

INSPECTOR NOTE

Building: KLEINBERG CONTRACTERS ACCOMMODATION

Street: 0 R45 & R27

Suburb:

Postal Code:

Date: 2026-07-03

Time: 12:00

Inspector: JAMESON OCTOBER

Type: CASE DISCUSSION NOTE

Follow-Up Date:

Comments:

Dear Louise,

Without veterinary reports, it is not possible to prove that the animals suffered .

Did Inspector October speak to the owners about safeguarding their animals? As the owners, they are responsible for keeping their animals safe, and their inability to do so resulted in harm to their animals.

Kind regards

Madelyn Venter

National Inspector

Society Liaison Unit

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This email is subject to the following disclaimer.

From: Louise van Zyl <louise@swartlandwestcoastspca.co.za>

Sent: Friday, 03 July 2026 13:15

To: Society Liaison Unit 6 <liaison6@nspca.co.za>

Cc: NSPCA Liaison Unit Administrator <liaison@nspca.co.za>;
chairman@swartlandwestcoastspca.co.za; NSPCA Communications Unit Manager
<comms@nspca.co.za>

Subject: Re: FW: URGENT: Severe Animal Cruelty & Carcass Mutilation Case - West Coast

Hi Madelyn

I am well hope you are too.

No the body was not taken for a post mortem and the second dog was not hit by a bullet he got away in time. But the farmer confirmed that he tried to shoot both but that one got away.

The body was buried already.

Kind regards

On Fri, Jul 3, 2026, 12:04 Society Liaison Unit 6 <liaison6@nspca.co.za> wrote:

Dear Louise

I hope you are well.

Was the body of the dog that passed away taken by the owners for a post mortem , and was the second dog that was shot assessed by the vet and a vet report obtained?

Kind regards

Madelyn Venter

National Inspector

Society Liaison Unit

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This email is subject to the following disclaimer.

From: Louise van Zyl <louise@swartlandwestcoastspca.co.za>
Sent: Friday, 03 July 2026 11:57
To: NSPCA Liaison Unit Administrator <liaison@nspca.co.za>
Cc: chairman@swartlandwestcoastspca.co.za; Society Liaison Unit 6 <liaison6@nspca.co.za>;
NSPCA Communications Unit Manager <comms@nspca.co.za>
Subject: Re: FW: URGENT: Severe Animal Cruelty & Carcass Mutilation Case - West Coast

Dear Lisa,

We would appreciate the NSPCA's guidance and advice regarding the above matter. Following the complaint received on 2 July 2026, we would value your opinion on whether there are any further steps that should be taken from an animal welfare perspective.

Inspector Jameson October attended the Kleinberg Accommodation property on 2 July 2026, where he met with Ms Mandy Rae, who submitted the complaint on 2 July 2026. Ms Rae directed him to the residence of the owners of the deceased dog, Mrs Julie Thorpe and Mr Vernon Thorpe.

Inspector October interviewed Mr and Mrs Thorpe regarding the incident. Mrs Thorpe advised that on 28 June 2026 their two dogs left their property. Their residence is not enclosed by fencing. According to Mr and Mrs Thorpe, they heard what they believe were three gunshots. They subsequently found one of the dogs, Naka, lying deceased on the neighbouring farm owned by Mr Johan Hurter. They further advised that the second dog, Mia, was also shot at but managed to return home safely. It is therefore possible that one or more of the additional shots were directed at the second dog.

The deceased dog has since been buried.

Inspector October specifically enquired about the allegation that the carcass had been mutilated in an attempt to remove bullets. Mr and Mrs Thorpe showed him the attached photograph, which they submitted as evidence of the alleged mutilation. Inspector October asked why photographs had not been taken of the dog prior to burial, particularly photographs showing the alleged gunshot wounds. They were unable to explain why only the attached photograph, depicting the dog inside a bag, had been taken.

Mr and Mrs Thorpe confirmed that the matter has been reported to the South African Police Service.

Inspector October explained that the allegations relating to threats made against persons, fencing disputes, and any possible criminal offences outside the scope of the Animals Protection Act fall within the jurisdiction of SAPS.

With regard to the allegations of trapping domestic cats, no person present was able to provide first-hand evidence that trapping was taking place. Those interviewed indicated that they had only heard rumours to that effect. Inspector October did not observe any trapping devices on or around the areas he inspected.

Inspector October also established that there is no person named "Frikkie" residing or working on the property who is allegedly responsible for the shooting or trapping.

Inspector October subsequently contacted the farm manager at Kleinberg, who provided the contact details of the farm owner, Mr Johan Hurter.

Inspector October spoke telephonically with Mr Hurter. Mr Hurter vehemently denied trapping domestic animals or wildlife of any kind. He advised that he observed the two dogs amongst his sheep and lambs and requested his neighbour, Francois, to shoot the dogs in order to protect the livestock. Mr Hurter further advised that an attempt was made to shoot the second dog as well, but that it escaped through the fencing. This could explain the additional gunshots reported by the owners.

Mr Hurter further stated that he maintains his fencing to contain his livestock and does not believe he can reasonably be expected to alter or upgrade his fencing to prevent neighbouring dogs from entering his property. Inspector October observed that the neighbouring Kleinberg Accommodation residences are not individually fenced, allowing dogs to leave those properties freely.

Mr Hurter also denied the allegation that the carcass had been mutilated or that any attempt had been made to remove bullets from the dog. He stated that, after the incident, the owner requested that the dog's body be returned, whereafter he instructed one of his employees to deliver the carcass. Mr Hurter openly admitted that he had instructed that the dog be shot after observing it amongst his sheep and lambs, as he believed his livestock were in danger. He stated that, given that he does not dispute that the dog was shot, he had no reason to remove any bullets from the carcass and denied that this had occurred.

From our investigation, we have unfortunately not been able to obtain objective evidence that would allow us to prove unnecessary suffering or cruelty as contemplated by the Animals Protection Act. While we fully appreciate the distressing nature of the incident and sympathise with the owners of the dog, the available evidence currently appears to confirm that the dog was intentionally shot after entering a property where livestock were present. The remaining allegations relating to mutilation of the carcass, trapping of animals, and other matters are disputed and, at this stage, are not supported by independent evidence.

We would nevertheless sincerely appreciate the NSPCA's opinion on whether you believe there are any additional investigative steps we should take or whether, based on the available information, the matter has been sufficiently investigated from an animal welfare perspective.

Kind regards,
LOUISE VAN ZYL 2026-07-03 12:00

Captured By: