



This is YOUR SPCA

Issued by the
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF SPCAS

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"To the young child, there is no gap between his soul and that of animals."

G. Stanley Hall (1904)

HISTORY

The first SPCA in South Africa was started approximately 125 years ago, and today there are over 90 SPCAs throughout South Africa, ranging from very small in size to very large.

Over the years, as the number of SPCAs grew, their management teams realised that a forum was needed to address common issues as well as ensure uniformity, the maintenance of high standards of welfare and quality service to the community.

The result? The National Council of SPCAs (NSPCA) was founded in 1955 as the Federation of SPCAs to provide a forum to bring uniformity to welfare legislation and standards. The 92 member SPCAs in South Africa are governed by the SPCA Act 169 of 1993 which is administered by the NSPCA, thus constituting us as a statutory body.



WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO YOU, THE CONSUMER?

This means that each SPCA operates according to a set of standard regulations against which their performance and your expectations can be measured.

SO WHAT IS THE SPCA'S MISSION?

It is exactly as our name indicates. Our mission is the prevention of cruelty to animals, by way of education, law enforcement, and pro-active and reactive activities.

This means that we are concerned with the welfare of all animals, from the tiniest mouse right up to the largest blue whale.

In other words, we freely stick our noses in where there are domestic animals, farm animals, working animals, traction animals, animals reared for food, wild animals, animals used for entertainment and exhibition, animals used in sport, hunted animals,

animals placed in danger, animals used for research and so on.

The SPCA is responsible for supporting the SA Police Services in enforcing legislation including but not limited to the Animals Protection Act and the Performing Animals Protection Act.

HOW DOES AN SPCA OPERATE?

Although your SPCA is a non-profit organisation (charity) it is run on business principles.

From the top down, the SPCA comprises a Management Committee which oversees the SPCA. The Management Committee issues instructions to its Manager/ Chief Executive Officer who in turn is responsible overall for ensuring that the SPCA under his / her command runs properly.



He / she does this by working in conjunction with the different units such as Inspectorate, Kennels, Equine, Education, Public Relations, Fund-raising, Administration and Maintenance.

BASIC EXPECTATIONS FROM YOUR SPCA

- To uphold the standards of the SPCA movement.
- Clean facilities and vehicles.
- To be treated with courtesy and respect by the staff and volunteers of the SPCA.
- To know that staff and volunteers are handling the animals properly with care and dignity and that they are setting an example to you.
- To respond immediately to an emergency.
- To respond within 24 hours to a cruelty case report.
- To receive a telephonic report back of what has happened if you lodged a cruelty complaint.
- Not to refuse admission to an unwanted, abandoned or stray animal.
- To be vigilant when finding homes for animals.
- To be given the reason if you are refused for adoption of an animal.

- To be provided with all known information about an animal that is up for adoption (other than the details of its previous owners).

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why doesn't my SPCA have boarding kennels?

Appropriately designed kennels are very expensive to build and in reality make little if any profit - this is the task of the private business sector.

Why won't the SPCA spay my bitch? Very few SPCAs can afford to employ vets. In any event, you will have to complete an Almoning Form and provide basic details of your Income and Expenditure – the SPCA will then be able to assess whether you qualify for subsidised veterinary assistance or not. You may already have done so, and have not qualified, because the SPCA is only allowed to assist people who genuinely cannot afford the services of a private vet. (This applies equally to the treatment of all animals.)

Why won't you let me give a cat a good home just because I cannot afford your ridiculous prices? It is our responsibility to ensure that the animals in our care go to the right homes and that



the people who adopt them can afford to care for them. (Our concern would be whether or not you could afford the services of a private vet if you cannot afford a cost-effective adoption fee.) Our prices may seem to be high, but remember that they do include mandatory sterilisation and in some cases

also includes vaccination and deworming.

Why is the SPCA refusing to give me the dog that I want? It is possible that your property is not suitable for the animal that you require. There may be other factors such as any other dogs or cats that you have, with which the dog you want would clash. For instance, as a general rule of thumb, you should not keep male dogs together. Perhaps you also have a cat, and the dog is known to be a cat chaser. An animal is in the kennels because someone has either not been able to keep it or because someone has

failed in their responsibilities and it has arrived as a stray.

Why can't I let my dog, which I adopted as a puppy, have a litter before it is sterilised?

There are thousands of animals born annually which cannot find homes and are unwanted. A pair of dogs can procreate an incredible 85000 offspring over 4 years – many of which end up in our facilities and there is no medical advantage to allowing a bitch or queen to have a litter. It is for those reasons that the SPCA will not accede to your request in terms of their legislation, so the answer is NO.

Why are you opposed to people eating meat?

Not true. You are free to choose whether to eat meat or not. However, the animals must be reared, transported and slaughtered humanely – all too often this does not happen. The same goes for the production of eggs. Laying chickens are kept in horrifying conditions which is why we encourage the purchase of free range eggs. We are animal welfarists who aim to ensure optimum welfare standards by working with industries as opposed to animal rightists who object on emotional grounds without providing realistic alternatives.

I called the SPCA to catch a dog in the street, why wouldn't they come?

You make no mention of whether or not the dog was injured. In the event that a dog or cat has been run over and is still alive, the SPCA will respond immediately. However, there is no point in the SPCA wasting valuable resources because a dog or cat in the street will be long gone by the time that they arrive.



I saw a truck carrying pigs last night and it looked overloaded, what could I have done?

The following is generally true for all cruelty incidents that people witness. Note details such as vehicle registration number (if applicable), time, address where incident has or is occurring, and give the details to your SPCA when reporting it – call the

SPCA immediately that you observe an incident. Please do not stop trucks, and if there are animals on a busy road or highway, call the nearest traffic department, otherwise your well-intentioned actions could put other motorists in danger.

How much does the SPCA get from the government? Nothing. Zilch. Zero. An SPCA can however negotiate with their local municipality to act as a Stray Animal Pound, in which event the money that they receive is specifically for dealing with strays.

Where does the money come from to run the SPCA? SPCAs, like all other charities, are reliant on your generosity and the goodwill of the public and business. People can also leave money in their wills to their favourite SPCA.

I reported a cruelty case to my SPCA – why didn't they do anything about it? It is likely that they did investigate the matter but did not get back to you. The SPCA must deal with emergencies immediately and investigate cruelty reports within 24 hours of receiving them. Please contact your SPCA and find out what they did about your cruelty report.

