

INSPECTOR NOTE

Building:	
Street:	3 STORMBERG CRESCENT
Suburb:	BONNIE BRAE
Postal Code:	7570
Date:	2025-11-05
Time:	12:54
Inspector:	RUDOLPH PHILANDER
Type:	EMAIL - SENT
Follow-Up Date:	2025-11-12

Comments:

Dear Ms Smuts

The Cape of Good Hope SPCA acknowledges receipt of your correspondence dated 3 November 2025, which was submitted via the NSPCA. After careful review of your complaint and the inspection reports relating to your property, we provide the following response.

On 27 October 2025, Inspector Lee Prins was dispatched to conduct a lawful inspection at your premises, following a complaint from our adoptions team after they conducted a pre-home inspection as requested by the Nigel SPCA. Our Adoptions team was appalled with their findings, to say the least, which necessitated a complaint to our Inspectorate for further action.

During the inspection, the following findings were recorded:

The property housed a large number of animals, namely 21 cats, 2 birds, 1 dog, and 1 tortoise;
The living environment was cluttered and unhygienic;
Several cats were underweight or suffering from visible skin conditions, and one cat presented with suspected cancer;
The bird cages were dirty, and the respondent confirmed no valid permits for the dove or tortoise.

As a result, Warning No. 14974 was lawfully issued, directing you to:

Clean the bird cage within 72 hours;
Obtain veterinary treatment for the cats identified as needing care and provide the SPCA with veterinary reports; and
Clean the cats' living environment within 7 days.
You subsequently surrendered the dove and tortoise voluntarily due to not possessing the legally required permits.

The SPCA is mandated by the Animals Protection Act 71 of 1962 and the SPCA Act 169 of 1993 to investigate all matters where animal welfare may be compromised. The SPCA has both the authority and duty to act when animals are found to be suffering, neglected, or kept in conditions inconsistent with humane care. Contrary to your assertion, the SPCA is not required by law to issue a warning prior to instituting enforcement action. The Inspector exercised discretion and leniency by issuing a written warning and allowing an opportunity for compliance instead of proceeding immediately with seizure or prosecution. Your voluntary surrender of the dove and tortoise was appropriate. Keeping indigenous wild animals without valid permits contravenes the Nature Conservation Ordinance 19 of 1974, and their removal was therefore lawful and necessary.

Your allegations of harassment, victimisation, racism and intimidation are entirely without merit. The Inspectors acted professionally, respectfully, and strictly within the scope of their legal authority. It is routine procedure for Inspectors to take photographs and notes during inspections to document their findings. These actions do not constitute harassment but form part of proper evidence-gathering and compliance monitoring. The SPCA's sole concern is the welfare of animals. The inspection, findings, and directives were based solely on the conditions observed and not on any personal, racial, or discriminatory factors.

I personally reviewed the reports, photographs, and associated documentation. The findings of the Inspectors were substantiated and justified. The actions taken were necessary and proportionate to the conditions found on the property. Your compliance following the issuance of the warning is noted. However, please be advised that any future non-compliance or deterioration of conditions may result in enforcement action without further notice, including prosecution or seizure of animals, as provided for under law.

The Cape of Good Hope SPCA will not tolerate unfounded allegations against its officials performing their lawful duties. Our mandate is clear: to prevent cruelty and ensure the humane treatment of all animals.

We urge you to continue adhering to the directives issued and to maintain the improvements observed during the follow-up inspection. Doing so will prevent further intervention from the SPCA.

Kind regards

Chief Inspector Jaco Pieterse

Bachelor of Laws (LLB)
RUDOLPH PHILANDER 2025-11-05 12:54

Captured By: