

SPRINGS SPCA
INSPECTOR REPORT

PHBP15044

Complaint Reference No.

Building:
Street: 9 ROGERS ROAD
Suburb: SELECTION PARK
Postal Code: 1559
Inspector: CHARNE HAND
Date of Inspection: 2025-02-25
Time of Inspection: 16:53

RESPONDENT'S DETAILS

Name: JUAN LAUBSCHER
Company:
Identification:
Email:
Tel 1:
Tel 2: 0672631244

REPORT

Access Granted By: JUAN LAUBSCHER
Comment:
Were Animals Seen on the Property: Yes
Relationship to Property Owner:
Captured By: CHARNE HAND 2025-02-28 10:07

CHECKLISTS

CONFINEMENT OF ANIMALS	Caged - adequate space	The chameleons are kept in an enclosure.
ADEQUATE SPACE AVAILABLE	Yes	
CLEAN LIVING ENVIRONMENT	Yes	
WATER AVAILABLE	Yes	
ADEQUATE SHELTER AVAILABLE	Yes	
ANIMALS IN GOOD CONDITION	Yes	
VETERINARY PROBLEMS / HEALTH CO	No	

General Report Comments: Upon arrival at the block of flats, I contacted Mr. Laubscher to request access to the property, and he promptly opened the gate for me. I entered the flat and found the tank containing the two chameleons in the lounge. I was able to confirm that one chameleon was a Flap Neck and the other was a Veiled. Mr. Laubscher informed me that he had acquired the Flap Neck chameleon in Rustenburg, near Sun City, on the 23rd of November 2024. Approximately a month later, he acquired the Veiled chameleon locally in Springs from a property where the chameleon had been abandoned by the previous owners.

Mr. Laubscher further explained that the Flap Neck chameleon had been examined by a woman named Katheryn Matthews from Edenvale, whom he believed to be an animal rescuer. According to Mr. Laubscher, Katheryn had identified that the chameleon had a skin infection and required antibiotics, which she provided to him. She also gave him advice on how to properly care for and house the chameleons.

I informed Mr. Laubscher that the Flap Neck chameleon is an indigenous species and, as such, cannot be kept as a pet or sold without the proper permit. I also explained that it is inappropriate to house two different species of chameleons together, as this can cause stress, given that chameleons are solitary animals. Mr. Laubscher appeared surprised by this information and questioned why Katheryn had not informed him of these regulations. I explained that it was highly likely that Katheryn was not associated with a registered and accredited wildlife rehabilitation center. Mr. Laubscher immediately agreed to surrender the Flap Neck chameleon to the Springs SPCA.

Upon physically inspecting both chameleons, they appeared to be in satisfactory body condition. I noted that the Veiled chameleon showed no signs of unshed skin, and inquired about its shedding process, as the photographs from the complaint had shown that one of its legs was still in the process of shedding. Mr. Laubscher stated that the chameleon had just completed shedding and that he had not noticed any issues with the process.

The enclosure was a glass tank with plastic ventilation grids on the sides and metal mesh grids on the top, providing adequate ventilation. The substrate was a reptile-specific material, and the tank contained a mix of artificial leafy plants and real Snake Plants, along with logs, which contributed to a natural environment and provided sufficient climbing space. The sides and back of the tank were adorned with natural stickers to reduce glass reflection. A ceramic bowl filled with water was placed in the tank, though Mr. Laubscher explained that it was primarily intended to help maintain humidity, as he misted the tank and allowed the chameleons to drink water droplets.

Before concluding the inspection, I asked Mr. Laubscher whether he still intended to sell the Veiled chameleon or if he would be willing to surrender it to the SPCA as well. Mr. Laubscher decided that he would like to keep the Veiled chameleon.

ACTIONS

Warning Issued	10473
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REPORT OUTCOMES

ANIMAL(S) SIGNED OVER	SuOth5266
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CASE FINALISED - NFA

INSPECTION ANIMALS

Description:

1 x WILDLIFE (CHAMELEON) - UNSTERILISED CALLED 'SONNY' (COLOUR: GREEN) CONDITION: SATISFACTORY

Description:

1 x WILDLIFE (CHAMELEON) - UNSTERILISED CONDITION: SATISFACTORY