



Career as an SPCA Inspector

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Introduction

The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) is a non-governmental organisation. It is an animal welfare organisation and is registered as non profit organisation. The SPCA movement is dependant on public funding and donations. No government funding is received. Any income received from Municipalities is not a grant but payment for services rendered such as enforcing by-laws or the collection of strays.

There are over 90 registered individual SPCAs throughout South Africa, all falling under the National Council of SPCAs (NSPCA). The SPCA movement enforces over 90% of animal welfare legislation within South Africa. We are involved in all fields where there are animals – domestic, farm, research, aees and wild. We strive to improve the lives and welfare of animals through education and law enforcement.

The function of a qualified Inspector is broad-based, requiring commitment, the ability to be objective and the willingness to learn. The Inspector has a key role in animal welfare, and carries out a variety of functions, from sensitising children to compassion for animals to educating members of public with regard to correct animal handling and care; from handling all animals to inspecting circuses and livestock saleyards; from rescuing animals to investigating and laying criminal charges against people who have perpetrated deliberate or negligent acts of cruelty.

How to become an SPCA Inspector

An SPCA Inspector has to be a highly trained and skilled person who is able to deal with both people and animals. A training process has to be followed and only candidates who pass the national examinations will qualify and be recognised as an Inspector or Senior Inspector.

Basic Requirements

- ✓ Minimum age is 18 years
- ✓ No criminal record
- ✓ Valid, unendorsed driver's licence is required
- ✓ Minimum academic qualification is Grade 12 or equivalent
- ✓ Must have been working at an SPCA for at least 3 months and be nominated by their Society to attend a training course

Candidate should be:-

- Able to express themselves well in both verbal and written communications
- Have an outgoing, friendly but also authoritative personality
- Emotionally stable
- Physically fit, able and in good health
- Courageous and determined
- Self motivated and hard working
- Honest and reliable
- Socially and environmentally aware
- Willing to learn and share knowledge
- Caring and Compassionate
- Should have a desire to work with animals
- Fully compliant with the SPCA Statement of Policy



How to begin training:-

Candidates need to be employed by an SPCA where they must serve a probationary period of at least 3 months either as volunteer or paid member of staff. When the candidate is considered ready, the SPCA will book him or her in with the National SPCA where he or she will write an entrance examination – which if passed, will give him or her entrance to the Inspectors Training Course.

Attending the Inspectors Training Course:-



The trainee must attend a two week Inspectors Training Course (at the NSPCA offices in Gauteng) and the trainees are required to attend all lectures and practicals as well as undertake a variety of tasks during this time period.

At the end of this period an examination must be written which has to be passed before the candidate can move on to the next stage of the requirements.

Final Requirements:-

The final level in becoming an Inspector is to complete a written assignment on a specified topic.

The trainee is also required to qualify as an Animal Welfare Assistant, which legally enables him or her to perform certain basic functions in terms of the South African Veterinary Council (SAVC) requirements.

Once the trainee has successfully completed this, he or she will then be authorised as an Inspector. The Senior Inspector examination can only be applied for after working 3 years at an SPCA, after which another training course and examination must be attended.



Keeping up to date:-

All inspectors have to attend refresher courses every five years to ensure they keep abreast of new developments in all aspects of our work.

Your career keeps growing:-

After 3 years you may be eligible to apply for the Senior Inspectors Training course. There are specific requirement that must be fulfilled in order to attend. This is a very challenging course and Inspectors have to put in an enormous amount of studying, practical work and of course participate fully if they want to attempt to qualify.

For more information e.mail us at:- training@nspca.co.za