basis. She stated that the cows would be monitored to ensure they are not suffering, and that the attending veterinarians would give the instruction to euthanise once suffering is evident.

Owners' Position

Mrs. Albertyn indicated that they understand the cows will not recover from the arthritis affecting them, and confirmed that they will continue to follow veterinary guidance until milk production slows — which they regard as an indication that the animals are suffering — at which point the animals will be euthanised.

Treatment History

Mrs. Albertyn provided the following treatment duration for each of the three cows (identified by ear tag/ID number):

Animal ID	Duration on Treatment
1915	4 weeks
1619	2 weeks
1805	2 weeks

Details of treatment provided:

- Antibiotic Injection – Excede (for any infection)
- Anti-inflammatory – Predef
- Pain management – Rimadyl

The remaining details of this correspondence are consistent with, and confirm, the information previously recorded in this report.

7. Summary / Next Steps

- Await submission of the written veterinary report once obtained (owners advised their regular veterinarian is on leave for approximately two weeks).
- Note that a second, independent veterinary opinion has already been given, recommending continuation of weekly Rimadyl (Predef) treatment with euthanasia to follow once suffering becomes evident.
- Continue to monitor the condition of the three affected cows (IDs 1915, 1619, 1805) and follow up on the outcome of veterinary guidance and any subsequent euthanasia.
- File this correspondence as a follow-up to the original inspection of 21 July 2026.

8. Email Thread between Inspector Mark Syce & Mrs. Albertyn

From: Mark Syce - Cape of Good Hope SPCA

Sent: Tuesday, 21 July 2026 20:38:14

To: Albertynalda@gmail.com <Albertynalda@gmail.com>

Subject: Request for Animal Treatment Details ~ 3 Emaciated and Limping Cattle

Good day Mrs. Albertyn,

Thank you for our telephone conversation this morning. As discussed, I kindly request that you provide us with the following information:

Details of the treatment currently being administered to the animals

Duration of the treatment (how long they have been receiving it)

Evidence of treatment and frequency of administration (treatment records)

Prognosis

Veterinary report

Your assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Kind regards,

 Reply  Reply All  Forward  IM



Alda Albertyn <albertynalda@gmail.com>

 Mark Syce - Cape of Good Hope SPCA

Re: Request for Animal Treatment Details ~ 3 Emaciated and Limping Cattle

Goeiedag mnr. Syce

Ek het nou jou e-pos in my Trash file gekry dit is hoekom ek dit gemis het.

Ek is nie seker of ek met jou of iemand anders Dinsdag oor die foon gepraat het nie. Indien dit wel jy was, wil ek om verskoning vra vir my vyandigheid tydens ons gesprek. Ek het nie 'n goeie dag gehad nie en toe ek hoor julle het net op die plaas opgedaag sonder om vooraf te reël, was ek ontsteld. Ek sou graag self daar wou wees om oor die situasie te gesels. Ons is self diereliefhebbers en ek besef dat julle net julle werk doen. Ek wil ook jammer sê vir ons veearts se onwilligheid om saam te werk. Hy is vir 30 jaar ons veearts en hy weet dat ons mooi na ons diere kyk en ek dink dit is waarom hy geïrriteerd met die situasie was. Hy is semi-afgetree en bedien nog net 'n paar melkplase.

Ek het hom gevra om 'n verslag te skryf en ek sal sodra hy dit gestuur het, aanstuur.

Ek het ook met Dr Anette Smal van Overberg Dierehospitaal gepraat. Sy is ook bekend met ons diere en ons gebruik haar ook. Volgens haar is dit normaal dat Jerseys gereeld met hulle heupe sukkel. Sy het aanbeveel dat ons voortgaan met die Rymadil (pyn- en anti-inflammatoriese middel) en Predef een maal per week. Volgens haar sal ons dadelik agterkom indien die beeste in erge pyn verkeer deurdat hulle nie sal wei nie en dan ook nie melk produseer nie. Die koei (1915) wat die swaarste loop van die 3 is een van die topproduseerders in die kudde. Sy is elke oggend in die eerste 3 rye wanneer die koeie inkom in die melkstal. Volgens dr Smal sal dit nie die geval wees indien die koei in pyn is nie. Indien 'n koei by ons 'n heup of poot probleem ontwikkel sal ons vra dat die veearts hulle ondersoek. Indien dit, soos in die geval is, dat die koei met pynmedikasie en anti-inflammatoriese middel een maal per week behandel kan word en by die stal in oorgenoeg weiding is, en steeds maklik wei en stal toe loop en bo 20 liter per dag produseer, sal ons hulle melk tot ons sien dat hulle toestand versleg.

Ek sal sodra ons die veeartsverslag het, dit aanstuur.

Ons het eintlik besluit om die drie koeie te laat slag, maar volgens die veearts is dit nie nodig soos die situasie nou is nie. Hulle sal die koeie monitor en aanbeveel dat ons die koeie laat slag sodra die diere se toestand versleg. E

Antwoord op vrae:

1. Details of the treatment currently being administered to the animals:

- a) Ons het hulle Exede (antibiotika) gespuut indien daar enige infeksie was.
- b) Saam met die Exede het ons Predef wat 'n anti-inflammatoriese middel is, gespuut.
- c) Ons spuit weekliks Rymadil en Predef vir die pynverligting.

2. Duration of the treatment (how long they have been receiving it)

1915: 4 weke

1619: 2 weke

1805: 2 weke

3. Evidence of treatment

Ons hou nie skriftelik rekord nie, maar weet dat ons hulle elke Donderdag Rymadil en Predef spuit en die Exceed spuit ons sodra ons sien dat hulle mank loop.

4. Prognosis

Ons besef dat hulle nie van die artritis sal herstel nie, aangesien dit slegs simptome behandel kan word. Om daardie rede het ons, soos met die veearts bevestig, besluit om hulle te melk totdat ons sien dat hulle melkproduksie val of wanneer hulle sukkel om op te staan, nie meer wei nie ens. Ek het ons veearts gevra of ons hulle moet laat slag en hy het gesê dit is nie nodig nie. Hy is tans met vakansie en kom oor twee weke weer vir 'n kuddebesoek. Hy het gesê hy sal die verslag na die kuddebesoek skryf en dan die situasie weer evalueer en 'n aanbeveling maak.

Ek hoop dat ek al die vrae beantwoord het.

Vriendelike groete.

Alda Albertyn

 Reply  Reply All  Forward  IM



Mark Syce - Cape of Good Hope SPCA

 Alda Albertyn

Re: Request for Animal Treatment Details ~ 3 Emaciated and Limping Cattle

Dankie Mevrouw Albertyn dat u uitgereik het.

Ek verstaan u frustrasie, hoop u het n veel beter dag vandag.

Sal die Veearts eers in twee weke tyd die Rapport stuur of sal hy dit doen terwyls hy op vakansie is? Laat weet asseblief?

Dankie dat u al die vrae beantwoord het.

Groete,

Insp. Mark Syce