



Durban and Coast SPCA

NPO Reg. No. 002-312

ANNUAL REPORT 2009



DURBAN AND COAST SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

NPO REG. NO. 002-312

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Patron	eThekweni Mayor Councillor Mr Obed Mlaba														
President	Mr P E Chrystal														
Management Committee	<table> <tr> <td>Mr W J Dove</td><td>Chairman</td></tr> <tr> <td>Dr J Morton</td><td>Vice Chairman</td></tr> <tr> <td>Mr H Watkins</td><td>Honorary Treasurer</td></tr> <tr> <td>Mrs L Farrell</td><td>Honorary Secretary</td></tr> <tr> <td>Mr B Odgers</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Mr M Hands</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Mr Y Saib</td><td></td></tr> </table>	Mr W J Dove	Chairman	Dr J Morton	Vice Chairman	Mr H Watkins	Honorary Treasurer	Mrs L Farrell	Honorary Secretary	Mr B Odgers		Mr M Hands		Mr Y Saib	
Mr W J Dove	Chairman														
Dr J Morton	Vice Chairman														
Mr H Watkins	Honorary Treasurer														
Mrs L Farrell	Honorary Secretary														
Mr B Odgers															
Mr M Hands															
Mr Y Saib															
Representatives	eThekweni Municipality Councillor G Borman														
Auditors	PKF Durban														
Attorneys	DeWet Schulz														

Chairman's Report

Greetings to you all.

May I commence by expressing my sincere and grateful thanks to each and every one that has played some part in making this past year so successful.

Being the first full year in our new premises I believe it has been enjoyed by all.

The settling in process was handled very efficiently and effectively by our General Manager, Departmental Managers and our dedicated Staff.

As we anticipated the costs of running our Society have risen with the move but due to the faithfulness of our Members and Supporters we have seen the past year through.

The life blood of our SPCA is due to funds coming from Bequests, Bank Debit Orders and Direct Appeals for without this type of income we would be faced with very hard times in meeting the ever rising costs to sustain our Society.

Therefore to all who have contributed in some way we say a very big thank you and may your reward be great.

Our Society has performed exceptionally well during the past year and this was due to the capable managing by our General Manager along with his dedicated Staff. To all of you we say well done and special thanks.

Having decided last year to discontinue our annual fund raising event normally held at Gold Circle and rather opt for having many events at our premises this has proved to have been most successful. These events along with the income from our Charity Shop have greatly exceeded the funds we received from the annual event. We will always be grateful to the team of volunteers who give of themselves to assist our Society in one way or the other.

We have been very successful in establishing a very vibrant branch office at Dolphin Coast. With new buildings and kennels it has come a long way from humble beginnings.

To our Management Committee Peter Chrystal, John Morton, Bernie Odgers,



Haydn Watkins, Lucy Farrell, Michael Hands and Yassien Saib a very big thank you for your support to both the Society and myself over the past year.

We will always be reminded of the help and friendship we enjoyed having Councillor Gloria Borman (eThekweni Municipal Representative) as part of our Management Team. Gloria Borman will be leaving us at the end of April to take up a seat in Parliament. We wish her the very best for the future. Thank you, Gloria.

I've deemed it a privilege and honour to serve as Chairman of our beloved Society over the past year and for the many years you have had to put up with me on the Management Committee.

In closing I would beseech you all to continue to support our Society in whatever way you can thus enabling us to fulfill our calling to protect and serve animals wherever we can.

May our Society, the Durban & Coast SPCA, rise to greater heights and enjoy a successful future.

W J DOVE
Chairman

Manager's Report



I often talk to managers of other SPCA branches and soon realize how fortunate we are. In many cases their premises are in areas similar to where we were in Cato Manor.

When I walk around our new premises I often wonder how it all happened.

I believe it happened because of the commitment of everyone who shared the vision that change was possible. How we managed that change made the difference.

