



Durban & Coast SPCA

THE 129TH

ANNUAL REVIEW

2025-2026

WE SPEAK FOR THEM





ADVISORY NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE 129TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE DURBAN & COAST SPCA, 2 WILLOWFIELD CRESCENT, SPRINGFIELD PARK ON 16TH JULY 2026 AT 12H00.

- 1. Notice convening the Meeting.
- 2. Confirmation of Minutes of the 128th meeting on 24th July 2025.
- 3. Chairperson to move the adoption of the Report and Balance Sheet.
- 4. Appointment of the Auditors for the year ending 2027.
- 5. Election of Committee Members.
- 6. Long Service Awards.
- 7. General.

By order of the Management Committee,
Ms Yvonne Boden, Chairperson. Minutes of the 128th Annual General Meeting, Balance Sheet and Accounts will be available at the meeting.

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MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

FOR THE YEAR ENDING
MARCH 2026

- Chairperson**
Ms Yvonne Boden
Vice Chair / Honorary Treasurer
Mr Oveshan Chetty (CA)
Honorary Secretary
Mr Neil Aubert
Committee Member
Mr Patrick Forbes
Committee Member
Mr Colin Long
Committee Member
Dr Philip Parry
Committee Member
Mr Peter Chrystal
Committee Member
Mr. Glen Kirby-Hirst

Auditors
Nexia Levitt Kirson



CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

YVONNE BODEN

Serving on the Management Committee of our SPCA has been one of the most rewarding and also challenging chapters of my career. At a time when the world is fighting wars on many fronts, so too are we fighting the ongoing war against animal cruelty. In each battle we have our triumphs, but the challenge lies in remaining steadfast and not defeated by what we confront on a daily basis in our community.

Compassion alone cannot sustain our reach. To ensure our impact is sustainable, we operate on strict business principles, ensuring that proper governance, financial controls, and transparent budgeting is applied to every decision we make.

Our donors rightfully expect our finances to be managed with impeccable accountability, and we are proud to deliver exactly that yet again with our audited 2025/6 Annual Financial Statements. Our corporate governance is prescribed in the Societies for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 169 of 1993, legislation that governs SPCA societies throughout South Africa. It is the stringent compliance with this legislation and the prevailing governing policies prescribed by the NSPCA that differentiate us from many other animal charities in this sector - a sector in which regulation and accountability is sadly lacking.

We continue to operate as the official pound for eThekwin Municipality, taking in all stray animals on behalf of eThekwin in order to ensure the City's compliance with the KZN Pound Act 3 of 2006. A new 3-year Memorandum of Agreement has been concluded with the Municipality that includes Amanzimtoti

SPCA and Kloof & Highway SPCA which requires us to take in thousands of vulnerable stray animals annually, using our skill, experience, and resources to do so. Setting the standard when it comes to animal welfare is what we strive to achieve.

None of this would be possible without a committed and dedicated team who live and breathe the mission of the SPCA. Led by our General Manager Caroline Smith, whose mantra is operational excellence, our vision is executed by the most incredible staff members in the various divisions which include our inspectorate, our veterinary and clinic services, our animal care centre, our adoptions department, and our fundraising, education, and administration team. This is a team whose courage is humbling, whose tenacity is incomparable and who turn up each day ready to continue the fight - no matter what. We salute you.

To our generous donors, members, volunteers and supporters, thank you for your belief in our organisation. With your commitment and support we are able to continue in our quest to end suffering and better serve our animals. To my Management Committee, a group of busy professionals who sacrifice so much to ensure that legal and financial compliance is strictly maintained, thank you for your expertise and wisdom.

Gypsy (pictured with me and who I adopted from our branch a few months ago) is an example of why we continue - no matter what.

Thank you.



“YOU CAN'T CHANGE
A DOG'S PAST, **BUT**
YOU CAN REWRITE
ITS FUTURE.”

AGNES CARASS



GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

CAROLINE SMITH

“**SADLY THE CRUELTY
SUFFERED BY
VULNERABLE ANIMALS**
AT THE HANDS OF HUMAN BEINGS
GOES UNABATED.”



The scale of the need for SPCA services remains immense. Every day, our team is confronted with neglect, abuse, abandonment, and suffering. But in stark contrast are the hopeful, heartwarming and inspiring stories our organisation creates through its work.

Every day, I have the privilege of witnessing first-hand the effect that love, compassion and humanity can have. Good is all around us. I see it in my team, in our volunteers, donors and supporters. And I see it in every tail wag... in every gentle purr.

We are deeply grateful to our generous donors who provide the resources needed to maintain our high standard of animal welfare. This year we benefitted from several significant bequests. These gifts represent a lasting legacy of compassion and have made a substantial contribution to our financial stability. They enabled us to fulfil our solar and JoJo tank projects, which not only conserve resources and aid sustainability, but protect us against electricity and water outages to ensure that our animals enjoy uninterrupted, seamless operations.

The number of unregulated animal rescuers in the Greater Durban area is growing exponentially. There are many doing excellent work, with much to be done in the face of burgeoning numbers of unwanted animals because of financial constraints of owners. But there are “foster” and “rescue” groups and individuals who are not motivated by welfare. We confiscated 19 dogs from a “foster” who had starved every one of them, while feeding her own animals every day. In another case, a “rescuer” had 90 dogs within her residential house, not only raising significant concerns about welfare and living conditions, but also in breach of municipal by-laws.

“**OTHER RESCUE GROUPS MAY
COME AND GO,** BUT OURS IS AN
ORGANISATION WHICH HAS STOOD THE
TEST OF TIME.”

As we enter our 130th year we are proud of all we have achieved since 1896 — and we remain focussed on our long-term sustainability. The urgency of our mission has not lessened. Every rescue, investigation, every sterilisation, treatment, every reunion, and every successful adoption reminds us why our work is so important.

Our spotless and attractive premises are kept so by our efficient Marshall Cleaning and Ladybird Landscape teams. With the increase in traffic and trucks because of recently widened freeways, our SPCA truly is an oasis in Springfield Park.

I extend my sincere thanks to our Management Committee and Trustees, who are themselves volunteers, for their guidance and expertise. I commend my team on their truly amazing ability to remain hopeful, and kind. This is a testament to the remarkable people who make up this organisation.

While the challenges facing animal welfare are significant, I remain confident that — with the continued support of our donors, members and volunteers - we can create a better future for animals.

Thank you for trusting us with this vital work.





INSPECTORATE REPORT

SENIOR INSPECTOR CANDICE SADAYAN, INSPECTORATE MANAGER



“ LOVE OF ANIMALS IS A UNIVERSAL IMPULSE, A COMMON GROUND ON WHICH ALL OF US MAY MEET. ” LOUIS J. CAMUTI

This has been a challenging year for Inspectorate.

The team has successfully navigated significant call volumes to ensure that almost 19 000 calls were promptly attended and over 5 500 animals brought to safety from out in the field.

We dedicate ourselves to helping animals because, as our statistics will show, there are so many people already dedicated to hurting them.

An inspector's role is multi-faceted.

As **investigators** we attend to complaints of cruelty such as chaining, beating, abandonment; sick and injured animals left without medical assistance; and outright neglect where animals have been denied food, water and general veterinary care required to maintain good health. This neglect leads to malnourishment, parasite infestation and over-breeding just to name a few consequences.



As **educators** we do our best to ensure that owners have the information they need to give responsible care to their animals and provide them with the quality of life they deserve.

As **enforcers**, we have ensured that almost 800 compromised animals have been surrendered to the SPCA following our inspections and 1476 written warnings issued.

As emergency **responders** we tackle rescue operations of animals have been in drains, razor wire, on roofs, cliffs, rivers and much more. For so many animals we are their paramedic, consoler, protector, care-giver and very often, their only saviour.

Of the 5 500 animals mentioned above almost 400 were rescued from dangerous and life-threatening situations. The Fire Department and S.T.A.R.T Rescue has lent their assistance with the more complicated operations undertaken over the year, without hesitation.

When Inspector Nkomo was called out to the rescue of 2 pups trapped on a sheer cliff 20 metres above a river, S.T.A.R.T Rescue freely gave hours of their time, equipment and expertise to ensure a safe retrieval. They believe as we do, that rescue is not just a verb, it's a promise! The 2 pups were wrapped warmly and returned to our SPCA where they were successfully rehabilitated and aptly named "Umfula" (River) and "Intaba" (Mountain) by Inspector Nkomo. Both are now up for adoption.

Inspector Mntungwa received video footage circulating on social media of a paralysed dog with severe mange dragging itself across a road in an informal settlement in Mayville. With very little to work from, he diligently studied the footage to identify landmarks remotely recognisable and went out to conduct a physical search. Through his investigative efforts the animal was located that same day, and brought to the SPCA where treatment and relief could finally be provided.

Not only do we react to reports of animals in need but our inspectors proactively inspect various facilities that work with, train and raise animals; whether for sale as pets, use in safeguarding, reared for meat production or kept for the purposes of tourism and display. Every one of these animals deserves to have an inspector speak for them.

To our team of inspectors, field officers, controller and our Operations Manager, Jay Ally – words could not do justice to your passion and devotion to animals. Despite the heartbreak, pain and abuse you see daily, you have met every challenge with strength and a commendable resilience.

We look forward now to a dynamic and productive year ahead in this business of saving lives, preventing suffering and being a resounding voice for the animals we serve.

INSPECTORATE STATISTICS

	2025/2026
INVESTIGATIONS	10 739
FOLLOW UP INVESTIGATIONS	2 831
PROSECUTIONS	2
SUCCESSFUL CONVICTIONS	1
WARNINGS ISSUED	1 476
PROACTIVE INSPECTIONS	1 520
COLLECTIONS	5 514
RESCUES	367
PRE-HOME CHECKS	418
POST-HOME CHECKS	310
ABANDONED ANIMALS	400



EDUCATION REPORT

KRYSTAL PRETORIUS, EDUCATION OFFICER

“IT OFTEN BEGINS
QUIETLY... NOT WITH A
PRESENTATION, BUT
WITH A MOMENT.”

A learner pausing and recognising an animal not just as a pet, but as a living being that feels, trusts and depends entirely on human care.

In 2025, our education programme focused on creating more of these moments. Across Durban and surrounding areas, we engaged learners from primary through to tertiary level. These were not just talks, but real conversations encouraging young people to think differently about responsibility, care and their role in the lives of animals.

Our Adopt-a-Month campaign continued to grow. What stood out this year was not just participation, but ownership. Schools across diverse communities stepped up meaningfully, with learners not only donating but also raising awareness in their own spaces. Our mascot, Humphrey, remained a favourite among younger students, bringing energy and connection to the campaign.

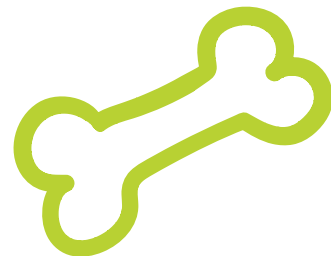
At our SPCA premises, learning became real through guided tours, time with animals and volunteering opportunities, helping to bridge the gap between understanding and action.

Some moments were challenging, but necessary. We received concerning reports of animal cruelty in some schools and conducted targeted visits to address concerns and encourage accountability and positive behaviour change. Engagement with tertiary institutions continued through NGO open days and awareness events, allowing young adults to become active participants and future advocates for animal welfare.

Our outreach extended to communities where support is most needed. In Ntuzuma, a focused initiative combined sterilisation services, basic veterinary care and education. The response was hugely encouraging with community members showing an enthusiastic willingness to improve the care of their animals. This was so motivating for our team, as it was evident that a lack of resources did not mean there was a lack of love for their pets.

Across all our initiatives, we see the same pattern: when young people are given the chance to understand, they respond. They listen, they learn and they choose to do better, shaping a kinder future for animals.

Thank you to our community, all supporting institutions and the SPCA team, your support continues to turn awareness into action and action into lasting impact.





ANIMAL CARE CENTRE

JULIET CHETTY, KENNEL MANAGER

As I celebrate three decades of service to the SPCA, I am overwhelmed with emotion.

This has never just been a job to me — it has been a lifelong passion with purpose. The Durban & Coast SPCA has transformed and shaped me with the same resilience I've witnessed, both in the animals I've helped and the people with whom I've worked.

Over the years, I've held many little orphaned animals torn away from their mothers, comforted frightened souls who had only ever known neglect and cruelty, and cared for starving, abandoned animals left without hope. I have reunited tens of thousands of lost pets with their loving owners.

One of the most memorable cases was a pooch reunited with his owner after five long years! His desperate owner had been searching for him but the man had given up all hope until receiving our call once we retrieved his details from the microchip. The man was in floods of tears during their recent reunion here at our SPCA. This was pure joy to witness. It is truly amazing how dogs can remember their owners' faces, scents, and voices even after half a decade apart.

I count it a privilege beyond words to be part of so many journeys. Yet even after 30 years at SPCA I can say with profound sadness, that the suffering of animals remains a heartbreaking reality. I often ask myself: what would happen if the Durban & Coast SPCA did not exist... how many animals would remain homeless, hungry, abused, or without medical care?

