



118th ANNUAL REVIEW

2014 / 2015

DURBAN & COAST SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS



Notice is hereby given that the 118th Annual General Meeting of the above Society will take place at the Durban & Coast SPCA, 2 Willowfield Crescent, Springfield Park, on Saturday, 11 July 2015 at 14h00

1. Notice convening the Meeting.
2. Confirmation of Minutes of the 117th Annual General Meeting held on 6 July 2013.
3. Chairman to move the adoption of the Management Committee Report and Balance Sheet.
4. Appointment of the Auditors for the year ending 2015.
5. Election of President.
6. Election of Officers.
7. Long Service Awards.
8. Changes to the Constitution.
9. General.

By order of the Management Committee
Mr NC Aubert, Chairman

Minutes of the 117th Annual General Meeting,
Balance Sheet and Accounts will be available at the meeting.

DURBAN & COAST SPCA



President

Mr P E Chrystal

Management Committee

Mr N C Aubert	· Chairman
Mrs T L Wright	· Vice Chairman
Mrs B Lovell	· Honorary Treasurer
Ms T Baxter	· Honorary Secretary
Dr J H Morton	
Mr M Hands	
Mr Y Saib	
Mrs T Costas	
Mrs V Mc Donald	

Auditors

PKF Durban

Attorneys

DeWet Leitch Hands Inc.

Headquarters

2 Willowfield Crescent, Springfield Park
PO Box 74495, Rochdale Park, 4034
Tel. 031 579 6500 Fax. 031 579 4351

After Hours Emergencies: 083 212 6103

Email: admin@spcadbn.org.za

Website: www.spcadbn.org.za

Photography

Terence Hogben

www.terencehogben.co.za

118th ANNUAL REPORT

For the year ending 31 March 2015

INDEX

Agenda	2
Chairman's Report	5
Manager's Report	6
Inspectorate	7
Inspectorate & Kennel Statistics	8
Kennels & Catteries	9
The Marketing Department	10
Humane Education Project	11
Hospital	13
Dolphin Coast.....	14
Trust Allocations and Bequests Received	15



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I wish to thank our staff, supporters, volunteers, Management Committee, The Trust and members of the public who have contributed to the smooth running of our Society over the past year. To those staff members who have joined us in the last year, welcome to our dynamic team. I trust that your stay with us will be a long and happy one.

We bade a sad farewell to Chris Matheson, our General Manager, and his wife Trish who retired in December. On behalf of the Society I wish to thank Chris for the magnificent work that he put in, with support from Trish, over the last thirteen years to develop what is now a truly top class facility at Springfield Park.

I also wish to congratulate Caroline Smith on her well-deserved appointment as General Manager.

I know she will continue to take our branch to further success.

Our Inspectorate performs a very essential, difficult and sometimes extremely emotional function in preventing cruelty, showing much compassion, dedication and enthusiasm despite abuse and criticism from people who do not understand what they are trying to achieve.

A special note of thanks to our Veterinarians, the hospital, clinic, kennels and reception staff who continue to handle the large number of animals that come to us for help each month.



Financially we depend on funds or goods from bequests, appeals, debit orders, generous sponsors and fundraising. Shop sales, book sales and other fundraising activities play a vital part in sustaining the Society. To our hard working Marketing team, my sincere thanks for the great work they do with regular appeals and the maintenance of our websites, making the public even more aware of our needs. Without their efforts we would not be able to help the number of animals that we do.

To the volunteers who give so generously of their time in tasks such as sorting and pricing goods for sale, walking the dogs and the manning of tables at exhibitions and the Tree of Love, thank you. Your contribution is very much appreciated.

My sincere thanks to the Management Committee and the Trust for their ongoing support.

Without their legal and financial expertise it would be extremely difficult to run a Society the size of Durban & Coast.

I wish everybody involved with the Society much success for the coming year. May we all continue to go from strength to strength.

NC AUBERT

Chairman

MANAGER'S REPORT

What a transition our Society has undergone during the past few months!

Although I speak to you now as General Manager, with 12 years' experience marketing our organisation I am almost part of the furniture! However, I do bring new ways of doing things to the role and would like to thank our amazing staff for their support and for adapting so well to what may have been a difficult period of change.

My goal is to ensure that our SPCA is the very best we can be; to do the right things and do them well. I am insistent about convicting perpetrators of cruelty and I am encouraged that our Inspectors are driving through their cases with verve. With their resolve we will see an increase in the rate of successful convictions. Albeit that the sentence usually does not fit the crime, at the very least these criminals – and that is what they are - do end up with a record and often are legally not allowed to own another animal during their lifetime. Chaining of dogs remains one of our most common and abhorrent problems with countless creatures living out their existence in this dreadful way. Our Inspectors are in the field literally every day dealing with cases of chaining and educating the public on the cruelty of this practice.

I am humbled by the staff who truly are passionate about what they do. This is not an easy place to work. It's not for everybody, dealing with the harsh reality of animal cruelty. Our most experienced personnel are still shocked by the appalling cases that come through our doors. Even those not dealing directly with the cruelty or having to make the tough decisions need to put coping mechanisms in place.

I thank our veterinary, clinic and kennel staff for their dedication



and recognise with respect that they are the ones having to make the difficult, heart-breaking decisions to humanely euthanase. Often they are harshly criticised by the public for this role....a role which nobody wants, but somebody has to fulfil.

This reality of the dark side to human beings is starkly contrasted when I walk past the queue outside our clinic, a queue which starts forming early in the morning. Pet owners patiently waiting with their pets; many of them having travelled far and whom have very little but are willing to go the extra mile for their faithful companions. It is also starkly contrasted when I see the many happy adoptions taking place and I am encouraged by 885 adoptions this year. 885 animals who have been given a deserved second chance for a happy existence.

To our Management Committee and Trustees I extend a sincere "thank you" for support and expertise in many areas. It is with sadness that we say goodbye to Attorney Michael Hands who, after 13 years serving on the Management Committee, retires in July. Michael's altruistic and unfailing support and sage legal advice have made a lasting impact on our SPCA. We wish Michael a happy and fulfilling retirement.

We have enjoyed a healthy year financially, despite tough economic conditions. This of course we owe to you...our donors, volunteers, and sponsors. Bequests are our lifeblood and we are eternally grateful to those who have left a lasting legacy of love by remembering us in their Will. Thank you for having faith in our organisation.

Without each of you where on earth would our needy animals be? We are honoured to play a part in your lives and in the lives of the animals that you support.

Caroline Smith - General Manager

The image shows a man, likely a SPCA officer, smiling and holding a small black dog. He is wearing a white short-sleeved shirt with blue epaulettes that have the SPCA logo. He is looking down into a metal cage or bin where the dog is. The background is a concrete wall and some greenery.

INSPECTORATE

The Inspectorate Department is a cohesive unit which is reliant on perseverance and teamwork. We are dedicated to our cause despite numerous challenges and stressful situations that come our way on a daily basis. Sincere thanks to our team for their unwavering devotion in striving to be a resounding voice for the many neglected and abused animals in need of assistance. The concerted efforts of our Inspectors in investigating and prosecuting offences of animal cruelty ensure that cases are lodged on the court roll and convictions are obtained in as many instances as possible.

Sadly, we paid our last respects to our Field Officer, colleague and friend Cyprian Mbhele who passed on owing to illness in August last year. Cyprian was an integral part of our team with more than 20 years of experience in animal welfare. He was well known by members of the public within the areas he served, who continue to call in and inform us of welfare concerns and cases of cruelty. His legacy lives on through the impact he made on both colleagues and public alike. Cyprian will always be fondly remembered.

Our congratulations to Inspector Alfred Mntungwa for passing his refresher course. We wish him continued success as he strives to improve standards of animal welfare, educating the public and bringing offenders to justice.

We extend a warm welcome to Inspector Lucas Moloji who joined us in December 2014. Inspector Moloji returned to us after working at the Johannesburg SPCA for the last 4 years. We are thrilled to have such a reliable and versatile addition to our team.

A special thank you to Rescue Tech, Metro Fire Department and Camjet for their continued support in the field, ensuring that difficult rescues are successfully concluded. Their specific skills have been an invaluable resource and have saved the lives of many animals.

JAY METEDAD - Inspectorate Supervisor

" AN ACT OF KINDNESS
HAS ITS
OWN REWARDS"

INSPECTORATE STATISTICS

	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015
Investigations	7379	7085	7741
Follow Up Investigations	1325	4162	4341
Prosecutions	18	10	6
Successful Convictions	5	1	3
Warnings Issued	986	1262	907
Security Companies Checked	224	187	273
Pet Shop Checks	222	210	217
Rescues	239	266	226
Pre-Home checks	906	914	828
Post-Home checks	591	700	391
Abandoned Animals	164	215	182
Spot Checks	266	202	142
Ritual Slaughter	30	42	29
Animal Farm Checks	103	95	73

KENNEL STATISTICS

	DOGS		CATS		TOTAL	
	13/14	14/15	13/14	14/15	13/14	14/15
Strays	3761	3550	4464	4486	8225	8036
Unwanted	2819	2648	1363	1313	4182	3961
Safe-Keeping	50	13	0	0	50	13
TOTAL ADMITS	6630	6211	5827	5799	12457	12010
OWNER CLAIMED	316	377	20	10	336	387
ADOPTIONS	653	655	204	230	857	885
BOARDING	470	473	0	0	470	473

KENNELS & CATTERIES

As the SPCA servicing the greater Durban area, we are faced with challenges on a daily basis. Sadly, one of those challenges is the growing unemployment rate that is forcing many more people to surrender their animals as they struggle to make ends meet.

Another challenge is dealing with animal rightist organisations that use social media as a tool to discredit the SPCA. They don't have to deal with the great number of animals that we do. Imagine what would happen to the strays and unwanted animals if there was no SPCA.

This year saw a staggering amount of over twelve thousand dogs and cats admitted to the SPCA. Out of that figure only 1272 animals were either homed or claimed by their owners.

We said goodbye to Chris Matheson to whom we are grateful for his mentoring and leadership skills. Chris taught us that good customer relations are just as important for a non-profit organisation as for a business.

We are fortunate to have Caroline Smith as the SPCA's new General Manager.

I believe we do have a devoted, productive staff complement that work well as a team, from administration right through to the cleaning staff.

We have a great volunteer force that assists us with keeping our animals well exercised. Thanks to Audrey Vickers, Christine Collier, Gretel Hartman, Annamarie Pisanello, Jill Cowie and Pam McNamara for giving their time to the SPCA. What a difference these amazing ladies make to the lives of the pooches!

We are indebted to members of public for their very generous donations of food and blankets throughout the year. We appreciate every donation.

JULIET NADARAJAN - Kennel Supervisor



THE MARKETING DEPARTMENT



We are committed to making a difference in the lives of animals through a variety of effective programmes which can efficiently raise funds for our day-to-day needs, as well as sustain our services in animal welfare in the long term.

Our website is in the process of being completely redeveloped to keep up with rapidly changing trends in the digital world and to remain relevant to today's audiences. This will include social integration features that promote sharing and engaging with visitors and adaptation to access via mobile devices. This will strengthen our ability to raise money online, including new programming for event entries and competitions. Instagram has added vibrancy to our social media presence this year, and its integration with Facebook has been a fantastic tool for promoting our services and adoptions.

In August 2014 we hosted a new event which brought families and their canine companions together in support of our SPCA. "Paws in the Park" was a great success thanks to headline sponsor Pick n Pay and media sponsor the Daily News. People and pets flocked to the event, and the many co-sponsors, volunteers and participants made it a fun filled day of fundraising. We hope to establish "Paws in the Park" as an annual Durban calendar event.

Our Mail Appeal programme continues to successfully nurture our donors and bring in new. Together with online activities the programmes brought in a net amount of R1.2 million this year which is phenomenal. I am proud of our communications; online and through traditional methods. I see these as an essential way to becoming integral to your lives – the lives of our supporters - and hope that every story, every appeal, brings you closer to us.

I offer my profound thanks to the Marketing ladies Mary Koen and Lindsey Fogarty for their dedication and enthusiasm during the past year which has not been without challenges.

To our donors, volunteers, bequestors, trusts and members "thank you" for supporting our SPCA. I sincerely hope that you will continue to show your faith in us. Please know that every day we strive to ensure that our organisation is one that you are proud to be a part of.

Caroline Smith

HUMANE EDUCATION PROJECT



It seems incredible that a decade has flown by since Chris Matheson, our recently retired General Manager, asked me to plan an education project that would carry the message of the SPCA to children at mainly disadvantaged schools in the Durban area. The idea was teach them to value animals as sentient, loving, feeling creatures and look after them with kindness and responsibility; to familiarise them with the role of the SPCA; and to encourage them to play a valuable active role in becoming our 'eyes and ears' in the areas where they live.

In 1978, while lecturing in English, I had founded Embambiswaneni, a voluntary education project that provided teaching material, workshops and a methodologies journal for what grew to become a body of 1300 schools in townships and rural areas throughout KwaZulu-Natal. The project ran for seventeen years until the advent of the RDP. So starting a schools programme for the Durban & Coast SPCA was a project after my own heart.

At the core of such a project is finding the right person to take on a job that many would find not to their liking. It required someone with experience, dedication and perseverance, someone who would not be daunted by the greatly varying standards of primary schools within our range, someone who truly loved animals and yet was tough enough to deal with the animal (and sometimes the human) sadnesses that inevitably come with this kind of work. I knew of only one person able to take on this rather lonely job: Laura Pretorius, who remains the Education Officer of the Durban & Coast Humane Education project to this day.

Although our message remains focused on issues that are crucial to enlightened animal welfare, there are aspects that are important to us beyond the animal protection and welfare work that is our primary concern. Fundamental to our work is the nurturing of compassion for all life.

At the particular level of each class, the programme highlights the high level of animal sentience and the need to speak out about cruelty, abuse and callousness. It has been statistically shown that cruelty to animals frequently leads to cruelty to human

HUMANE EDUCATION PROJECT CONTINUED

beings. Once a person succumbs to perpetrating cruel or severely callous acts, normal moral boundaries no longer operate. Education has a vital role to play in teaching and supporting moral behaviour. It is a role in which it is all too often deficient.

Animals are sometimes treated badly owing to thoughtlessness or ignorance, and the SPCA takes this aspect of its work seriously when dealing with offenders. When warnings are issued, follow-up visits are made to ensure compliance. Our schools programme teaches that life is precious to even the smallest of creatures. When children are aware of this, they are far less likely to hurt or kill wantonly as if life is of little importance to other species. They are also taught how big-bang fireworks terrify not only pets, but also the small wildlife and birds that inhabit our urban areas, often causing mutilation or death.

Inability to feel for other creatures allows people to behave with scarcely believable inhumanity. Chaining is a serious constant problem for the SPCA. People keep dogs on chains, often without shade, water or food within reach and sometimes suffering from painful infected injuries. Many avoid thinking about cruel aspects of factory farming and do not allow themselves to think about appalling practices like the canned hunting of lions and other large wild animals, specially bred to be slaughtered by visiting hunters who pay vast sums to kill splendid specimens that have no chance of escaping.

As our education reports have shown over the years, the sensibilities of many children are awakened by information and discussion, by the sharing of stories, by encouraging thoughtfulness and showing how enriched our own lives become when we feel kinship with all life.

It is vitally important that children are educated to realise that pets need a lot of love and attention, but also that our responsibility needs to extend beyond caring for our own pets to being concerned for farm animals and also for wildlife, whether in our own gardens or living freely in the bush. We have to concern ourselves with issues like the slaughter of rhino for their horns, the killing of lions for a

superstitious belief in the efficacy of ground lion bones, and the decimation of Africa's elephants for their ivory. The constant message of the SPCA is: Show that you care.

Children in a school playground stoning a bull frog 'for fun', which was one of Laura's experiences, needed to develop a level of awareness and compassion that would extend to all other areas of their lives. Laura rescued the large frog and took it into a nearby field. A teacher said cynically that some of the children would no doubt go and search for it later and continue their savagery. Nearly two thousand years ago, Plutarch recorded that Bion, an Ancient Greek philosopher who lived almost 23 centuries ago, wrote: "Though boys throw stones at frogs in sport, yet the frogs do not die in sport but in earnest." It can take a really long time for human beings to learn what are surely obvious and important truths relating to how to behave.

Our education project tries to encourage a boundless compassion. It would not be possible to produce statistics as a validation of the extent of our success, but we do have many indications that teaching about compassion and mindfulness has positive consequences. Here is one such story, taken from Laura's monthly report for March 2015:

Llewelyn, one of the learners at Depot Road Memorial Primary in Chatsworth, described how the whole class had been able to rescue a dog earlier this year. He said they had used the information I had given them during an earlier visit to the school. One of the class members wrote: "Recently, a group of Grade 7s rescued a dog at our school. We were strolling around during the break when we saw an injured pup that was chained up. We wanted to help it. It was neglected and had no food and water, and we could see it was hurt. We fed it food and water each day. The following week, we telephoned the SPCA. They came to our school later that day and rescued the pup. This made us feel really proud and glad. We want to help more pups in our society and make the world a better place. The Grade 7 Class."

HOSPITAL

This year has been a year of many changes. We bade a farewell to our Manager Chris Matheson whom I thank for his years of dedication. I will miss his wise counsel and experience. We welcome Caroline Smith our new General Manager and wish her everything of the best and our full support in her endeavours as she leads us forward. We also said farewell to our Accounts Manager Trish Matheson and thank her for all her hard work and efforts she has put into the society over the years.

As can be seen from the figures below, there has been a decrease in the number of animals attended to at our clinic and hospital this past year. Unfortunately our sterilisation figures have dropped; sadly this means that fewer animals have been sterilized as people feel the economic pinch and their pet’s health goes to the end of the queue in terms of monetary spending.

The Phoenix branch has continued at a steady pace offering its vaccination service to the thousands of animal owners living in the area as well as bringing in sterilizations, stray and unwanted animals to our SPCA.



Thank you to all our staff for their tireless dedication, hard work and enthusiasm that ensure the hospital and clinics are successful.

PAM PRETORIUS
Hospital Supervisor

the **FACTS**

YEAR	ANIMALS ATTENDED TO						VACCINATIONS					
	DOGS			CATS			DOGS			CATS		
	13/14	14/15		13/14	14/15		13/14	14/15		13/14	14/15	
SPCA Hospital & Clinics	33,350	29,534		15,356	14,719		10,494	9,788		1,085	945	

DOLPHIN COAST

We appreciate the tremendous support throughout the year from many local schools on the North Coast, who put together food drives and various other self-initiated fundraisers for the Dolphin Coast SPCA. Our food collection bin at the local Pick 'n Pay at the Junction Shopping Centre ensures that we never run short of dog and cat food. The bin sometimes has to be cleared twice a week! For this we are also most grateful.

Although we do not have our own hospital on site, we continue to assist the lower income bracket, underprivileged pet owners and pensioned pet owners in the townships and surrounding areas with sterilisations and vaccinations for their animals at a special rate. A portion of all our surgical procedures now go to our hospital at the Durban & Coast SPCA, and this assists with keeping our costs down. This is running very well.

As we receive many unwanted dogs, puppies and kittens, our adoption rate continues to be a challenge. We now have a small advertisement running in the local newspaper and on Facebook, which promote our orphans well.

Our charity shop, "THE DOG BOX", which is very well managed by Yvonne Hands and Maggie Anderson, continues to go from strength to strength and raises vital funds. It is well supported by the local community, and supermarket group "Checkers" has made many contributions during the year, from shop fittings and shelving to loads of dog food. Our sincere thanks to them for this kindness and generosity. We also thank each and every volunteer for their hard work and dedication in making this little shop the success it is.

As we have many rural farm areas in our jurisdiction, a lot of our time is spent educating the public on correct animal care and animal welfare issues. We rescue more animals from these areas than anywhere else. Many farm animals have been rescued from cliffs and various other rugged terrain during the year. We have rescued many species of wildlife from beaches along the coastline, and Vervet Monkeys are sadly often injured on our busy roads.

The highlight of our year was "Mandela Day" on the 18th July. We could hardly keep up with packing away all the donations, unbelievable!

My sincere thanks to my small complement of staff whose hard work, commitment and dedication contribute to the successful running of this branch.

DEBBIE FILMALTER

Branch Manager / Inspector





TRUST ALLOCATIONS

We thank each of the following Trusts for their generous contributions:

- The Cecil Renaud Charity Trust
- Greenhalgh Charitable Trust
- Lantrust Charitable Trust
- The Victor Daitz Foundation
- The Harry Brunskill Educational and Charitable Trust
- Timothy Hancock Charitable Trust
- The Kathleen Hastie Charitable Trust
- The Andrew and Pamela Somerville Trust

BEQUESTS RECEIVED

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

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| • L M HEMPSON | • P THOMPSON |
| • J W PEEL | • M HUTCHONS |
| • W H BALLARD | • E M BALKWILL |
| • J SWEMMER | • D J DAVIES |
| • H B EDELSTEIN | • M MARTIN |
| • S J SOFFIANTINI | • W K JAMES |
| • Z JARVIS | • P J DAVIDTZ |
| • J A T PARKER | • F D GRUZELIER |
| • D E MULLAN | • F G FERNS |
| • P A SCOTT-CROSSLEY | • W TAYLOR |
| • D M BRANN | • W P PAUL |
| • K JACKSON-SMITH | • V HAYWARD |
| • W P PAUL | |



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

2 Willowfield Crescent, Springfield Park
P O Box 74495, Rochdale Park, 4034

Tel: 031 579 6500

Fax: 031 579 4351

After Hours Emergencies:
083 212 6103

Email: admin@spcadbn.org.za

Website: www.spcadbn.org.za