We have been at Springfield Park for 15 months and the change is remarkable. All the departments are operating efficiently and more importantly effectively.

Our statistics indicate that we are dealing with more animals than ever before. On a sad note the number of unwanted animals brought to the SPCA is increasing and the number of animals being adopted is decreasing. We are also affected by the present economic climate.

Fortunately due to the tremendous support we receive from people in all walks of life we continue to thrive.

Our kennels are in good condition, the hospital and clinic have new equipment, a number of new vehicles have been bought for the inspectorate and our gardens are looking wonderful.

Our volunteers continue to support us and my very sincere thanks to them for their commitment.

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

Finally my thanks to the Management Committee for their unfailing support during the past year.

C S MATHESON
General Manager

Inspectorate

One cannot believe that time flies so fast. It is now over a year since our move to the new premises and the much improved working environment.

We were fortunate enough to have not one but two qualified Inspectors join the Department, namely Lisa Roberts and Lucas Moloi who joined us from Johannesburg SPCA in June and July respectfully. Regrettably Lisa resigned and returned to Johannesburg to further her studies. We wish her well and thank her for the time spent with us.

Rescues are an intricate part of an Inspector's duties. They are time consuming-but extremely rewarding when the animal is rescued. A big thank you must go to the Fire Department who are always available and willing to assist when called upon.

Many hours have been spent nurturing a good relationship between this department and the Prosecuting Authorities, which resulted in a Power Point presentation to 20 Prosecutor/Magistrates, regarding animal cruelty.

This Department approached the Department of Justice and requested the implementation of an Admission of Guilt system in terms of the Animals Protection Act. This was done to eliminate the long delays in having cases finalized.

On 25 August 2008 our request was approved by the Chief Magistrate, Durban and to date seven cases have been finalized



as a result of this new system.

Durban & Coast SPCA is the first Society to implement a system of this nature.

We take this opportunity to wish Senior Inspector Roshen Rupee a speedy recovery after suffering a heart attack and surgery.

Trainee Inspector Alfred Mntungwa wrote the Entrance Exam with success and will be attending an Inspector's course at the National Council offices during May 2009.

A special thanks to Mr Matheson and the Management Committee for their support during the year.

KEVIN O'CONNOR
Head of Inspectorate

INSPECTORATE STATISTICS			
	2006/2007	2007/2008	2008/2009
Investigations	7946	7106	7776
Follow Up Investigations	1218	846	1104
Prosecutions	10	16	12
Warnings Issued	751	509	446
Security Companies Checked	68	37	186
Pet Shop Checks	300	315	364
Rescues	378	378	495
Pre-Home Checks	812	855	987
Post-Home Checks	563	610	796
Abandoned Animals	263	316	310
Spot Checks	615	531	397
Ritual Slaughter	33	33	110
Animal Farm Checks	0	0	39

Senior Inspector's Report



Cruelty to animals comes in many forms and can be found anywhere. The suffering seems to continue year in year out. Many animals have been helped but there are countless numbers who continue to suffer. Humanity is sometimes ignorant to those in need – our animals.

405 Rescues took place during the year. Investigations included poisoning of pets by criminals trying to gain entry onto properties, and traps laid for the purpose of obtaining food resulted in wandering dogs being trapped.

The number of abandoned animals is on the increase, due to the economic situation. There are some people, however, who are in a position to buy exotic pets such as pythons, spiders, bearded dragons without obtaining the necessary permits.

Two projects which were completed with the assistance of the eThekweni Municipality City Health were the 'Chicken Hawker' in Clairwood and the 'Goat Hive' in Umlazi.

JACQUI DEWAR
Senior Inspector



Kennels Report



department, all paperwork is streamlined and more professional. Efficiency has improved because of the computer programs. Paperwork is more enjoyable.

Being a safe haven for thousands of animals, the SPCA services are definitely needed and more people are desperate to get rid of their pets. The figures below show that a meagre 5% of animals are homed and approximately 10% are claimed by their owners. This is very worrying as there has been an increase in the number of animals brought in either as

It is now 15 months since our move from Cato Manor to Springfield Park. All staff and animals have adjusted well to the new premises.

Compliments are still pouring in regarding the new premises and the tidiness of the kennels. It is a happy place. None of this would be possible without the continued support of all staff and the tireless volunteers.

Thanks to Claire Buisman, who has designed a splendid program for the kennel

strays or unwanted pets.

People are still able to donate generous amounts of dog and cat food to keep the animals sustained. Without these donations we would be under huge financial strain so it definitely shows that the community and the SPCA work closely to care for animals.

JULIET NADARAJAN

Kennels Manager

	DOGS		CATS		TOTAL	
	07/08	08/09	07/08	08/09	07/08	08/09
Strays	5300	5592	4803	4897	10103	10489
Unwanted	3820	4111	956	1159	4776	5935
Safe-keeping	169	218	0	2	169	220
TOTAL ADMITS	9289	9921	5759	6058	15048	15979
OWNER CLAIMED	517	564	19	35	536	599
ADOPTIONS	853	673	143	202	996	875
TOTAL EUTHANASED	7667	8398	5531	5773	13198	14171
BOARDING	126	308	0	0	126	308

Marketing

With new premises came new requirements and a total revision of our Marketing efforts. As such, the past year has kept us busy implementing new strategies. To add to these new challenges was the economic downturn, and we are bracing ourselves for an even more difficult fundraising year ahead.

The downturn has resulted in a number of debit order donors cancelling their donations. However, our debit order income is still very healthy, with over half a million Rand being raised in the last financial year.

The success of “The Charity Shop” has been complemented by the establishment of “The Pet Zone” which offers cat and dog accessories and food. Our hardworking volunteers are to be commended for their passionate commitment to the success of both of these outlets, which bring in an average of R59 000 per month.

“Bargain Hunt” - launched last year and held on the last Saturday morning of each month - has proven to be lucrative and enjoys a regular following. The average income per month at Bargain Hunt has been R20 000. We are intending to expand the number of stalls to increase the income.

The Mail Appeal Programme is performing well and is continually bringing new donors into the fold. The programme has been strengthened by the outsourcing of our database management and the addition of the “Animal People” newsletter to our stable of communications. This is mailed three times per year to all regular donors, members and Bequestors.

Our Bequest Society has grown in leaps and bounds this year, with a membership of 140 individuals who have left a legacy to the Durban & Coast SPCA in their Will.

The monthly mobile book sales are performing exceptionally well, and have exceeded their budgets. These sales are undertaken by our volunteers whose assistance with our fundraising efforts is priceless.

Restructuring saw us welcoming Kim Ely as our Bequest and Administration Officer and Alice Drew as The Charity Shop Assistant.

I thank my entire team, both staff and volunteers, for their enthusiasm and commitment and we all look forward to another challenging year in Animal Welfare!



CAROLINE SMITH
Marketing Manager

Humane Education

Readers might have noticed that more and more articles in the international press are emphasising the sentience of animals and are especially focusing on farm animals and pets. There are currently several TV programmes on both wild and domestic animals.

Despite the continuing cruelty to animals, there is a change perceptible in the way many people are beginning to perceive them. The media have noticed this and are giving more attention to animal welfare, including wildlife.

Our own programme, which began in 2005, was formed to bring information and create awareness in young children of animal sentience and every animal's need for love, attention, proper shelter, food, water and everyday health care.

The programme is very varied and inter-communicative. We focus on disadvantaged children. Even schools that appear reasonably well run often prove to have children who have no idea at all that animals think, feel and have emotions as we do. Really disturbing is the number of teachers who are ignorant of animal welfare and actually do nothing to discourage cruelty to small animals in the vicinity of the schools, like stoning, stamping on and killing just because the victim is small and helpless. Teachers have often expressed their appreciation at being enlightened about animal issues that had never entered their minds.

So there is more to our programme than simply trotting out essential information on the SPCA and animal welfare in an interesting way in order to capture the children's attention. Laura Pretorius, our education officer, digs more deeply, and stories surface that are often disturbing. Laura deals with these in individual ways.

The aim of our programme is to change attitudes and create awareness. The programme is varied and illustrative. It includes time for the children to respond, during which they reveal a great deal about themselves and their families and social environments. Laura always stresses that they must speak about their new understanding of animals at home and to their friends and relatives.

We began at the upper primary level and then realised that many children were already immune to cruelty to animals and that we needed to move down to the middle primary grades.

Laura has taught almost 100,000 children and returned to many schools to assess effectiveness and any changes in attitude in both teachers and children.



We are, however, increasingly aware that there is a great need at the junior primary grade level of these schools.

Imperviousness to cruelty, lack of awareness of basic animal needs, ignorance about the effects of cruel short-chaining without shelter or access to food and water, is seen in very young children. They often even find cruelty amusing.

Educationally, our programme fits into at least two of the eight OBE teaching areas and is greatly welcomed by principals and teachers.

The teaching of compassion and the creation of awareness is a huge task. Laura has a full file of amazing unsolicited letters of appreciation from both staff and pupils of a wide range of schools. There are great moments for her when she suddenly recognises real love for pets in children.

Like politeness, table manners, a good work ethic, responsibility, and recognition of others' rights, compassion and kindness have to be taught to children. They also need good role models.

There are many disadvantaged households where animals are loved and cared for, but adverse social conditions and attitudes have created many households where animals are not seen as sentient beings and are either neglected out of ignorance or even cruelly treated, including by the surrounding community.

We are doing what we can in a morass of ignorance and lack of compassion and kindness towards animal life, but every time a child recognises that animals feel, think and need kindness and care, it is a little victory for the SPCA Humane Education Project.

SHIRLEY BELL

Hospital Report

It's hard to believe that we have been at Springfield Park for over a year already, it feels like we have been here forever. Moving to this area has made us more accessible to pet owners, as can be seen by the number of animals attended to during the past year.

The hospital and clinic at Springfield Park are very well attended and we have had occasions in December, where we had to set up an outside vaccination table to cope with the vast numbers of people attending.

Dr O Armoogum left the hospital in October last year and she was replaced by Dr Belinda Meyer.

The Phoenix Clinic has continued at a steady pace and offers a vital vaccination service to the thousands of people living in that area. The number of animals that are brought in for sterilization via the Phoenix Clinic has reduced considerably from previous years, possibly an effect of the economic downturn.

The staff has yet again been outstanding in their commitment to the Society and for that I thank them.



CLAIRE BUISMAN
Hospital Manager

ANIMALS ATTENDED TO				VACCINATIONS			
DOGS		CATS		DOGS		CATS	
07/08	08/09	07/08	08/09	07/08	08/09	07/08	08/09
37059	39254	15057	14019	9350	9500	576	673
DOGS		CATS		DOGS		CATS	
+ 2195		- 1038		+ 150		+ 97	

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE FOLLOWING BEQUESTS
RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR UNDER REVIEW

F G FERNS
E S TEAGUE
THE N E MCGEE WILL TRUST
R E GRANT
S HILL
JRN PERKINS
W K JAMES WILL TRUST
J HINKLEY WOOD
J CURRIE
A E THOMSON
E B LOCKE
M M BROCK
P D MATHIAS TRUST
E SMULDERS
D GILIO
P H COUNIHAN

D M ROWSELL
V D KAY
M F CLOSE
S F BROWN
P J JILLINGS
R F LOOTS
P M PATTERSON
P L MURRAY
R D BATHFIELD
J M R WATKISS
R LEVY
D M RUSSELL
E M GREENFIELD
R L ELDERTON
N TURNER
P H DAVIDTZ

