



serving animals since 1897

**DURBAN & COAST SOCIETY
FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS**

NPO Reg. No. 002-312

113th ANNUAL REPORT

For the year ending 31 March 2010





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DURBAN & COAST SPCA

Patron

Councillor Mr Obed Mlaba *eThekweni Mayor*

President

Mr P E Chrystal

Management Committee

Dr J Morton

Mr N Aubert

Mrs T Pedlar-Wright

Ms T Costas

Mr M Hands

Mr Y Saib

Chairman

Vice Chairman

Honorary Treasurer

Honorary Secretary

Representatives

eThekweni Municipality

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Councillor M Abraham

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113TH ANNUAL REPORT

For the year ending 31 March 2010

Notice is hereby given that the 113th Annual General Meeting of the above Society will take place at the Durban & Coast SPCA, 2 Willowfield Crescent, Springfield Park on **Saturday 10 July 2010 at 14h00.**

1. Notice convening the Meeting.
2. Confirmation of Minutes of the 112th Annual General Meeting held on 4 July 2009.
3. Chairman to move the adoption of the Management Committee Report and Balance Sheet.
4. Appointment of the Auditors for the year ending 2011.
5. Election of President.
6. Election of Officers.
7. Long Service Awards.
8. General.

By Order of the Management Committee
Dr. J Morton, Chairman

Minutes of the 112th Annual General Meeting, Balance Sheet and Accounts will be available at the Meeting.



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

A warm welcome to you all!

I would like to start off by thanking all our members, supporters, volunteers, staff, Management Committee, Trust and the general public who have contributed to keeping the Durban & Coast SPCA and our branch offices in Phoenix and Dolphin Coast functioning efficiently and effectively in this year of recession.

A special vote of thanks must go to Jimmy Dove who has given his all over many years to get our SPCA to where it is today. We wish him well with his retirement and grand tour of Southern Africa! I would also like to thank Lucy Farrell for all her hard work on the management committee over many years. We do also miss the expertise of Bernie Odgers who passed away last year.

We are fortunate to have a wonderful Staff who under the superb management of Chris has been able to keep our Society functioning well. Our Inspectorate has a difficult and often emotionally draining task and a special vote of thanks to them as they carry the load at the "coal face of cruelty and ignorance".

Financially we depend on funds or goods from bequests, direct appeals, bank debit orders, generous sponsors, fundraising and donors. Our golf day, charity shop and other fundraising instruments also play a vital role in keeping us financially viable. Without these generous individuals and organizations we would be unable to run our Society.

I would like to thank the Management Committee and newly co-opted members for giving their time and expertise to our Society. We are ably assisted by our exceptional secretary, thanks Liz. I would also like to thank the members of our Trust who help manage and secure our assets.

As a Society we need to keep evolving in a rapidly changing world and I would like to thank Caroline and her team for the great work done in setting up our website and Facebook group. Take a look at www.spcadbn.org.za. There is something on there for all!

Finally, keep up the good work as it will enable us to continue to help and protect the number of animals we do!



J MORTON
Chairman



MANAGER'S REPORT

This is the first annual report I have written since I started at the SPCA without Jimmy Dove being either the President or the Chairman of the Management Committee.

Jimmy decided to go 'walk about' (in his new caravan actually) with his wife Mariet and they left on their adventure at the beginning of the year.

Jimmy has been a part of our SPCA for 26 years and a director of NSPCA for a number of years.

I will miss his wise counsel, experience and his unfailing support which played such a great part in turning the fortunes of the SPCA around and finally our move to Springfield Park.

Fortunately Jimmy will never be that far away and as I said to him at a farewell function, "we bid you not goodbye but simply au revoir".

On a sad note I wish to report the passing away of Bernie Odgers who died on 15 August 2009.

Bernie was a member of the Management Committee for many years and we will all be poorer by his absence from our meetings.

Anthea Boswell who was the Manager at our Ballito branch left at the end of March 2010.

Anthea was instrumental in establishing the Ballito branch and I would like to place on record my sincere thanks for her commitment and hard work which resulted in the first class facility at Ballito.

I wish her well in the future.

The SPCA continues to thrive, thanks to the support we receive from the public.

Our band of volunteers, whose energy seems limitless when it comes to the welfare of animals, continues to provide much needed assistance whenever a call is made. Thank you for your commitment.

Thank you to the staff for their loyalty and hard work which ensures the ongoing success of our SPCA.

There have been a number of changes to the Management Committee so I would like to thank past and present members for their unfailing support over the past year.

C S MATHESON
General Manager



INSPECTORATE

This year has been testing for this department due to several members being sick and injured. Unfortunately Lisa Roberts resigned to further her education and is now a full time student at University. Once again we would like to thank the Fire Department for their continuous assistance throughout the year.

One rescue that comes to mind is that of two pups in a drain in Phoenix. It took the inspectors 22 hours to find and rescue the pups. This was made possible with the assistance of Andrew at Camjet who volunteered the use of his specialized equipment to locate the pups.

Most of the rescues received by this department are animals stuck in drains. We are excited with the news that Caroline of our Marketing Department has sent out an appeal for funds to enable us to purchase our own specialized equipment "Snake Cam" which will be of great help in the future.

One of the worst cases of cruelty was where a person threw petrol on a bitch and her two pups in her kennel and set them alight. The suspect was arrested and detained. Unfortunately due to serious burns all three had to be humanely euthanased. The case has once again been remanded.

With the implementation of the Admission of Guilt system cases have been speedily finalized resulting in the fines being paid directly to the SPCA.

We would like to thank the Committee and Management for the purchase of new vehicles which replaced the old Nissan 1400 which had served us well.

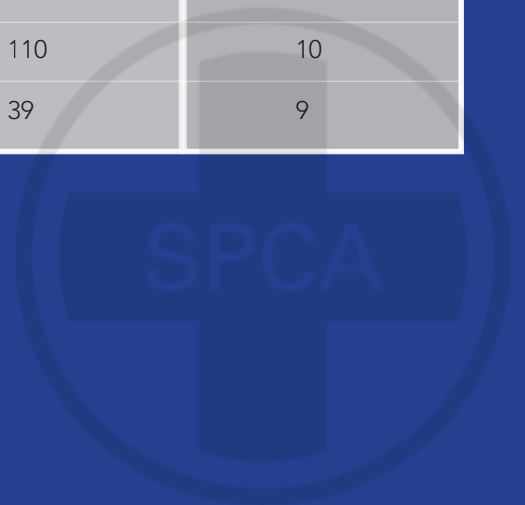
Trainee Inspector Alfred Mntungwa has passed the Inspectors Course at the NSPCA. We are now awaiting the result of his assignment.

KEVIN O'CONNOR
Head of Inspectorate



INSPECTORATE STATISTICS

	2007/2008	2008/2009	2009/2010
Investigations	7106	7776	6541
Follow Up Investigations	846	1104	1268
Prosecutions	16	12	14
Warnings Issued	509	446	646
Security Companies Checked	37	186	115
Pet Shop Checks	315	364	345
Rescues	378	495	332
Pre-Home Checks	855	987	1069
Post-Home Checks	610	796	607
Abandoned Animals	316	310	203
Spot Checks	531	397	200
Ritual Slaughter	33	110	10
Animal Farm Checks	0	39	9



KENNELS

It is interesting to note that the number of animals that came into the SPCA last year has decreased considerably from the previous year. It is difficult to determine the cause for this decrease but I hope that this is a trend which continues. We can only hope that one of the reasons for this is that owners are becoming more responsible and having their pets sterilized and vaccinated.

On the positive side the percentage of animals being adopted has increased by 1.3% and even though this figure appears small it equates to a large amount of pets finding new homes.

Through some aggressive advertising our boarding kennels saw an increase of 241% from the previous year and the kennels are now being booked well in advance of the holiday seasons.



The donations of food continue every month and we have been able to assist the smaller SPCAs with food from time to time.

We have a small band of volunteers who walk the dogs on a daily basis and the time and dedication they give to these dogs is greatly appreciated, most of all by the dogs I am sure.

Thank you to all the staff in the kennels office and the reception for their hard work and continued loyalty.

CLAIRE BUISMAN
Operations Manager

	DOGS		CATS		TOTAL	
	08/09	09/10	08/09	09/10	08/09	09/10
Strays	5592	5019	4897	4938	10489	9957
Unwanted	4111	3237	1159	994	5270	4231
Safe-Keeping	218	73	2	2	220	75
TOTAL ADMITS	9921	8329	6058	5934	15979	14263
OWNER CLAIMED	564	524	35	31	599	555
ADOPTIONS	790	818	222	241	1012	1059
TOTAL EUTHANASED	8398	6530	5773	5343	14171	11873
BOARDING	308	743	0	0	308	743

THE MARKETING DEPARTMENT



The downturn in the economy has made the past 12 months a very challenging fundraising period. One of our saving graces has been the Mail Appeal programme which we launched just over 3 years ago. The programme is now really starting to show excellent results, with a net income of R439 180 and 370 new donors gained in the 2009/10 financial year. It has also enabled us to purchase essential equipment, e.g. new microchip scanners for clinic and a snake cam for Inspectorate rescues.

I was extremely fortunate to attend the International Fundraising Conference, which focused on the importance of integration of online and offline strategies. We have since redeveloped our website as, in keeping with global non-profit sector trends, we are now able to accept online donations. Please! Visit us on www.spcadbn.org.za. There is a wealth of information, including an on-line adoption gallery in an attempt to boost the adoption rate of our orphans. We have also joined the Social Networking world,

and have our own Facebook group ("SPCA Durban") which currently enjoys a following of over 2000 fans (and growing as this goes to print!). Linked to these online fundraising and networking tools is our monthly e-newsletter which, while reflecting off-line campaigns, keeps supporters updated on our needs and activities – and offers added opportunities to donate.

Internally, we have restructured to bring out strengths in individual staff members. Mary Koen has taken on the responsibility of the Bequest Programme while Kim Ely manages administration. Both staff members are intrinsically involved in all fundraising activities.

Bequests during the financial year amounted to R1 413 338.60, which illustrates the importance of our Bequest Programme. We presently have 153 Bequestors in the programme.

The Charity Shop has progressed incredibly well with an average monthly income of R85 000. This income is generated through the sale of jumble, new pet products and pet food – and under the stewardship of Doug Kukard who is assisted by Alice Drew, and of course our loyal volunteers.

Our volunteer and community service programme is vibrant, with scores of people assisting in The Charity Shop and with book sales, events and fundraising. Our dogs are exercised by volunteers every day of the week. I thank each of these generous people who give their time so freely to benefit the animals in our care.

On behalf of my team - and to our members, donors, and Management Committee – thank you for your fantastic support which has seen us through a difficult year.

CAROLINE SMITH
Marketing Manager



HUMANE EDUCATION PROJECT

When our Education project began in August 2005, we were aware of the immense challenge that lay ahead and that we would not be able to do more than find our niche in this vast ocean of need and try to do our best to fulfil our mission as best we could.

However big the problems and however many the



schools that are beyond our reach, we have nonetheless accomplished far more than seemed likely at that time. Our education officer, Laura Pretorius, has taught over a hundred thousand children and used a wide variety of approaches, seeking always to find ways of making animals really important to children who are mostly from disadvantaged areas, teaching them animal care, making them familiar with the SPCA, telling them about animal sentience, showing them how they can make a difference in their own homes and neighbourhoods.

When she has revisited schools a year or two later, it has been to find that our programme has almost always made a difference. Children will tell her about animals in the neighbourhood who are not being looked after properly or are being chained up, often without shelter, water or food. Owners have been investigated by our inspectors, and many who have been thoughtless or are ignorant about animal needs are re-educated by them.

It is always necessary to gauge the language level of the children with accuracy, because the levels can differ greatly. Presenting at exactly the right level of register requires considerable know-how on the part of the teacher. At some schools the children can communicate quite efficiently in English; at others they can manage only the simplest structures because their domestic and social lives do not allow for practising conversational English. Laura has become adept at teaching even at levels where communication has to be of the simplest owing to the language difficulty, and many letters have been received from schools congratulating her on the way in which she is able to communicate with the children and capture and retain their interest. In addition, we have files of unsolicited letters of all kinds from both children and staff.

This is not an easy job, and there are many sad experiences, but there is also the reward of knowing when one has made a difference, when children, amazed to learn that animals have feelings and needs and feel love and pain as we do, suddenly light up and see things differently.

It is true that the experience will leave some children untouched, probably owing to their own harsh life experiences, but it will make others see differently. Being kind to animals is something they can actually do. There is not a great deal that a child has power over, but being kind to animals is one. Sometimes lifelong changes will be built on such small beginnings.

And we do not forget those children that are already loving and caring for animals. They are often among the poorest of the poor, but they and their families do their best to look after their animals.

It is often said that one best educates a nation's children by educating their mothers. When it comes to animals, one best educates a nation to care for animals by educating its children to care for them. Not every child will respond to learning that animals need material care and affection, but it is surprising how many do... and how often caring responses come from children at schools where there are caring principals who are concerned about values.

When the principal of a school really cares about human beings and about standards and moral values, most of the staff will try to live up to this, and the energy flows down to the classroom. When a principal doesn't care, the evidence is only too clearly felt at all levels.

One school even adopted a starving and mangy dog belonging to a poor widow. She was only too pleased to have them take it over. It was living at the school, fed by the watchmen, and being treated for its skin condition.

So many little helpless lives; so much to do out there. When we look at the sadness of the big picture, we have to remind ourselves that every bit of service we give nonetheless does make a difference, somewhere in some way, perhaps more than we will ever know.

SHIRLEY BELL

Editor - Animal Angle





HOSPITAL

As can be seen from the figures below, there has been a downturn in the number of animals attended to at our clinics and hospital this past year. Sadly this means that fewer animals have been sterilized and vaccinated as people feel the economic pinch and their pets' health goes to the end of their queue in terms of monetary spending.

We were fortunate enough to employ a Veterinary Nurse at the beginning of this year which is something we have been trying to do for the past few years. Sr. Talia Henderson forms a vital part of the hospital team and is of great assistance to both of our Vets.

The Phoenix Clinic has been affected in the same way as the Durban Clinic with a reduction in the number of animals being brought in for vaccinations and sterilisations.

Thank you to all the hospital staff who have ensured that the hospital and clinics are successful due to their hard work and enthusiasm.

CLAIRE BUISMAN
Operations Manager

	ANIMALS ATTENDED TO				VACCINATIONS			
	DOGS		CATS		DOGS		CATS	
	08/09	09/10	08/09	09/10	08/09	09/10	08/09	09/10
SPCA Hospital and Clinics	39254	34245	14019	14128	9500	8069	673	736
	DOGS		CATS		DOGS		CATS	
VARIANCE	-5009		+109		-1431		+63	



BEQUESTS RECEIVED

We acknowledge the following bequests received during the year under review:

F G FERNS

M N SCOTT

J R HANLON

F D SMART

M V CLARK

E M PHILLIPS

M ABRAHAM

E V BALDEROW

A E WALKER

E M STEPHENS

W K JAMES WILL TRUST

P S CROSOER

M DAVIES

J RAMDIN

D SMITH

G GILICH

H DRYSDALE

J M DOGGETT

G L TURNER

P J DAVIDTZ WILL TRUST

B THOMAS

R F LOOTS

M M FREEMAN

L OXBY

J E MAYHEW

J R N PERKINS

V E C JONES

G E JAMIESON

A M T NICHOLLS







TRUST ALLOCATIONS

We are most grateful for the ongoing support
of the following Trusts:

CECIL RENAUD CHARITY TRUST

E A STEWART TRUST

GREENHALGH CHARITABLE TRUST

HARRY BRUNSKILL EDUCATIONAL & CHARITABLE TRUST

LANTRUST CHARITABLE TRUST

THE ANDREW & PAMELA SOMERVILLE TRUST

THE EDNA BURFORD TRUST

THE VICTOR DAITZ FOUNDATION

W L HANCOCK GIFTS TRUST

TIMOTHY HANCOCK CHARITABLE TRUST







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"Until one has loved an animal, a part of one's soul remains unawakened."

Anatole France