

INSPECTOR NOTE

Building:	
Street:	ALAN ROAD
Suburb:	
Postal Code:	1574
Date:	2025-01-23
Time:	12:45
Inspector:	ANNECIA MORTON

Type:	CASE DISCUSSION NOTE
Follow-Up Date:	

Comments:

After arriving at the property Captain du Toit spoke with both Ms. Terblanche and Ms. Marx advising them that they were in contravention of a court order by having animals in their care and possession that was made out against them. Ms Terblanche tried explaining that they were rescues, it was again reiterated to them that this was still a violation of their court order.

Ms Angelique Terblanche and Ms Engela Marx were both present at the property at the time of arrival. The following animals were found to be in their possession and they were seized into the custody of the Springs SPCA under regulation 468 and as per the court order

- a. 1X Black Labrador cross, female, intact.
- b. 1X Black Labrador cross, male intact
- c. 1X Black Labrador cross, male intact
- d. 1X Tan and white Cross breed, female intact
- e. 1X Grey tan Husky Cross male, intact (Puppy succumbed to parvo at the property)
- f. 1X Ginger kitten, female, intact
- g. 1X Black and white, male kitten intact
- h. 1X Black, male kitten intact
- i. 1X Tortoiseshell female cat, pregnant
- j. 1X Rat female
- k. 8X Chickens

On entering the courtyard four (4) dogs were found, three of them being black and the other brownish colouring, of the four (4) dogs, two (2) were male Labrador crosses both were intact along with a female Labrador cross and another female cross breed both were also intact, their body condition was satisfactory and no immediate welfare concerns were noted.

Ms Marx came out the room with a female tortoiseshell-coloured cat in her arms advising me the cat was pregnant, due to the dogs being a little agitated I requested that the cat be placed in the safety of the SPCA vehicle so as not to cause her any distress.

I was advised by Ms Terblanche, and Ms. Marx that they were treating a sick puppy, at this point I had not seen the puppy. I enquired as to what other animals were on the property and was advised that there were kittens, rat/s, and chickens.

Captain du Toit removed both Ms. Terblanche and Ms. Marx to his police vehicle and allowed me to proceed with finding the remaining animals that were there in order to bring them into the custody of the SPCA. The following was noted;

When I wanted to check on the condition of a reported sick puppy, I immediately noticed the absence of the puppy in question. After inquiring with the other residents present, there was an initial reluctance by a young boy to reveal the location of the animal. Following persistent questioning, the young boy, uncovered the puppy that had been hidden under a blanket on Ms. Terblanche and Ms. Marx's bed. The puppy was in a severely distressed condition, showing clear signs of suffering. The symptoms exhibited by the puppy, including lethargy, weakness, and laboured breathing, and bloody diarrhoea, were consistent with Canine Parvovirus (commonly known as Parvo), a highly contagious and often fatal viral disease in unvaccinated puppies.

Next to the bed, I observed a concoction of banana, sugar, and water, which, as explained by the young boy, had been given to the puppy as a form of treatment. This mixture is not a medically recognized remedy for Parvo and clearly demonstrates the lack of proper veterinary care being provided to the animal. Ms. Terblanche and Ms. Marx had neglected to seek professional treatment for the puppy, despite its deteriorating condition.

Recognizing the immediate distress of the puppy, I quickly sent a short video of its condition to Dr. RG Newby, a licensed veterinarian, for confirmation and advice on how to proceed. After reviewing the video, Dr. Newby instructed me to euthanize the puppy to prevent further suffering, as its condition was beyond recovery.

I immediately followed the instructions and began preparing to take the puppy to the vehicle for humane euthanasia. However, by the time we reached the vehicle, the puppy had already succumbed to its illness, tragically passing away, which could have been preventable with timely vaccinations and veterinary intervention.

It is my opinion that the failure of Ms. Terblanche and Ms. Marx to provide the puppy with proper veterinary attention, opting instead for home remedies, directly contributed to the untimely death of the puppy. Their actions, or lack thereof, demonstrate clear negligence in providing the necessary care for the puppy, and their conduct amounts to animal cruelty.

The puppy suffered unnecessarily due to this neglect, and had it received appropriate medical care at an earlier stage, its life could potentially have been saved. Instead, it was left to endure the horrible effects of Parvovirus, which ultimately claimed its life.

