



DURBAN & COAST SPCA

CELEBRATING

127

YEARS

THE 127TH

ANNUAL REVIEW

2023-2024

WE SPEAK FOR THEM





ADVISORY NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE 127TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE DURBAN & COAST SPCA, 2 WILLOWFIELD CRESCENT, SPRINGFIELD PARK ON THURSDAY, 25 JULY 2024 AT 12H00.

Notice convening the Meeting.

Confirmation of Minutes of the 126th meeting on 20 July 2023.

Chairman to move the adoption of the Report and Balance Sheet.

Appointment of the Auditors for the year ending 2025.

Election of Committee Members.

Long Service Awards.

General.

By order of the Management Committee, Mr Oveshan Chetty,
Chairman. Minutes of the 126th Annual General Meeting,
Balance Sheet and Accounts will be available at the meeting.



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MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2024

Chairman / Honorary Treasurer
Vice Chair
Honorary Secretary
Committee Member
Committee Member
Committee Member
Committee Member
Committee Member

Mr Oveshan Chetty
Ms Yvonne Boden
Mr Neil Aubert
Mr Patrick Forbes
Mr Colin Long
Dr Philip Parry
Mr Peter Chrystal
Glen Kirby-Hirst

Auditors

PKF Durban





CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

OVESHAN CHETTY

As I reflect on my third year as Chairman of the Board, I am filled with gratitude and admiration for the unwavering support and dedication that defines our organisation. This year, we have continued our mission with the strong backing of our donors, members, and bequestors, as well as the tireless efforts of our incredible staff and volunteers.

Despite the persistent challenges posed by insufficient municipal funding, our community's generosity has been our beacon of hope. Your support has empowered us to maintain our operations and continue providing essential care for countless animals in need. Thank you for standing by us during these trying times.

Our team's passion and resilience shine through in every aspect of their work. They face emotionally demanding situations and difficult decisions daily, yet they remain dedicated to our cause. This year, we have managed an overwhelming 12 449 animal admissions. It is concerning to observe the number of surrendered animals, highlighting the ongoing economic pressures on pet owners due to the increasing cost of living and inflation.

I want to express my deepest appreciation to our frontline and back-office staff and volunteers. Your relentless commitment to rescuing, rehabilitating, and rehoming animals is inspiring. Together, we strive to end unnecessary suffering and ensure every homeless animal receives the respect and care they deserve.

Our efforts continue to make a significant impact on the lives of these animals, and we remain steadfast in our mission for many years to come.

I also extend my heartfelt thanks to our Management Committee members and Trustees. Your expertise, support, and professional advice have been crucial in ensuring good governance and sustainability for our cause. Your dedication as volunteers is invaluable and deeply appreciated.

No matter what challenges arise, we will continue to leverage our expertise, resources, and compassion to support and protect animals. They deserve nothing less. By reinforcing our commitment to their welfare, we can create a humane community in which we all take pride.

Thank you for your continued support.



**“ I AM FILLED
WITH GRATITUDE
AND ADMIRATION
FOR THE UNWAVERING
SUPPORT AND DEDICATION
THAT DEFINES OUR
ORGANISATION. ”**



GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

CAROLINE SMITH



“PETS INSPIRE US AND GIVE US HOPE.”

Have you read the incredible story of the UK ultra-marathon runner Dion Leonard who was unexpectedly joined by a little stray crossbreed pooch during his 115-mile run through the tough terrain of the Gobi Desert? The courageous canine came out of nowhere and ran 77 miles through brutal conditions for six days without leaving his side. On the first night Dion called her “Gobi”. Long story short, Dion fell in love and spent 4 months in China during her quarantine in order to take her home to his family in the UK. Dion and Gobi have since travelled the world together and Dion has written a book “Finding Gobi” which is to be made into a Hollywood movie!

Pets inspire us and give us hope. Studies have found that pet companionship can reduce loneliness, increase feelings of social support and boost your mood. My family adopted our “Shenzi” from this SPCA in 2013; many staff members have adopted their pets from here. Some of our orphans are uniquely weird and wonderful crossbreeds called “SPCA Specials” but they are indeed, all very special to us. Adoption is the very last lifeline for animals ending up here because of neglect or abandonment.



You need to be strong to work at the SPCA; to deal with despicable cruelty. But we also see the other side of the coin every day ... heartwarming stories and photos from new adopters basking in the joy of their new companions! What a privilege that is for us. Every adoption is celebrated! It is so important for us to believe in our cause and fulfil our Mission of preventing cruelty and promoting welfare ... and to elicit joy from each of our victories – the successful prosecutions, the rescues, rehabilitations, and homes found.

We have certainly had our challenges during the past year. I am happy to let you know that our battle with the City for pound funding has finally been resolved, and we have been in receipt of the funds since October 2023. We have a 3-year contract in place to take care of strays at Durban & Coast, Amanzimtoti and Kloof & Highway SPCAs.

Our old generator finally gave up the ghost after faithful loadshedding service since 2009. Thanks to our donors' generosity we were able to install a brand new, modern generator so that we are fully prepared for unexpected power outages and loadshedding, and to ensure our animals, theatre and

vaccines are unaffected. Water supply has also been very erratic. Potable water has been made available to us when needed, through the generosity of a water truck owner who is always at the end of the phone to help. Our animals cannot be without water; and our high standards of hygiene in kennels and catteries can never be compromised.

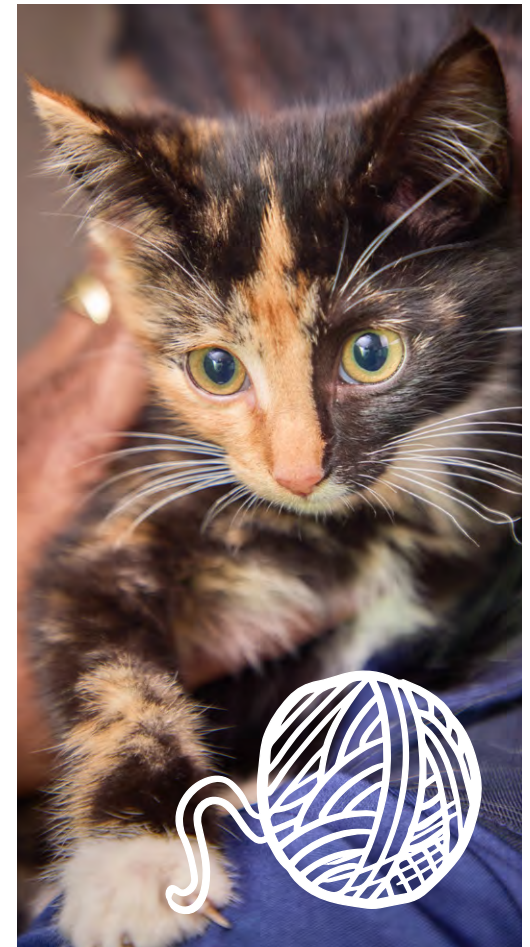
From the bottom of my heart, I thank our awesome team. You have much to be proud of; well done to each of you for your tenacity and compassion – crucial elements in carrying out this difficult job effectively, to combat the scourge of animal cruelty.

To our Management Committee and Trustees whom we rely upon for altruistic support, guidance and expertise. You are always there, without fail. Thank you.

Through it all, we have been able to rely on you – our donors, members, volunteers. For that we are eternally grateful. Your support is a lifeline for the animals who depend on our SPCA for their well-being. Your compassion and dedication to our SPCA inspires us every day. Knowing that we have supporters like you standing by our side gives us the strength and motivation to continue

our mission of providing love, care and shelter to animals in need. Long may we walk this road together, saving animals and relieving them from suffering.

We are honoured to have your support and we will continue to do you proud.





INSPECTORATE REPORT

SENIOR INSPECTOR CANDICE SADAYAN, INSPECTORATE MANAGER



It is not enough for us to simply love animals or want them to be safe and cared for. We must, every one of us, live up to the duty and responsibility we share as advocates for their rights, as educators and as guardians to those that cannot speak for themselves.

For 127 years our Inspectors have stood up for animals and strived towards achieving higher standards of welfare.

We do this for animals such as “Hope”, a beautiful, sweet natured girl whose owners abandoned her on Christmas Day, leaving her alone, starving and infested with parasites, to enjoy their holidays, no doubt with full bellies and warm beds.

For “Queenie”, left without treatment or relief from her pain when she sustained deep and severe wounds to her leg after being hit by a car.

“ EVERY ACT OF ANIMAL ABUSE DIMINISHES OUR COLLECTIVE HUMANITY. WE MUST WORK TOGETHER TO CREATE **A WORLD FREE FROM CRUELTY AND VIOLENCE.** ”

SANGDUEN "LEK" CHAILERT

For the nameless young cats tossed onto a busy road without care for the trauma caused or the dangers that may await.

These are some of the thousands of appalling cases we face. These are the innocent lives that our team strives to protect and preserve.

Over the last year our Inspectors have dedicated themselves to the attendance of over 17 000 calls.

10 263 investigations and follow up inspections have been conducted, 4 743 animals have been collected and brought to safety, and hundreds of proactive inspections have been done to ensure that establishments involved in the sale or use of animals, continue to maintain acceptable standards of welfare.

Being fully aware of the gargantuan task before us has not diminished our resolve. We thank our dedicated team of Inspectors, Field Officers, Collections Officers and our Controller for the courage and compassion they show day after day. Despite the extreme cruelty and abuse they witness and experience personally, their commitment to the betterment of animals' lives is unwavering.

In these harsh economic times, it is increasingly difficult to keep our vehicles on the road filled

with petrol, and stocked with essential life-saving equipment. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our donors for arming us and allowing us to continue the battle.

INSPECTORATE STATISTICS

	2022/2023	2023/2024
INVESTIGATIONS	13 710	10 263
FOLLOW UP INVESTIGATIONS	5 862	3 451
PROSECUTIONS	4	2
SUCCESSFUL CONVICTIONS	1	1
WARNINGS ISSUED	1 319	1 340
PROACTIVE INSPECTIONS	1 253	1 383
COLLECTIONS	5 326	4 743
RESCUES	228	167
PRE-HOME CHECKS	574	466
POST-HOME CHECKS	362	345
ABANDONED ANIMALS INVESTIGATIONS	162	305



EDUCATION REPORT

KRYSTAL PRETORIUS

As we strive to shape the next generation of compassionate and responsible citizens, instilling a sense of respect and care for all living beings is crucial and animal welfare education plays a vital role in this journey.

Throughout the year, we engaged with various educational institutions, including day care centres, schools, universities, youth development centres and a children's home.

Through our interactive presentation, we educate students about the SPCA, responsible pet care and animal welfare principles. This presentation not only imparts valuable knowledge but also inspires young minds to love and care for animals and their well-being.

As part of the programme, we embarked on an outreach project in the rural community of Oaklands, Verulam. We invited children for an educational talk and to bring their pets for basic veterinary

services. This initiative not only improves the well-being of their pets but also teaches valuable lessons in responsible pet ownership. By supporting these young pet owners, we cultivate a sense of community and promote a culture of kindness and empathy.

Our "Adopt a Month" project has made tremendous progress, with schools joining our initiative and collecting a significant amount of pet food for the animals in our care. This collaborative effort has not only made a difference in the lives of deserving animals but also develops a sense of social responsibility among the young participants. We're thrilled to see the impact of this campaign and look forward to continued growth and success.

We extend our deepest gratitude to all educational institutions for their unwavering support. Together, we are working towards a shared vision of a humane and sustainable world for all animals.

“OUR EDUCATION PROGRAMME INSPIRES A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING THAT ANIMALS HAVE FEELINGS AND NEEDS SIMILAR TO OUR OWN, A REVELATION THAT OFTEN SURPRISES BOTH CHILDREN AND EDUCATORS.”







KENNEL REPORT

JULIET NADARAJAN, KENNEL MANAGER

We know that emergencies can arise at any moment, and we are always ready to respond. Our team is trained, and our facilities are equipped to handle whatever comes our way. Being prepared isn't just a motto – it's a promise to the animals and the community we serve.

We have been proactive in implementing contingency plans to mitigate the impact of loadshedding and water disruptions, including investing in back-up power sources, implementing water conservation measures and having water tankers on standby in order to ensure the animals in our care are not affected.

One of our most significant challenges this year has been the economic recession, which had a direct impact on pet food donations. Despite our best efforts and regular appeals, we experienced a huge decline in food donations. We are grateful to the continued support of our loyal donors and are working hard to secure new sustainable partnerships to address this critical need.

We are thrilled by the successful rehoming of animals which were confiscated by our Inspectors from neglectful and cruel owners. We have helped these animals heal, recover, and find their forever homes. It's heartwarming to see these resilient animals thrive in their new environments, and we are so proud to have played a part in their journey from neglect ... to love.

In this year, we have taken in 12 456 animals comprising of stray, unwanted and abandoned as well as those confiscated and kept in

safekeeping. A devastatingly low 1.4% were claimed by their owners; only 3.7% were re-homed. These numbers are a sobering reminder of the challenges we face, underscoring the importance of our work in providing a haven and a second chance of life for animals.

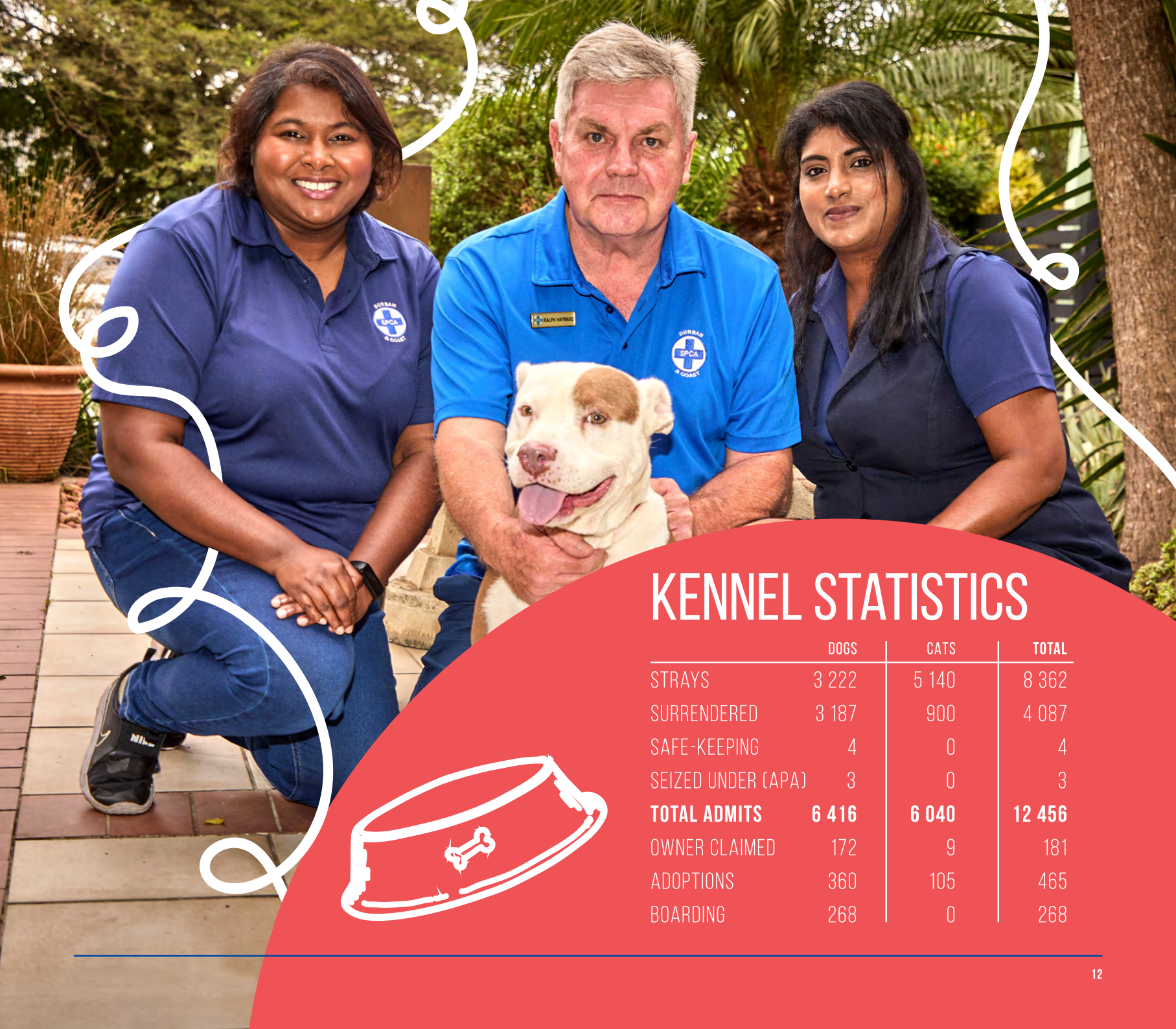
Special gratitude goes to our kennel hands and cleaning staff, whose dedication to their duties has been instrumental in maintaining the highest standards of hygiene and cleanliness at our facilities. Their tireless efforts, often behind the scenes, have ensured that our animals thrive in a healthy environment, and are in the gentlest hands. I thank our frontline staff for always keeping their composure even in the face of verbally abusive members of public. Thank you for your professionalism, and compassionate work ethic.

My entire team extends a huge thank you to our kind and dedicated volunteers who give up their free time every week to exercise, walk and play with our dogs. This makes a significant impact on the physical and mental well-being of our animals.

To our incredible Management Committee and management team ... your vision, expertise, and unwavering support have been instrumental in driving our organisation forward. Your leadership has inspired us to strive for excellence, and we are excited to see what the future holds under your guidance.

Thank you to our GM, Caroline Smith, for steering us through calm and turbulent waters alike, always keeping our mission and the welfare of the animals at the forefront.

**EXPERIENCE HAS TAUGHT US
TO BE PREPARED!**



KENNEL STATISTICS

	DOGS	CATS	TOTAL
STRAYS	3 222	5 140	8 362
SURRENDERED	3 187	900	4 087
SAFE-KEEPING	4	0	4
SEIZED UNDER (APA)	3	0	3
TOTAL ADMITS	6 416	6 040	12 456
OWNER CLAIMED	172	9	181
ADOPTIONS	360	105	465
BOARDING	268	0	268



MARKETING REPORT

TANYA FLEISCHER, MARKETING MANAGER

As we reflect on the past year, it's with immense gratitude and pride that we share the remarkable accomplishments of our animal welfare organisation. Through unwavering dedication, passion, and the support of our community, we've achieved milestones that have not only transformed the lives of countless animals but also inspired hope and compassion in the hearts of many.

Impactful Fundraising Initiatives:

- The East Coast Radio House and Garden Show proved to be a resounding success, raising R60,000 through our innovative "donate and paint" wall, captivating the hearts of attendees and supporters alike.
- Our annual sleepover event witnessed unprecedented growth, generating a staggering gross income of R94,000, showcasing the generosity and commitment of our supporters.
- Various other events, including the ABSA City Surf Run, Golf Day, ladies' breakfast, and calendar launch, collectively contributed significant funds, totalling R128,600.

Mandela Day Mural Project:

A beacon of light amidst our endeavours was the Mandela Day mural project, where a talented student from Danville Park Girls' High School adorned our kennels with a breathtaking artwork. This collaborative effort, symbolising unity and transformation not only revitalised our spaces but also served as a testament to the power of community and creativity.

Digital Engagement and Growth:

Our online presence continues to flourish, with over 50 000 followers across Facebook and Instagram, reflecting a steady increase from the previous year. The launch of our TikTok account further expands our reach, engaging 80 followers within its initial months.

Thriving Charity Shops:

The success of our charity shops, fuelled by the generosity of our community, has been astounding. Sunningdale, Springfield Park, and Ballito's The Dog Box collectively raised an impressive total of R4,497,000, providing vital support for our mission. We extend heartfelt gratitude to our staff and dedicated volunteers whose tireless efforts ensure the smooth operation of these essential fundraising avenues.

To our dedicated team, including, Mary Koen, Krystal Pretorius, Chantall Rode, Sally Francis, Annie Govender and Mike Watson, your unwavering commitment and enthusiasm have been instrumental in achieving our goals. We extend sincere appreciation to our Management Committee, Caroline Smith, SPCA Managers and staff, volunteers, donors, members of the public, local businesses, and media partners for their invaluable support and compassion towards our cause.

In closing, we reaffirm our commitment to safeguarding and advocating for the welfare of animals in Durban & the North Coast. Together, we've demonstrated that through collective action and compassion, we can create a brighter and more humane future for all beings. Thank you for being a part of this journey.

“ IN THE END,
WE WILL
CONSERVE
**ONLY WHAT
WE LOVE;**
WE WILL
LOVE ONLY
WHAT WE
UNDERSTAND,
AND WE WILL
**UNDERSTAND
ONLY WHAT
WE ARE
TAUGHT.”**

BABA DIOUM





HOSPITAL REPORT

DR GILSON MUCHOPA, CONTROLLING VETERINARIAN

One cannot believe that another year has passed.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks and gratitude to Animal Welfare Assistant, Rose Couzens, who left us to enjoy a well-deserved rest after being with us for 47 years! We wish her everything of the best for the next chapter of her life.

Our consultations experienced a huge increase in the number of referrals from private veterinary practices primarily due to affordability. Due to the dire economy, we now find ourselves not only servicing the needs of the indigent but also those of hard-hit middle-income earners.

In addition, we have seen a major influx of animals affected by parvovirus enteritis. It is all so preventable if only the owners simply ensured that their young puppies are fully vaccinated following the proper protocol as prescribed. It is to this extent that we did 12 894 5-in-1 vaccinations at affordable prices for pet owners in order to protect their puppies and save lives.

Understanding the critical role of sterilisation in reducing animal suffering and homelessness, we continue to dedicate efforts towards providing subsidised sterilisations for pets in communities we serve. In this fiscal year, we have successfully sterilised 1 686 cats and dogs.

Our satellite clinic is a cornerstone of our outreach, playing an essential role in Phoenix and outlying underprivileged surrounds to mitigate a host of animal welfare disasters, by providing preventative healthcare and educating pet owners about the

importance of basic animal care. This initiative also includes the intake of injured and sick strays and unwanted animals, for transportation to our veterinarians and animal theatre in Springfield Park. This year the branch was responsible for 9 143 vaccinations and 94 animals were sterilised.





VACCINATIONS

	DOGS	CATS	RABIES
SPRINGFIELD OUTPATIENTS + SPCA ANIMALS	6 385	1 260	6 072
PHOENIX SATELLITE OUTPATIENTS ONLY	4 816	433	3 894



ANIMALS ATTENDED TO

	DOGS	CATS	OTHER
SPRINGFIELD	25 628	14 197	300
PHOENIX SATELLITE	6 247	1 870	

THEATRE STATISTICS

PHOENIX & SPRINGFIELD

TOTAL
OPERATIONS **2 661**

WE TREATED
AND CARED FOR

50 903

ANIMALS IN OUR CLINICS.



TRUSTS AND BEQUESTS

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE FOLLOWING BEQUESTS AND TRUSTS RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR UNDER REVIEW.

E Lindsay

FG Ferns

HE Coppin

JE Seward

JJ Burd

M Howes

MG Thompson

MGF Moore

MW Courier

N Mitchell

PJ Davidtz

PM O'Meara

R Masters

S Marschall

S Van Luyk

SA Redwood

SM Goodall

SM Serrurier

WK James

YE Knox

DJ Davies Trust

Harry Brunskill
Educational &
Charitable Trust

Lantrust
Charitable Trust

The Andrew &
Pamela Somerville
Trust

Timothy Hancock
Charitable Trust

EA Minchin Trust

The VP
Hayward Trust

The Victor Daitz
Foundation

Clem & Nancy
Ramsden Educational
& Charitable Trust





“PETS ARE
HUMANISING,
THEY REMIND US
WE HAVE AN
OBLIGATION
AND RESPONSIBILITY
TO PRESERVE AND
NURTURE AND
CARE FOR ALL
LIFE.”

JONATHAN FOER



DURBAN & COAST SPCA

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