



THE SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS OF NAMIBIA

ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

FISCAL YEAR 2020

WINDHOEK OPERATIONS



CHAIRPERSON REPORT

In my third year as part of the SPCA Windhoek Committee, it has become more and more evident that there is true commitment and passion from the people within our community when it comes to improving the lives and welfare of animals, whether they be pets, wildlife or livestock. In such a tumultuous year as has been 2020, this very statement helps to restore one's faith in humanity. It is a joy and privilege to be associated with people (both young and old and anywhere in-between!) who value so highly the lives of animals and who are so focused and dedicated to protecting them.

With the economy already struggling, the COVID-19 pandemic has put Namibia into an even deeper recession. Many small businesses have had to close their doors or lay-off staff or at least reduce employment hours, yet despite so many individuals and families having been financially affected, the support for SPCA has remained steadfast and strong.

It is important to remember that the past fiscal year contains many highlights, particularly from July 2019 to -March 2020, prior to COVID-19 related restrictions. We hosted several very successful fundraising events and campaigns including the launch of Dixie's Fund, a restricted account dedicated to covering the costs of ordinary veterinary and medical interventions as well as those beyond the normal capacity of our finances. This was hugely successful, and the funds raised have led to many surgical procedures and life-saving treatments for individual dogs and cats at the shelter. The 'Mutt Strutt' was a gathering where over 100 happy dogs with wagging tails and their owners/caretakers came together for a springtime walk at Avis Dam. The Zumba-thon saw dance enthusiasts work up a sweat with a smile, for a fun-filled evening of Zumba. The Calendar Drive and sale of Christmas Cards raised much needed funds during the festive season. There was also the Christmas Shoe Box Drive where we were amazed and truly humbled by the generosity of the public in food and toy donations. Christmas was indeed made a little more special for the dogs and cats at the shelter. We managed to squeeze in the annual Quiz Night before lockdown put a grinding halt to in-person events for the rest of the fiscal year.

However, from a financial point of view, we can be only be encouraged. Of note is the increase in memberships we have seen for the SPCA. We can also report an overall increase in grant funding and bequests. In summary, there has been a N\$1.6 million positive turnaround in the financials from last year and for that we are so very thankful and proud of our achievements.



A special mention and heart-felt thank you to our National Director, Hanna Rhodin and Director of Operations, Sylvia Breitenstein for their tireless work. They spear-head a devoted team including administration and veterinary staff, kennel hands and volunteers at our premises on Robert Mugabe Avenue. Each have a different role, some with direct animal interaction, some working with people, and others in building community support to help deliver our mission and uphold our values. For them, it is more than just a job, it is a vocation. They work under enormous pressure, with limited resources, but with an unwavering eye on their goal to protect and care for animals. They are all inspiring. Thanks also to my wonderful committee colleagues who give their time voluntarily to help direct the activity and give guidance to the overall running of a wonderful charity organization which is the SPCA.

"We can judge the heart of a man by his treatment of animals" – Immanuel Kant

Dr. Annie Marggraff

SPCA Namibia-Windhoek Chairperson



Image 1. On September 1, 2020, the SPCA turned 70 years and we celebrated accordingly.



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ABOUT US

The SPCA Namibia was originally founded in 1949 with our headquarters in Windhoek. The SPCA Windhoek is the operational portion of SPCA Namibia. There are an additional seven branches throughout Namibia. The SPCA is a charitable organization (WO6) which works to protect and prevent cruelty to animals and to strengthen animal welfare in Namibia. The organization dedicates its time to aiding animals in need through education, action, and provision of care.

The SPCA plays a pivotal role in rescuing and assisting animals that are neglected, abandoned, and abused. We provide a safe haven for animals that have nowhere else to go and medical care for animals in need. The team is passionate about finding the pets in our care the new and loving homes they deserve. Wild animals are transferred to wildlife rescue, rehabilitation, and release centers, and large animals are cared for through a committed foster network. The SPCA's centre of operations is near Maerua Mall and can house over 350 animals at any given time. The SPCA is primarily funded by donations from generous private individuals and corporate businesses.

VISION, MISSION, AND VALUES

Our vision is to end animal cruelty in Namibia and, through our actions and community education, engender respect and compassion for all animals.

MISSION

To prevent cruelty, alleviate suffering, and promote the welfare of all animals.

VALUES

- Compassion
- Perseverance
- Respect
- Honesty
- Trust
- Loyalty

FISCAL YEAR

The Fiscal Year 2020 represented in this report runs from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020.



MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Management Committee consists of a committed and professional team with experience and expertise in the following areas: veterinary medicine, accounting, animal welfare, administration, wildlife, event planning, education, and development.

- Chairperson: Dr. Annie Marggraff
- Vice-Chairperson: Saskia den Adel-Sheehama
- Treasurer: Cristel Villet
- Secretary: Rozine Maasdorp
- General Committee Members:
 - Charlotte Veldsman
 - Jaimee-Lee Diergaardt
 - Jo Tagg
 - Laura Alvarey
 - Nadine Russmann

- Hanna Rhodin, National Director
- Sylvia Breitenstein, Director of Operations
- Dr. Sulet Gous, Shelter Veterinarian



Image 2. SPCA Management Committee and Management. Top left to right: Jo Tagg, Nadine Russmann, Jaimee-Lee Dieergardt, Charlotte Veldsman, Saskia den-Adel Sheehama, and Hanna Rhodin. Bottom left to right: Sylvia Breitenstein, Dr. Annie Marggraff, Rozine Maasdorp, and Laura Alvarey.

SENIOR MANAGEMENT AND STAFF

The SPCA has a total of 16 employees, collectively with over 92 years of dedication to the SPCA animals. The senior management team collectively has over 40 years of animal welfare and animal sheltering expertise and over 55 years of animal care experience.



Image 3. A part of the SPCA working team.



CONTACT DETAILS

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Phone: 061 238 654
Email: info@spcawindhoek.org.na
Website: www.spcawindhoek.org.na
Emergency Phone Number: **081-124 4520**
(After Hours Only)

BANK DETAILS

Bank: First National Bank
Branch: Old Power Station
Code: 281174
Type: Current Account
Account Name: SPCA Windhoek
Account Number: 6224799591

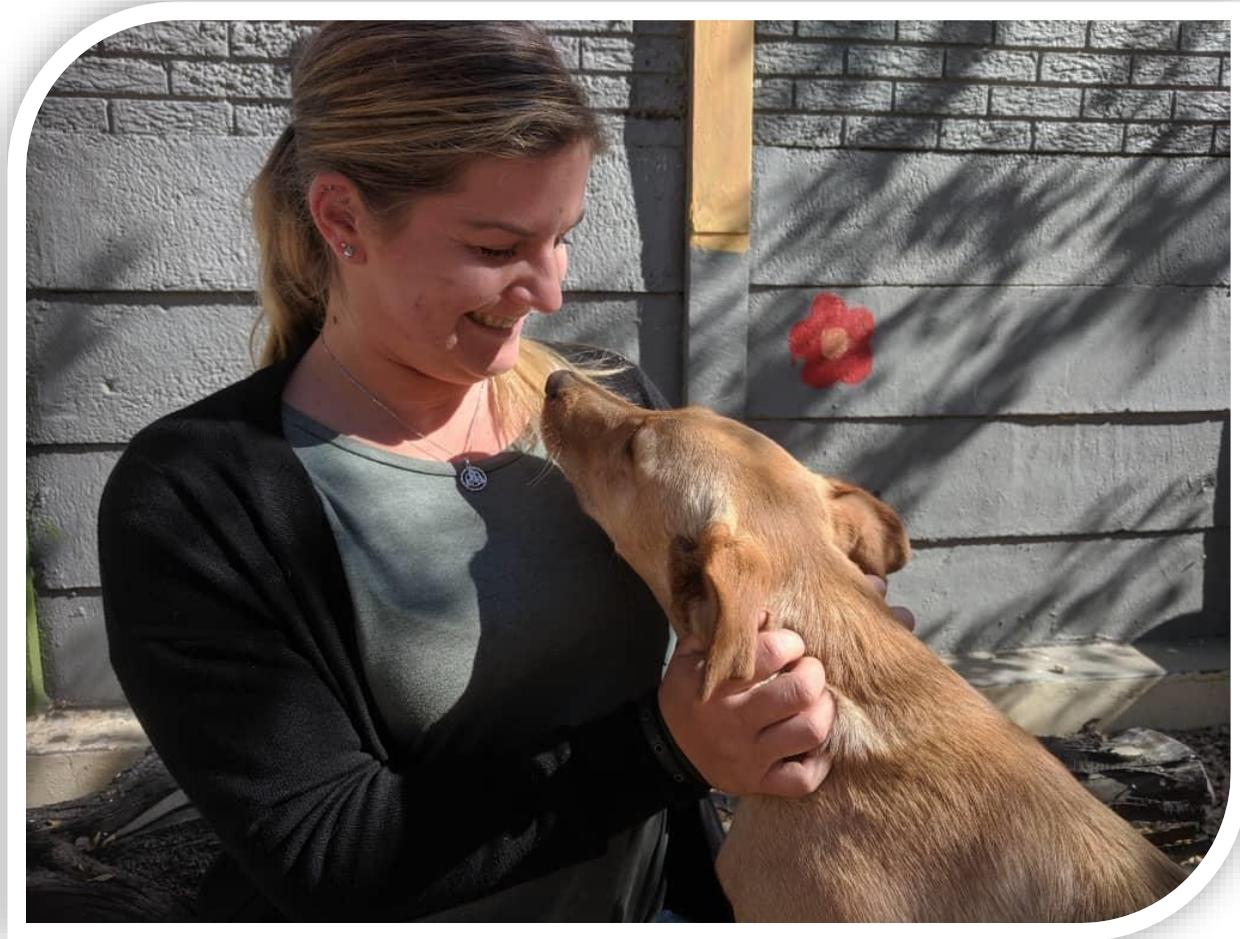


Image 4. A volunteer socializing a SPCA puppy.



ANNUAL ACTIVITIES

The SPCA team endeavors to do our utmost for animals in need. The majority of our time and efforts go toward: caring for the animals, responding to animal cruelty complaints, promoting adoption, administering veterinary treatments and performing surgeries, fundraising and events, administrative tasks, and all that is required to run an animal shelter. The following section highlights the achievements of the various programs and projects at the SPCA.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Despite the challenges resulting from COVID-19, SPCA Windhoek was able to significantly improve our financial performance compared to the previous year, reporting a net profit of N\$ 607,305 compared to a net loss of N\$ 1,016,083 in 2019. This is mainly due to an increase in bequests and grants and sound cost management.

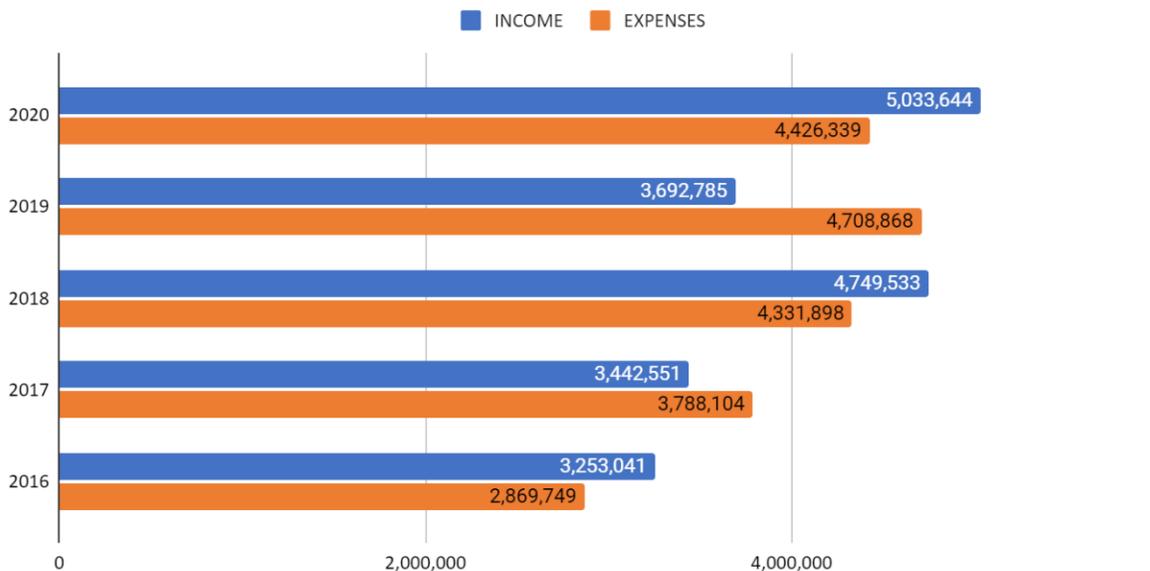
SPCA Windhoek - Financials

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
<u>INCOME</u>	5,033,644	3,692,785	4,749,533	3,442,551	3,253,041
Adoptions	510,813	437,652	424,680	455,353	393,496
Boarding Fees	225,830	226,517	283,270	309,193	338,057
Donations, Events, Bequests & Grants	4,040,994	2,775,450	3,655,293	2,378,825	2,167,579
Membership Fees	66,987	19,500	33,300	36,000	39,345
Other Income	189,020	233,666	352,990	263,180	314,564
<u>EXPENSES</u>	4,426,339	4,708,868	4,331,898	3,788,104	2,869,749
Medicines, Pet Food & Veterinary Expenses	1,333,772	1,662,345	1,286,508	1,717,802	1,217,682
Salaries & Wages	2,298,000	2,312,767	2,214,451	1,358,614	939,464
Other Expenses	794,567	733,756	830,939	711,688	712,603
<u>Profit/(Loss)</u>	607,305	-1,016,083	417,635	-345,553	383,292

Table 1. Reflects a breakdown of the SPCA's summary of income and expenses for fiscal years 2016-2020.



SPCA Windhoek Income and Expense Comparison



Graph 1. Shows a comparison of expenses and income from fiscal year 2016 to 2020.

NOTABLE INCOME

Bequests and grants have increased by 46%. The municipal grant received was the same as in the previous year. Membership fees have increased as a result of a successful membership drive.

NOTABLE EXPENSES

Salaries and wages have remained flat since last fiscal year. Due to the challenging economic climate, increases and bonuses have been lower than in the previous fiscal year.

Facility repair and maintenance costs have decreased, as have vehicle repair costs. Water and electricity costs have increased due to a water meter issue with the City of Windhoek that has been addressed.

Most notable is the decrease in medical and veterinary costs due to the appointment of our in-house vet, Dr. Sulet Gous. This has led to a decrease in expense of 25%, as predicted during initial discussions around employing a veterinarian and registering the SPCA veterinary clinic.

NOTES ON THE AUDIT

The financial statements are at this stage correct, but the auditor might still make some minor changes.



ANIMAL ACTIVITIES

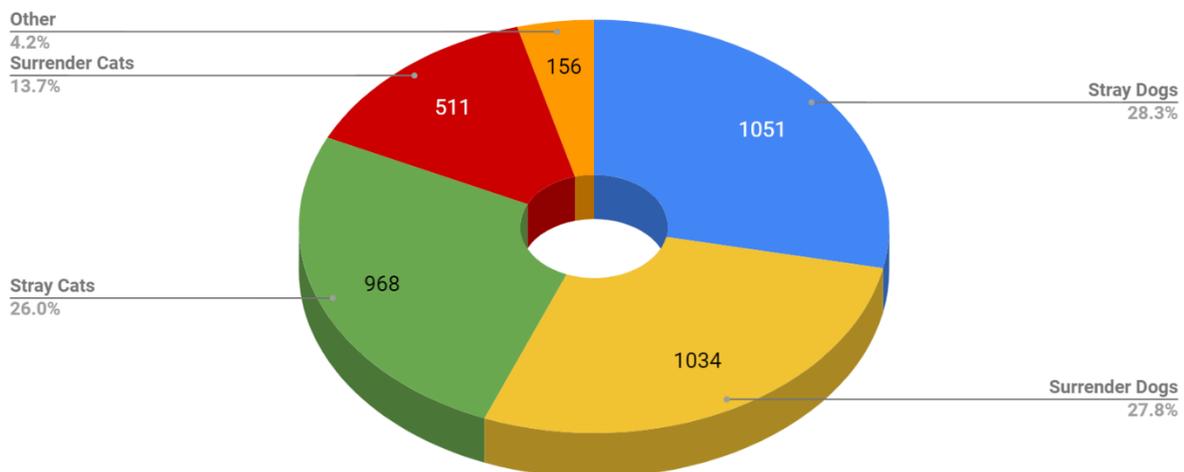
Despite the turbulent year, the SPCA's activities have, by necessity, remained constant. In the first half of the fiscal year, it was business as usual. In the second half, with the lockdown and curfews due to COVID-19, the SPCA team continued to work resolutely for the animals though the shelter was often quiet, there were few clients, and no events.

Animal Intakes

collect cats from every corner of Windhoek. Also, from roughly December 2019 to the end of the fiscal year, our intake of kittens remained steady, as if kitten season never stopped. When the SPCA was called for dogs, they were often extremely sick or in such poor shape that the team had no choice but to euthanize them immediately.

SPCA Windhoek was fortunate to not face the massive surrender waves that coastal shelters encountered in the latter half of the fiscal year.

Total intake of animals: 3,720



Graph 2. Showing number of incoming animals.

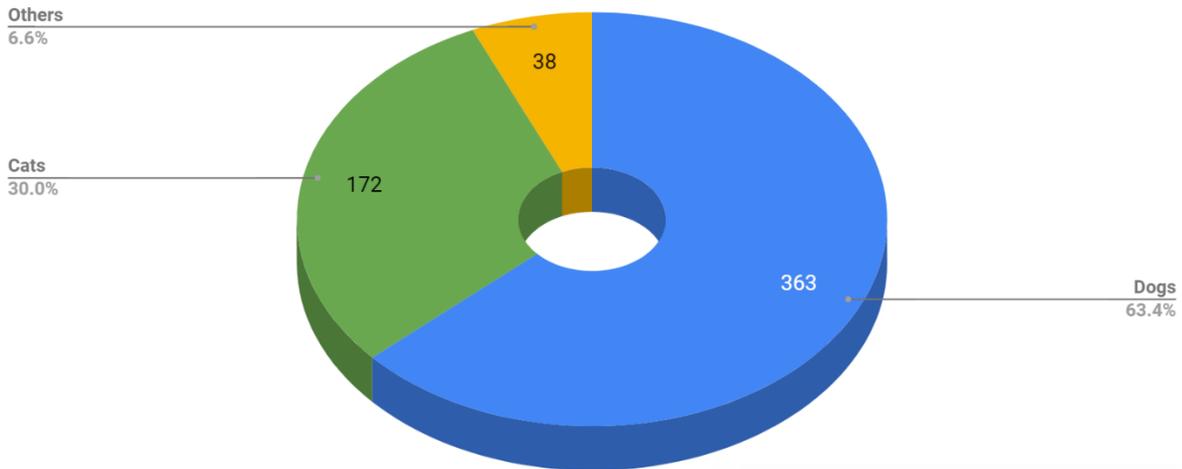
ANIMAL INTAKE

There were fewer requests to pick up dogs during the lockdown, but requests to pick up cats increased. The SPCA was asked to



Animal Adoptions

Total animals adopted: 573



Graph 3. Showing number of animals adopted.

ADOPTIONS

Throughout the year, the SPCA has focused on initiatives to highlight adoption as an option for those looking to add a pet to their family. Our various adoption initiatives have promoted reduced adoption fees, been highlighted in the media and on radio stations, and advertised on our social media pages. October was 'Adopt A Shelter Dog Month,' November was 'Adopt A Senior Pet' month, February featured our longest shelter residents with a fun Tinder theme, and June was 'Adopt A Shelter Cat Month.'

The adoption rate increased by 8% from FY19 to FY20, making it a total of 30% in

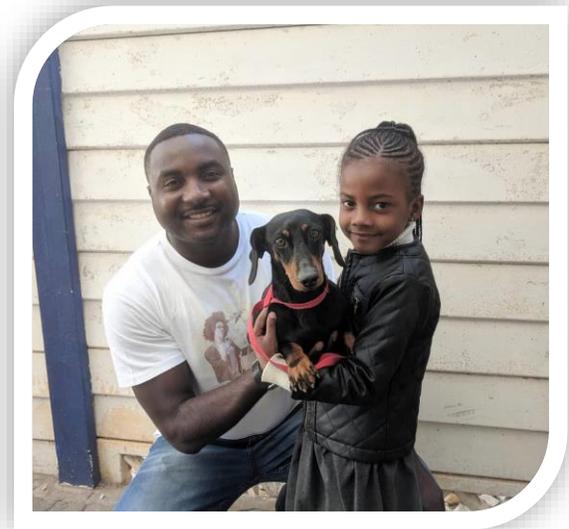


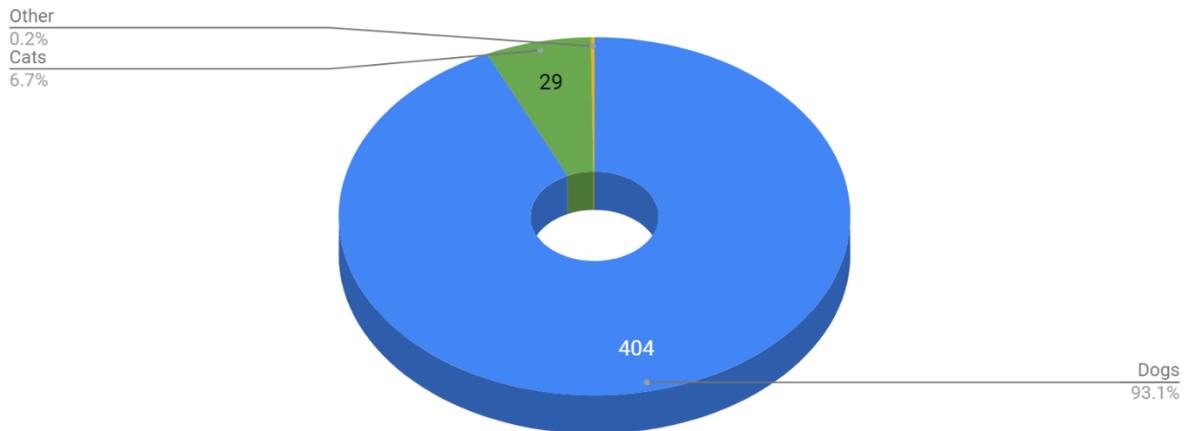
Image 5. Picture of lots of a happy dog going home with his new family.

the last couple of years. This indicates that our team's efforts to promote adoption are succeeding - our goal is for adoption to become the mainstream choice.



Animals Returned to Owner

Total animals returned to owner: 434



Graph 4. Showing number of animals returned to owner.

RETURNED TO OWNER

We always strive to reunite a lost pet with their owner. Our rates for reuniting dogs coming in as strays with their owner is at 41%. This is a number that we are proud of, knowing that those dogs usually do not have to stay long in the shelter. The percentage rate is on par with the last two years though our overall number of stray dogs have decreased slightly. Reuniting lost cats with their owner is slowly but steadily increasing, showing that people now also think about contacting the SPCA when their cat has gone missing, and not just their dog.

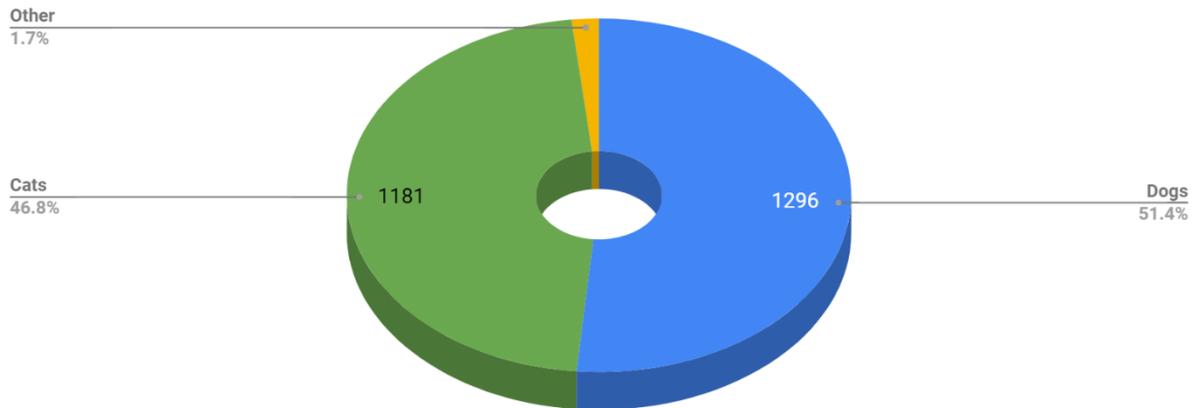
EUTHANASIA

Humane euthanasia decisions are never taken lightly and is considered a management tool in an open-admission shelter. The SPCA humanely euthanize animals based on medical and behavioral assessments. With limited funding, resources, space, and not enough adoptions, tough decisions have to be made. The SPCA does not want any severely sick or injured animals to suffer, nor do they want to risk confirmed aggressive animals get back out to the public. The SPCA always endeavor to keep these rates as low as possible and return as many animals as possible to their homes or find new homes



Animals Humanely Euthanized

Total animals euthanized: 2,521



Graph 5. Showing number of animals euthanized.

for them. Unfortunately, this is not always possible. It is not uncommon that the SPCA will often get or specifically pick up severely sick surrenders or strays, animals that are so sick by the time they reach a SPCA that the only humane option is euthanasia.

ANIMAL HEALTH

Toward the end of 2018, the SPCA team identified two objectives for our Animal Health department: to improve the overall health of the animals in our care, and to decrease veterinary expenses. An extensive cost analysis was completed where the findings made it clear – the SPCA would be

able to save funds by employing our own veterinarian.

By June 2019, Dr. Sulet Gous, the SPCA's new veterinarian, was warmly welcomed to the team. Dr. Gous came with experience working as a State Veterinarian in SA, private clinic experience in Namibia, and a passion for animal welfare. The SPCA veterinarian has the formidable task of ensuring the health of over 350 animals at any given time and examining the near 3,800 animals coming in each year. As such, she only treats patients under the care of the SPCA.

Throughout this fiscal year, we aimed to finalize the registration of the SPCA Windhoek Veterinary Welfare Clinic, preparing the clinic for operation, and ensuring accounts were opened with the



relevant suppliers. Dr. Gous worked tirelessly to complete these tasks. The SPCA clinic was provisionally registered in July 2019, and immediately up and running. The clinic was inspected by the Namibian Veterinary Council in September 2019. We are awaiting final inspection but can function as a fully registered clinic in the meantime.

Through an international grant proposal, the SPCA was awarded a grant to purchase veterinary cages. This has allowed us to better monitor animals in need and has created a post-surgery recovery space. The grant also enabled the SPCA to purchase additional spay kits. As a result, our veterinarian can perform more surgeries per day.

The SPCA has been working closely with the UNAM School of Veterinary Medicine, which occasionally sends students to gain experience in animal handling at the SPCA. Under the guidance of their professors, UNAM students also perform many spays and neuters free of charge, and take on cases requiring x-rays or more thorough medical workups.

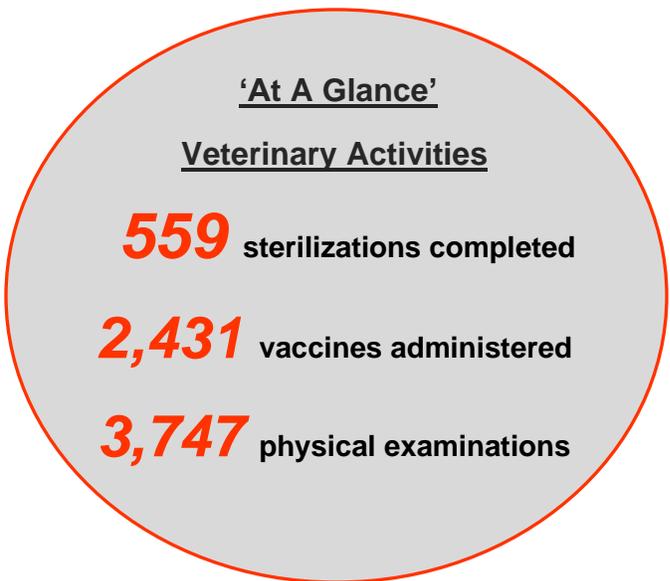


Figure 1. Brief overview of veterinary work completed in FY20.

BENEFICIARIES OF DIXIE'S FUND

Dixie's Fund was established in June 2019 when an injured puppy won the hearts of some kind individuals. Dixie required extensive and expensive surgery and, through donations from generous members of the public, was able to receive the treatment she needed, recovered in the care at the SPCA, has been adopted by a loving family, and has since paid it forward as the mascot of the fund. Dixie's Fund is a restricted account to help alleviate costs of both ordinary and exceptional veterinary treatments required by animals in our care. Here are the stories of just a few animals who have benefited from Dixie's Fund.

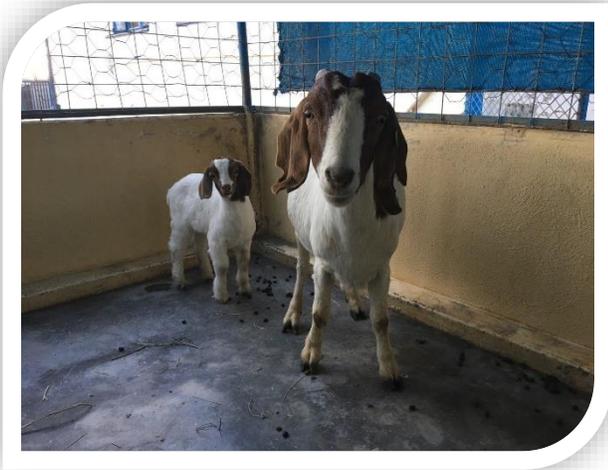


Image 6. The goat and her mother after urgent medical care was provided by the SPCA

THE GOAT WITH THE CURIOUS APPENDAGE

A concerned farmer brought in his goat kid because she had a strange fleshy 'appendage' hanging from her umbilicus. Unfortunately, the State Veterinarian was unable to help and the farmer could not afford private veterinary fees. The SPCA agreed to assist. The goat was still very healthy, eating well, drinking from her mother. The veterinarian anaesthetized her and removed the strange object, which appeared to be a tumour called a *teratoma*. The goat recovered and returned to the farm to happily spend the rest of her life with her mother.

AURORA, THE BADLY BITTEN STRAY

A good Samaritan picked up Aurora on a Saturday night. She had been badly bitten around her neck by another dog. The veterinarian first treated her for shock, then sedated her, cleaned her wounds and stitched her back up. It soon became clear that she had a delightful temperament, but unfortunately, no owner came to claim her. Aurora made a wonderful recovery and has since found her forever home.



Image 7. Aurora came in badly bitten, but was able to receive veterinary care before infection became too severe.



INDIANA THE ONE-EYED CAT

Indiana arrived with a very painful-looking eye. Her entire eye was infected, likely due to an injury or severe viral infection. Unfortunately, since she was already blind and her eye was sore and uncomfortable, the only option was removal. Indiana recovered beautifully and was much happier once her eye had healed.



Image 8. Indiana pictured at the SPCA after much needed eye surgery.

SWIFTY, THE GREYHOUND CROSS WITH THE PECULIAR WORMS

Swiftly was found roaming the streets. It was apparent that something was amiss, as he was extremely thin. A blood smear revealed that he had a parasitic infestation known as microfilariasis. This is a parasitic worm that

lives in the blood and causes fatigue and weight-loss. If left untreated, microfilariasis can be life-threatening. The veterinarian began treatment, but Swiftly continued to deteriorate and subsequently developed a lung infection. He was sent to Rhino Park Veterinary Clinic for more intensive treatment. He made a slow but sure recovery, maintaining his lovely temperament throughout the entire ordeal.

Soon thereafter, he found his forever home.



Image 9. Swiftly, before treatment.



Image 10. Swiftly, after treatment.



ANIMAL SERVICES

The SPCA has two full-time Animal Inspectors, and a third Animal Inspector performing other duties, certified by the Magistrate in the District of Windhoek. Our two inspectors work tirelessly throughout the year responding to complaints, confiscating animals when necessary, and picking up stray and surrendered animals. The three SPCA vehicles are constantly running and the many kilometers and their advanced age necessitated many repairs this past year.

A concerning trend is the increase in cats needing SPCA's assistance. In FY20, the inspectors collected 38% more stray and surrender cats than the previous year, and in all 7% more animals than in FY19.

'At A Glance'

SPCA Inspectors' Accomplishments

- Collected a total of **1,551** animals
 - 492 stray cats
 - 160 surrender cats
 - 379 stray dogs
 - 520 surrender dogs
- Attended 274 complaints with follow-ups
- Completed 352 pre-adoption house checks

Figure 2. Brief overview of the SPCA Inspectors' undertakings in FY20.

PROGRAM AND OPERATIONS DEVELOPMENT

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Volunteers continue to be an essential part of our SPCA team. Volunteers support the SPCA by exercising, socializing, and grooming the animals, and also by assisting with events, graphic design, and administration.

The pandemic lockdowns significantly affected our volunteer team and, as a result, vital socialization for our animals decreased. As of March, there were no new volunteers enrolled and due to government regulations thereafter, volunteer visits came to a grinding halt.

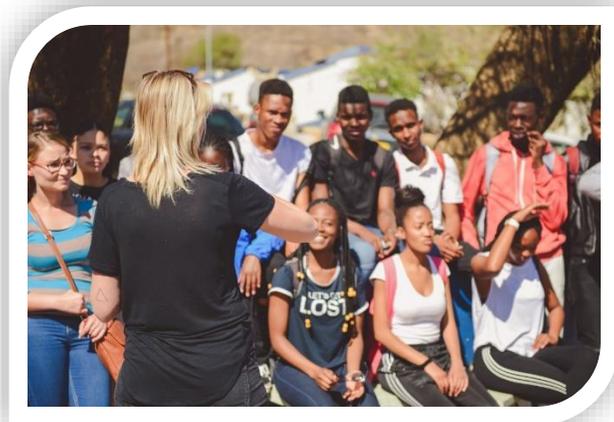


Image 11. A Volunteer Orientation taking place at the SPCA to continue to grow our team.



COMMUNICATIONS

Doing the work is one thing, ensuring that others know about it is another. The SPCA team constantly strives to communicate our vision of compassion towards animals and to highlight our various initiatives. Common messaging promotes responsible pet ownership, encourages people to adopt and not 'shop' for pets, seeks to reunite lost pets with their owners and much more. This is primarily accomplished through SPCA's social media platforms, website, interviews, press-releases, and media notices.

Two to four times a month, the SPCA team sends out notices to a select group of radio stations, newspapers, advertising agencies and newsletters - all entities which support us and our mission. The notices feature upcoming and ongoing campaigns, events, PSAs, and adoption ads. With little funding available for advertising, the commitment of our media partners is crucial to the SPCA's communication for development.

HUMANE EDUCATION

The SPCA believes that the youth of today will be the animal guardians of the future. During a normal year, we visit schools and speak to children who visit our campus about compassion toward animals and responsible

'At A Glance'

Communication

Over **84** media features across radio
and traditional media (that is on average
seven interviews/features per month)

Figure 3. Brief overview of SPCA features on radio, TV, and traditional media in FY20.



Image 12. A shelter tour after a humane education session at the SPCA.



pet ownership. Unfortunately, the SPCA's reach suffered two significant negative impacts in FY20: our Educational Coordinator was no longer able to volunteer her time in 2020 and the lockdowns and school closings in March 2020 made school and shelter visits for educational purposes impossible.

Regardless, the SPCA is making significant efforts to expand our Humane Education Program to reach many more schools and children, as well as to encourage responsible pet ownership among adults. In January 2020, the SPCA was awarded a grant from SPANA to create a holistic humane education booklet for children, a poster illustrating the humane care of working animals (namely donkeys), and a curriculum for educational outreach for 2,000 children in underserved communities. Due to COVID-19, some of these activities have been delayed until it is safe for the SPCA team to meet with children in person.

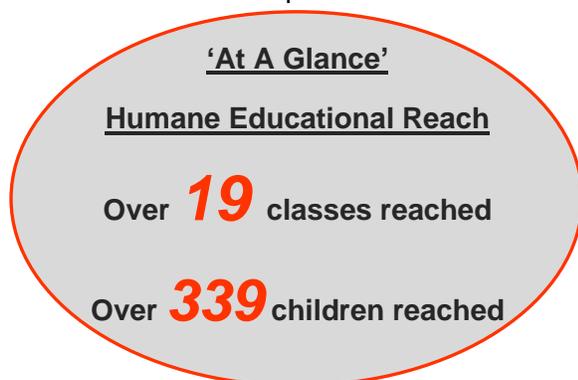


Figure 4. Brief overview of the SPCA's Humane Educational reach in from January-June 2019.

MEMBERS

Our members are the beating heart of the SPCA. By the end of June 30, 2020, the SPCA in Windhoek had 299 members.



Figure 5. Brief overview of the SPCA's members.

The SPCA ran a membership drive during the month of January 2020 to encourage individuals to join the Society by donating N\$1 per day toward the animals (N\$365 per year). The SPCA continues to invite new members at events and bazaars and urges existing members to reach out to fellow animal lovers to help grow the SPCA family.

A TIME LIKE NO OTHER

In March 2020, Namibia officially went under lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Public gatherings were restricted, curfews enforced - it affected everyone from businesses to private individuals, and the SPCA too. Specific measures were taken at the SPCA to ensure compliance with



government regulations and to keep our staff, volunteers, and members of the public safe.

Early on, no one knew how the world would be affected, on a macro or micro level. Yet at the end of the fiscal year and the time thereafter, the SPCA is bracing for the continued effects of COVID-19 and its impact on society.

FUNDRAISING, EVENTS AND GRANTS

Early in the fiscal year, on September 1, 2019, the SPCA celebrated 70 years and our team set out to arrange seven different initiatives over 70 days. These included Shelter Open Days to connect with the community, our first-ever Pet Photo Calendar contest, a Mutt Strut, a Family Day outing, Zumbathon, Clear-the-Shelter day, Volunteer Appreciation Day, Christmas for

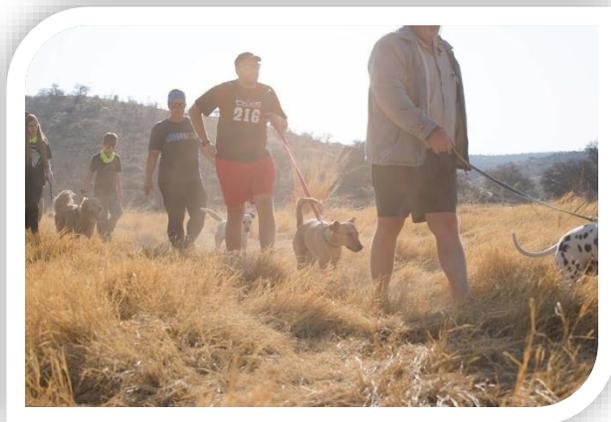


Image 13. Participants walking their dogs at SPCA's first Mutt Strut event.

Critters, Quiz Night and a 'Cats, Coffee, and Cake' afternoon.

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic severely affected the SPCA's ability to fundraise through events just as the fundraising season for the calendar year was about to commence. Our largest fundraising event of the year had to be cancelled just ten days before its scheduled date.

Following a grant proposal, the SPCA received an incredibly generous grant of N\$200,000.00 from First National Bank (FNB) toward Dixie's Fund. The Trustees at FNB recognized that they could make a tangible difference in the lives of Windhoek's animals. This support is vital to caring for over 4,000 animals and their medical needs annually.



Image 14. A volunteer socializing puppies during a Shelter Open Day for the community.



In February, the SPCA applied for just over N\$1,140,000.00 in funding from City of Windhoek (CoW) for services provided. In June 2020, we received N\$140,000.00 - a fraction of the cost of carrying out our duties as the municipal impound for dogs in Windhoek.

As previously mentioned, the SPCA was also awarded two other grants. One for the Animal Health department and the second for Humane Education.

THANK YOU

Every person and organization that supports the SPCA, whether through adoption, volunteering, donation, education, or membership, contributes to the life of our organization, our ability to speak for the voiceless and to shelter animals who have nowhere else to go.

You make our mission possible and are vital for its success. You save lives through your actions and you are heroes for animals in need. Thank you.



Image 15. A SPCA Adoptions & Community Associate socializing little Gummy who came in with a broken leg after an abuse case. He was saved thanks to Dixie's Fund and your belief in his worth.



This report was prepared by:

Hanna Rhodin, National Director
Sylvia Breitenstein, Director of Operations
Dr. Sulet Gous, Shelter Veterinarian
Dr. Annie Marggraff, Chairperson
Cristel Villet, Treasurer
Laura Alvarey, Committee Member

This report was reviewed and approved by:

Dr. Annie Marggraff, Chairperson
Cristel Villet, Treasurer
Laura Alvarey, Committee Member