It is disheartening to see the increase in surrendered animals this year; the statistics almost match those of the strays admitted; an alarming reality in the face of the escalating cost of living for pet owners, plus relocation, emigration and downsizing. Every one of these 3890 unwanted animals once had a home, and a family. It is devastating. I can however proudly attest to our unwavering determination to continue rehoming as many animals as possible.

Every day, I am reminded of the vital role our organisation plays in protecting and giving hope to vulnerable animals and I am so proud to be a part of that hope.

As I look ahead, I do so with gratitude and renewed dedication. I sincerely thank our General Manager, Caroline Smith, the Animal Care Centre team, our devoted volunteers, Marshall Cleaning team, and every department that contributes so selflessly to this important mission. It is through our shared compassion and teamwork that we are able to continue giving animals the care, dignity, and second chances they so greatly deserve.

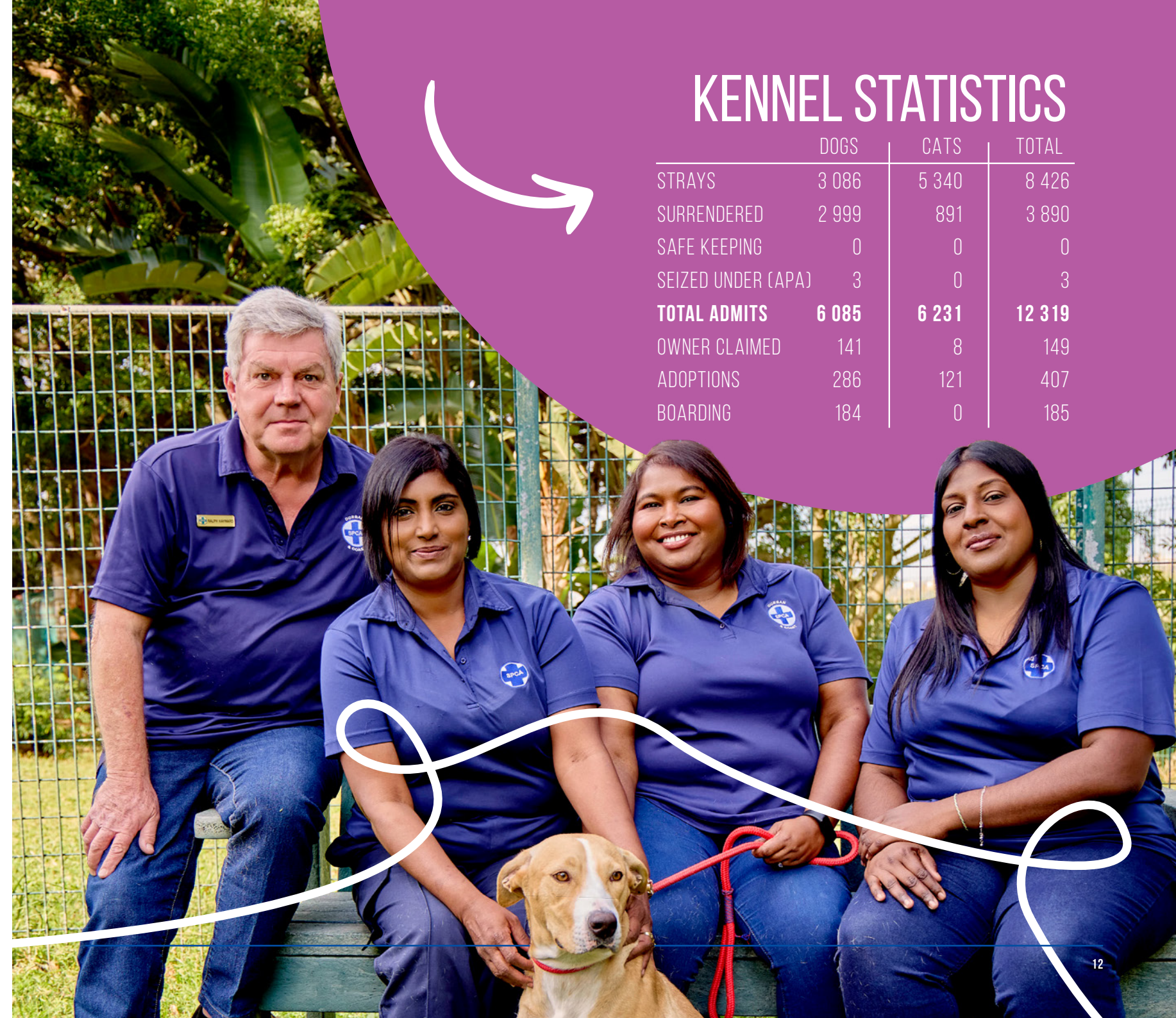
I will continue to serve proudly at the Durban & Coast SPCA, which has consistently proven its value and importance within our community.

EVERY LIFE WE HAVE
TOUCHED AND EVERY
ANIMAL GIVEN A SECOND
CHANCE HAS **LEFT A LASTING
IMPRINT ON MY HEART.**



KENNEL STATISTICS

	DOGS	CATS	TOTAL
STRAYS	3 086	5 340	8 426
SURRENDERED	2 999	891	3 890
SAFE KEEPING	0	0	0
SEIZED UNDER (APA)	3	0	3
TOTAL ADMITS	6 085	6 231	12 319
OWNER CLAIMED	141	8	149
ADOPTIONS	286	121	407
BOARDING	184	0	185





MARKETING REPORT

TANYA FLEISCHER, MARKETING MANAGER

For 129 years, the Durban & Coast SPCA has been at the forefront of animal welfare in South Africa. That legacy is not just history; it lives on in every rescue, every adoption, and every act of kindness we see today.

This past year has shown us, once again, what is possible when a community comes together with compassion and purpose. Every event, every donation, and every shared moment has played a role in changing the lives of animals who depend on us.

We connected with thousands of people through our presence at the East Coast Radio House & Garden Show and the Outdoor Expo, raising a combined **R85 000**. These spaces allowed us to grow awareness, build relationships, and welcome new supporters into our SPCA family.

Our Sleepover Programme continued to offer a unique and meaningful experience, with 16 participants spending the night at

the shelter and helping raise a net total of **R169 000** — proof of the powerful connection formed when people step into the animals' world, even for just one night.

Through peer-to-peer fundraising, we raised **R42 000**, thanks to individuals who took on personal challenges like the ABSA 10km run and the Midmar Mile swim. Their commitment is a reminder that small personal efforts can lead to significant impact.

We were excited to host our very first Padel Tournament, which brought together 28 players and raised **R45 000** net. Alongside this, our annual calendar launch contributed over **R36 000** — two initiatives that combined fun and fundraising in support of our cause.

Mandela Day 2025 brought an outpouring of generosity and goodwill. From corporate teams to individual supporters, the donations we received — including food, blankets, and treats — made an immediate difference. It was a day that captured the true spirit of giving back.

Our digital platforms continue to play a vital role in our work. With a growing audience of over **56 000** followers across Facebook

“SAVING ONE ANIMAL WILL NOT CHANGE THE WORLD, BUT SURELY FOR THAT ONE ANIMAL, THE WORLD WILL CHANGE FOREVER.”

and Instagram, and **2 770** on TikTok, we are able to share our mission far and wide. Alongside the launch of our new website, our digital presence continues to strengthen and evolve. Our email campaigns generated an incredible **R2.1 million** in income — a powerful reflection of the generosity and commitment of our supporters.

Our charity shops at our Springfield site, at Sunningdale Centre and at Balvista Center Ballito, remain a critical source of funding, driven by both generous donations and dedicated volunteers. They brought in **R5.1 million**, combined.

To our volunteers — the people behind the scenes and on the front lines — thank you. Whether you are sorting donations, assisting customers at book sales, walking dogs, supporting events, or giving your time in countless other ways, your contribution makes everything we do possible.

To my team — Krystal Pretorius, Mary Koen, Chantall Rode, Mark Matterson, Nora Buchanan, Aloma Maherry and Annie Govender — thank you for your unwavering dedication and the energy you bring to every project. Your commitment continues to drive our success. And to every supporter — our Management Committee, SPCA managers and staff, volunteers, donors, bequestors, local businesses, and media — thank you for standing with us. Because of you, we are able to keep moving forward, helping more animals and strengthening our impact.

Together, we are not just continuing a legacy — we are building a future where every animal has a chance.





HOSPITAL REPORT

DR GILSON MUCHOPA,
CONTROLLING VETERINARIAN

A tiny stray puppy was rushed in late one afternoon. Weak, lethargic and in pain with a severely swollen head. He had suffered a nasty attack and was bitten on the head, resulting in fractured skull bones and a huge abscess. But his eyes could not hide his determination to live.

We snapped into action and quickly sedated him, placed him on a drip and flushed the abscess. He was treated with intravenous antibiotics and analgesics. His improvement was rapid, he was fully healed and ready for a new life in a few days. He has now been adopted!

Our clinic offers a range of services at significantly subsidised welfare rates, in order to serve our community's underprivileged, unemployed and pensioned pet owners. Equipped with diagnostic tools, we are an epicentre for diverse treatments, surgeries and consultations. We address a wide array of conditions from severe injuries and diseases, to performing standard and emergency procedures.

Our efficient team of animal health technicians, animal welfare assistants and support staff at Springfield Park and at our Phoenix satellite, also serve communities by ensuring that all animals admitted receive parasite treatment, and tick, flea, worm, and mange control.

STERILISATIONS

Understanding the critical role of sterilisation in reducing animal suffering, is key.

Proactive spaying and neutering directly suppresses the growth of unwanted litters.

This focus mitigates the issue of animals straying, which not only exacerbates the overpopulation of extremely vulnerable animals but also places severe financial and operational stresses on the local welfare community who care for them and try to rehome them.

We dedicate efforts towards providing subsidised sterilisations for pets of underprivileged owners.

VACCINATIONS

Vaccinating dogs and cats is our primary defence against devastating, highly contagious zoonotic and viral diseases.

Core vaccines are vital for preventing parvo-viral enteritis, an aggressive gastrointestinal virus in dogs, and rabies, a fatal neurological condition transmissible to humans.

Our clinical teams deployed extensive resources across our primary and satellite hub to administer life-saving immunisations this past year.



46 414

ANIMALS
ATTENDED IN
THE PAST YEAR

- 5 288 CONSULTATIONS
- ± 20 - 30 HOSPITAL ANIMALS PER DAY
- 2 030 SPAY / NEUTER SURGERIES

“CLINICAL OPERATIONS
DIRECTLY ELEVATE
THE BASELINE
HEALTH, SAFETY, AND
LONGEVITY OF THE
ANIMAL POPULATIONS
IN THE COMMUNITIES
WE SERVE.”



VACCINATIONS

	DOGS	CATS	RABIES
SPRINGFIELD	6 020	1 631	5 986
PHOENIX SATELLITE	3 795	413	3 193



TRUSTS AND BEQUESTS

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

- L Coetzee
- B Warhurst
- MO Casey
- S Sing
- HG Richrath
- MLM Reitz
- M Page
- JD Donovan
- C Abbey
- VP Hayward Trust
- DJ Davies Trust
- WK James Trust
- Clem & Nancy Ramsden Educational & Charitable Trust
- Harry Brunskill Educational & Charitable Trust
- Greenhalgh Charity Trust
- Victor Daitz Foundation
- I Gardiner Trust
- Andrew & Pamela Somerville Trust
- Cecil Renaud Charity Trust
- Timothy Hancock Charitable Trust
- PJ Davidtz Trust
- EA Minchen Trust



MEET SASHA

FROM A PITIFUL WRECK INTO A HEALTHY, HOPEFUL DOG.

It takes a village to save a dog like Sasha.

Heavy chain around her neck... starving... skin rubbed raw from sitting on bones with no flesh to cushion them. Sasha's sad eyes spoke of suffering and despair. But her life was about to change.

All it took was someone to notice her pitiful condition... and feel that sickening jolt of horror and compassion that makes it impossible to look the other way. Someone willing to act... to take pictures and report her condition to the SPCA. One look at this shocking image sent **our SPCA inspector rushing to the rescue.**

Imagine Sasha's relief when he cut the chain from her neck and lifted her gently into the van. She didn't know it yet, but she was never going back to that life of starvation and neglect. At our SPCA, Sasha was met with cheerful kindness, given a thorough examination by our vet and treatment for the painful patches where her skin had rubbed raw.

Compassionate kennel staff with gentle hands and voices stepped in to rebuild her trust in humans. It was the bowls of nutritious food — twice a day — which transformed her.

And it's your generosity that keeps our food cupboard full — and our clinic shelves stocked with lifesaving meds, dressings, salve and vaccines that animals like Sasha depend on. Together, we turned her from a pitiful wreck into a healthy, hopeful dog — in just three weeks!

Her eyes are still sad. Maybe they always will be. But we've made her a promise: she will never, ever be chained up and left to starve again.

But there's always another call. Another abandoned, abused or lost dog or cat — afraid ... hurting... waiting for someone to care. And rescue takes a team... a village. Each of us playing our part. Your generosity makes all the difference to a dog like Sasha, and the many, many others who count on us to 'speak' for them.





Durban & Coast SPCA

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