

INSPECTION OF SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICE DOG UNITS**IT IS IMPORTANT TO TAKE NOTE OF THE FOLLOWING WHEN INSPECTING SAPS DOG UNITS:**

The SAPS Dog Unit Checklist has been designed specifically for the inspection of the South African Police Service Dog Units.

When conducting a proactive or reactive inspection at the SAPS Dog Unit in your area, it is important that the Inspector reports directly to the Unit Commander for introduction and explains the reason for the inspection. If the Unit Commander is not available, then the Inspector needs to ask for the Acting Unit Commander or Kennel Official.

Inspectors must be authorized under the hand of the magistrate of the district, in terms of Section 8(1) of the Animals Protection Act No 71 of 1962, to conduct inspections at the SAPS Dog Units.

Before inspecting the kennel facilities, we recommend that the Inspector take the time to go through the checklist to complete all the relevant information and questions. It is important to note that some of the questions are for your own personal knowledge/observations whilst conducting the inspection.

Upon completion of the checklist, the Inspector will understand the basic layout and operations of the specific SAPS Dog Unit and what needs to be inspected. The Inspector must be accompanied by a SAPS Official at all times during the inspection. It is not recommended that the Inspector handles the SAPS dogs. If handling is required, then the SAPS Officials should be handling the dogs for safety reasons.

The Inspector must ask to inspect the last SAPS Veterinary Inspection Team Report conducted at the Dog Unit. The SAPS Veterinary Team Inspection is an internal inspection done by SAPS and is conducted at least once annually. This report states the concerns that were noted at the specific Dog Unit during the inspection. The Inspector must pay close attention to the SAPS Veterinary Report and can then compare their findings with those of the SAPS Veterinarian.

Direct contraventions of the Animals Protection Act (APA) must be issued in writing to the SAPS Dog Unit in the form of an official written warning. Non-APA contraventions can be pointed out as a separate recommendation. Warnings may only be issued for **direct** contraventions of the Animals Protection Act.

A copy of the warning issued to the SAPS Dog Unit must be forwarded to the NSPCA Special Projects Unit for further perusal. The NSPCA Special Projects Unit will forward a copy of the warning to the relevant heads at the SAPS for further investigation and perusal.

Please do not hesitate to contact the NSPCA on 011 907 3590 or specialprojects@nspca.co.za for more information or guidance on the inspection of SAPS Dog Units.



SAPS DOG UNIT INSPECTION CHECKLIST

Date of inspection: 15/09/2026 + 16/9/26	Time of inspection: 14H00 - 17H30
Inspector(s): ROWAN & ELANI DAVIDS Steenkamp	

1. SAPS DOG UNIT INFORMATION	
SAPS Dog Unit: Pinelands	Province: Western Cape
Address:	Jan Smuts Drive, Pinelands, Cape Town.
GPS Co-ordinates:	-33.926077, 18.501164
Email:	dogunit-gordonsbay@saps.gov.za

Unit Commander: Name and Surname	Col. Speelman
Tel No:	Cell No:
Email:	
Unit Second in Command: Name and Surname	Cell No: 082 522 3227
Kennel Official: Name and Surname	Cell No: -
W.O. Meyer	

2. VETERINARY INFORMATION	
SAPS Veterinarian: Practice Name, Vet Name and Surname	Dr Banderker
Tel No: 021 590 6901	Cell No: -
Email:	-

Local Veterinarian: Name and Surname	Blue Cross Veterinary Hospital / Tygerberg Animal Hospital
Practice Details:	45 Main road, Newlands
Tel No: 021 674 4090	Cell No:
Email:	admin@bluecross.co.za

The SAPS Dog Units make use of the SAPS Veterinarians based at Roodeplaat in Pretoria. If the need arises in an emergency case, they will make use of a local veterinarian.

3. GENERAL MANAGEMENT	
Number of dogs at the Unit?	369 total
Is there a "SAPS 84" file available with information on each dog?	☒ Yes + ☒ No Detail: Presidential & Lockdown dog files not on site.
Is the medical information available for each dog? e.g., vaccination cards, deworming records, etc?	☒ Yes + ☒ No Detail the records available: Presidential donated and Lockdown dogs
Breed of dogs used: i.e., German Shepherd, Border Collie, Labrador, etc.	Dutch Shepherd, Belgian Malinois, German Shepherd, Border Collie, Rottweiler

The function of dogs: <i>i.e., Patrol, Explosive, Narcotic, Tracker, Fire Accelerant, Biological Body Fluid, Search and Rescue, Protected Species, Sheep, Carcass and Hide, Currency, etc.</i>	Explosive, Narcotic, Fire Accelerant, Biological Body Fluid, Search & Rescue, Protected Species, Carcass and Hide, Tracker
Identification used: <i>i.e., Microchip, tattoo, none</i>	Microchip. Donated dogs don't have. Donated dogs have a "SR" number
Are any of the following dogs being housed at the Unit? If yes, how many?	
Crime Intelligence and Protection Services Dogs	☐ Yes ☒ No Number:
Operational Response Services Dogs	☒ Yes ☐ No Number: ± 33
Presidential Protection Services Dogs	☒ Yes ☐ No Number: 6
Port of Entry Dogs	☐ Yes ☒ No Number:

4. WORKING DETAILS OF DOGS

Duty roster available for each dog? <i>Including rest periods</i>	☒ Yes ☐ No Detail: No rest period details available
Length of each shift?	9 - 10 hours
Is an effective Injury on Duty (IOD) Protocol in place?	☒ Yes ☐ No Detail:

5. HANDLING OF DOGS

Are dogs handled well?	☒ Yes ☐ No Detail: The few that we saw, yes
Are handlers competent?	☒ Yes ☐ No Detail: Those that we observed
Are dogs well-groomed?	☒ Yes + ☒ No Detail: Ghost was in need of a brush.
Type of equipment used: <i>Leather collars/choke chains/nylon leads, etc.</i>	Leash with choke chain
Is the equipment humane?	☒ Yes ☐ No Detail: Can be disputed (choke chain)
Clean and well-maintained?	☒ Yes ☐ No Detail:

6. KENNELS

Number of kennels at the unit:	124
Description of kennels:	Enclosed section at back with sleeping board, Front half is open with wire coverage and water bowls. Entire kennel is cemented.

Adequate and suitable shelter?	☒ Yes ☐ No Detail: Enclosed back section, protecting against weather elements.
Size of kennels: May not be smaller than 2m x 4m and 1,8m high	2m x 4m x 1.8m H
Condition of kennels: i.e., good, in need of repair, loose wires, broken gate, etc.	Good
Maximum time spent in kennels?	☐ Yes ☐ No Detail: Most of the day according to discussions
Fence fighting observed?	☐ Yes ☒ No Detail: All animals in kennels
Description of exercise runs.	Grass & cement flooring. Full of faeces. No shelter. Barbed wire. Larger exercise runs not used at all & deteriorated.
Is adequate shelter available in the exercise runs?	☐ Yes ☒ No Detail: We added this to our warnings.
How often are the dogs allowed into the exercise runs?	Once a day (no record)
How many hours are the dogs allowed to spend in the exercise runs?	Min. 1 hour (no record)

7. HYGIENE

Are the kennels and exercise runs clean?	☐ Yes ☒ No Detail: The exercise runs had excess faeces. Kennels were clean.
Cleaning/disinfectant products used?	☒ Yes ☐ No Detail: Chlorine system in place.
How often are the kennels disinfected?	Daily
Are the dogs removed from the kennels during cleaning?	☒ Yes ☐ No Detail: Placed in exercise runs. Did not see.
What measures are in place to control flies & rodents?	They have rodent boxes. Did not observe fly traps.
Is the grass at the Unit kept short to prevent ticks and snakes?	☒ Yes ☐ No Detail: We observed it freshly cut.

8. FOOD AND WATER

How often are the dogs fed?	Once a day
Quantity of food?	700grams except for one dog
Brands of food used?	Olympic brand
The general hygiene of the food store? i.e., clean, dirty, smelly, etc.	Clean and Neat

Is potable water available for all the dogs?	☒ Yes Detail:	☐ No
Are there any poisons or dangerous chemicals kept in the feed room?	☐ Yes Detail:	☒ No This is kept seperately

9. HEALTH MANAGEMENT

Dipping bath available?	☒ Yes Detail:	☐ No was filled with Dip
Is the dipping bath in good working order?	☒ Yes Detail:	☐ No Leave water in
How often are dogs dipped?	Weekly	
Other forms of parasite control (internal and external): i.e., Bravecto, Frontline, flea powder, etc.	Some are on Bravecto if recommended by vet.	
General condition of dogs: i.e., poor, fair, good, obese, etc.	fair to obese in body condition	
Any sick or injured dogs observed?	☒ Yes Detail:	☐ No Architta & Ice & Kudjo
Any signs of behavioural problems? i.e., stereotypical barking/spinning, etc.	☒ Yes Detail:	☐ No Spinning, hiding (Razor, Drago, Ronan, Roy, Rogue, Mica, Ace, Evan)

10. TRANSPORTATION

Method of transport:	Equipped bakkie or trailer	
Are dogs muzzled during transport?	☐ Yes Detail:	☒ No
Travelling time?	1 hour ~ 1H30	
Traveling conditions? i.e., rough terrain, etc.	should be tarred roads.	
The general roadworthiness of vehicles:	Good, except trailer had expired license disc	
Are the transport cages/trailers clean?	☒ Yes Detail:	☐ No Rubbed & ready for use.
Are the doors secured to prevent escape or theft?	☒ Yes Detail:	☐ No Locks / central lock in / bars on car window
Do the dogs have enough space to stand, turn, and lie down?	☒ Yes Detail:	☐ No

Is the flooring suitable? <i>Non-slip & comfortable</i>	☒ Yes ☐ No Detail: <u>Rubberised surfaces</u>
Is ventilation suitable?	☒ Yes ☐ No Detail: <u>Air vent holes</u>
Is there potential for exhaust fumes entering the dog's space?	☐ Yes ☒ No Detail: <u>The trailer has a shield in front.</u>

11. RETIRED DOGS

What do they do with retired dogs?	<u>Some handlers adopt them / they go to Rooideplaas.</u>
Where are they kept?	<u>In kennels</u>
Is a suitable rehoming policy in place?	☐ Yes ☐ No Detail: <u>According to SAPS, yes did not have example.</u>
Are pre- and post-home checks done?	☐ Yes ☐ No Detail: <u>According to SAPS, yes</u>
Are all dogs sterilised before rehoming?	☒ Yes ☐ No Detail: <u>They sterilize all dogs</u>

12. INSPECTOR NOTES

Any signs of neglect or cruelty in terms of the Animals Protection Act 71 of 1962?	
☒ Yes ☐ No	
If yes, describe: <u>veterinary concerns, behavioural concerns, cleanliness issues, exercise / relief concerns.</u>	
Immediate intervention required?	☒ Yes ☐ No
Will a docket be opened against the facility?	☐ Yes ☐ No Details: <u>possibly, if not compliant</u>
Follow-up action required.	☒ Yes ☐ No When: <u>30 Sept 2026</u>
Photos/Videos taken?	☒ Yes ☐ No
Notice or warning issued?	☒ Yes ☐ No NR: <u>15184 - 15187</u>
Issued for: <u>veterinary concerns, etc. as mentioned above</u>	
INSPECTOR: <u>E. Steenkamp & R. Davids.</u>	SIGNATURE: <u>[Signature]</u>
DATE: <u>15/09/2026</u>	TIME: <u>17H30</u>
A copy of this Inspection, all photos, videos, and Warnings must be forwarded to the NSPCA Special Projects Unit to enable the NSPCA to pursue any contraventions with the relevant Provincial and National Directorate of the SAPS.	