When entering the room, I observed an orange crate suspended from a curtain rail in the living area. Contained within this crate were three (3) kittens, confined with no access to basic necessities.

a. Kittens' Description:

- i. One (1) female kitten with ginger-coloured fur.
- ii. One (1) male kitten with black and white fur.
- iii. One (1) male kitten with black fluffy fur.

All three kittens appeared distressed and exhibited signs of poor health.

There was no food or water available for the kittens. These are basic necessities for their survival, and the absence of food or water constitutes neglect. Kittens, being in their developmental stages, require frequent access to nutrition and hydration. Without proper nourishment, they are at risk of malnutrition, dehydration, and other health complications, which could result in severe physical and developmental damage.

The crate lacked any form of litter box or suitable area for the kittens to relieve themselves. This creates unsanitary conditions, causing distress and discomfort to the animals, as they are unable to follow their natural instincts for hygiene. It can also lead to the build-up of waste within the crate, exacerbating the risk of infections or skin conditions.

The kittens were confined within a small crate, which severely limited their movement. Such confinement in an elevated, enclosed space prevents the kittens from engaging in normal behaviours such as playing, exploring, or resting comfortably. This environmental deprivation can lead to both physical and mental suffering. Long-term confinement without appropriate space can result in muscular atrophy, emotional stress, and behavioural issues, all of which harm the kittens' development.

The kittens were observed to be in poor condition, exhibiting symptoms consistent with a treatable condition known as snuffles, a respiratory illness. If left untreated, snuffles can worsen, potentially leading to chronic respiratory problems, secondary bacterial infections, and even death. The condition is treatable with timely medical intervention, including antiviral medication, antibiotics, and supportive care. However, the state in which these kittens were found strongly suggests that they had not received appropriate veterinary care, further contributing to their suffering.

The living conditions these kittens were subjected to are in clear violation of basic animal welfare standards. The lack of food, water, sanitary facilities, and adequate space has resulted in severe neglect, causing the kittens to suffer physically and emotionally. Furthermore, the untreated medical condition (snuffles) further endangers their health and well-being. If immediate intervention is not taken, the health of these kittens will continue to deteriorate, leading to a higher risk of complications or death. Based on what I observed, it is clear that the kittens were subjected to inhumane conditions that compromised their health and well-being. Their confinement, lack of basic necessities, and untreated medical condition constitute a severe case of neglect and animal cruelty. Immediate action must be taken to rescue the kittens, provide necessary medical care, and ensure their recovery.

While in the room, I saw a metal cage mounted on the wall. This cage contained a female rat in extremely poor living conditions, which constituted clear neglect and a violation of basic animal welfare

standards.

Inside the cage, I found old food that had visibly deteriorated and was covered in mould. The presence of mould in the food poses significant health risks to the rat. Consuming mouldy food can lead to digestive issues, respiratory infections, and even poisoning due to the mycotoxins that mould often produces. This demonstrates a lack of care and attention to the rat's basic nutritional needs.

The cage contained a substantial amount of old faeces, indicating that it had not been cleaned in a long time. The accumulation of waste creates an unsanitary environment, which increases the risk of bacterial infections, which are harmful to the rat's health. Moreover, exposure to the ammonia can cause respiratory issues and other health complications.

The bedding within the cage was filthy and appeared to be damp and unclean. Rats require clean and dry bedding for both comfort and hygiene. Dirty bedding can cause skin infections, irritation, and sores, and prolonged exposure to damp conditions increases the likelihood of respiratory illnesses.

I found that there was insufficient water available to the rat. Rats need consistent access to clean, fresh water to maintain their hydration and overall health. Dehydration can lead to lethargy, weakness, and organ failure, potentially causing severe distress and suffering if not addressed.

There was no appropriate food specific to the nutritional needs of a rat visible in the cage. Rats require a balanced diet that includes a mixture of fresh produce, grains, and protein to ensure their health and well-being. The absence of suitable food could lead to malnutrition, weakened immunity, and developmental problems.

The conditions in which this female rat was found were appalling and unacceptable. The combination of unsanitary living conditions, inadequate water, and lack of proper food constitutes a clear case of neglect. These conditions not only caused the rat to suffer but al

ANNECIA LE ROUX 2025-01-23 12:45

Captured By: