



# ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

THE SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS OF NAMIBIA (WO6)

FISCAL YEAR 2019



## CHAIRPERSON REPORT

The Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) Namibia is the umbrella body, with its headquarters in Windhoek as a separate operation, under which six animal shelters are run; Grootfontein, Luderitz, Oshana, Otjiwarongo, Tsumeb, and Walvis Bay. The past 12 months has been a busy and productive one with hundreds of animals being adopted, many more being housed and cared for across the country and many abandoned or neglected animals being rescued. Donors have been generous, shelter staff and volunteers have worked tirelessly, all with the sole motivation of giving every animal the chance it deserves.

This year has seen the introduction of quarterly branch meetings, via Skype, to allow all branches to connect with each other and discuss pertinent issues, make collaborative decisions and raise concerns as well as highlight successes! Technology has made it so much easier for us to collectively communicate, which is of course the key to success in any organisation, let alone one that is spread across the country.

Hanna Rodin, General Manager at SPCA Windhoek has visited the Luderitz branch earlier this year and will continue her visits to the other branches over the coming months. There are plans to have a training weekend early next year where committee members and management staff from all the branches convene to discuss operational procedures, strategies to improve adoption rates, ideas for fund-raising and all things animal welfare. This will be an opportunity for us to learn from each other, interact as colleagues and get to know each other in person, not just via a screen!

In summary, as one body, we will continue our work to improve the lives of all creatures great and small.

*A. Marggraff*

Dr. Annie Marggraff

SPCA Namibia-Windhoek Chairperson



Image 1. SPCA Namibia-Windhoek was established in 1949 and embarking on celebrations in the year ahead.



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## ABOUT US

The SPCA Namibia was originally founded in 1949 with its headquarters in Windhoek. The SPCA Windhoek is the operational portion of SPCA Namibia. There are an additional six branches throughout Namibia of various sizes and scope; they are located in Grootfontein, Luderitz, Oshana, Otjiwarongo, Tsumeb, and Walvis Bay. The SPCA is a charitable organization (WO6) which aim is the protection and prevention of cruelty to animals and to increase the welfare of animals. 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 all over Namibia.



*Image 2. Showing a rescued puppy at SPCA in Windhoek.*

They provide a safe haven for animals that have nowhere else to go and medical care to animals in need either in an animal shelter or through a committed network of foster caregivers. The team is passionate about finding the pets in their 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 dedicated foster network. The SPCAs' different animal shelters can house anything from 30 to 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 education engender respect and compassion for all animals.

### MISSION

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

### VALUES

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

## MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Management Committee consists of a committed and professional team with



experience and expertise in the following areas; veterinary medicine, accounting, law, animal welfare contracting, administration, and development.

- Annie Marggraff, Chairperson
- Marianne Röder, Secretary
- Charlotte Veldsman, Treasurer
- Cristel Villet
- Eileen Grosse-Weischede
- Reinhard Redecker
- Ronel Lewies
- Saskia den-Adel Sheehama



*Image 3. SPCA Management Committee and Management. Top left to right: Saskia den Adel-Sheehama, Lee Keily (former Chairperson), Tinus Hansen (former Committee Member), Reinhard Redecker, Ronel Lewies, Sylvia Breitenstein (Branch Manager). Middle left to right: Cristel Villet, Annie Marggraff (Chairperson), Marianne Röder (Secretary), Hanna Rhodin (General Manager). Bottom left to right: Charlotte Veldsman (Treasurer), and Eileen Grosse-Weischede.*

## BRANCH REPRESENTATIVES

The Branch Representatives is a committed and strong team of individuals passionate about animal welfare. Each branch elects

one representative to communicate, report to, and work with headquarters.

- Alta Scott, Grootfontein Branch
- Aisha Pitsch, Tsumeb Branch
- Caroline Engelbrecht, Otjiwarongo Branch
- Derek Brune, Oshana Branch
- Elize Swartz, Luderitz Branch
- Gavin Brasler, Walvis Bay Branch

## SENIOR MANAGEMENT

The senior management team at the SPCA collectively have 40 years of animal welfare and animal sheltering expertise and over 55 years of animal care experience.

- Hanna Rhodin, General Manager
- Sylvia Breitenstein, Branch Manager

## CONTACT DETAILS

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Windhoek, Namibia  
P.O. Box: 1495, Windhoek, Namibia  
Phone: 061 238 654  
Email: [info@spcanamibia.org.na](mailto:info@spcanamibia.org.na)

## BANK DETAILS

Bank: First National Bank  
Branch: Old Power Station  
Code: 281174  
Type: Current Account  
Account Number: 62263228259

## FISCAL YEAR

The Fiscal Year 2019 represented in this report runs from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019.



## ANNUAL ACTIVITIES

It has been a busy year for all of the SPCAs. Animals continue to be in need of a safe haven and each and every SPCA do the best that they can with the resources that they have. The structures, facility, capacity, and financial and human resources all play a significant role in how each SPCA is able to assist the animals in their communities.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

In 2018 the SPCA Namibia received a major Bequests, and donations, which amounted to a little over N\$ 460,000.00.

Most of these funds were shared with the branches, and some were spent on computers for the different branches and advertising. Some of the funds were also used for the salary of Harald Fulle in fiscal year 2019.

All except for one of the six branches and the headquarters made a profit for the past financial year, but several of the branches communicate that securing funding continues to be a struggle.

The biggest category of income, for all of the branches, were from donations, grants and bequests, and events organized. Adoptions and boarding were also a good source of income for Otjiwarongo branch and Walvis Bay branch.

A large portion of the branches' funds were spent on pet food, salaries and wages, and

### SPCA Namibia - Income and Expenses - FY18 and FY19

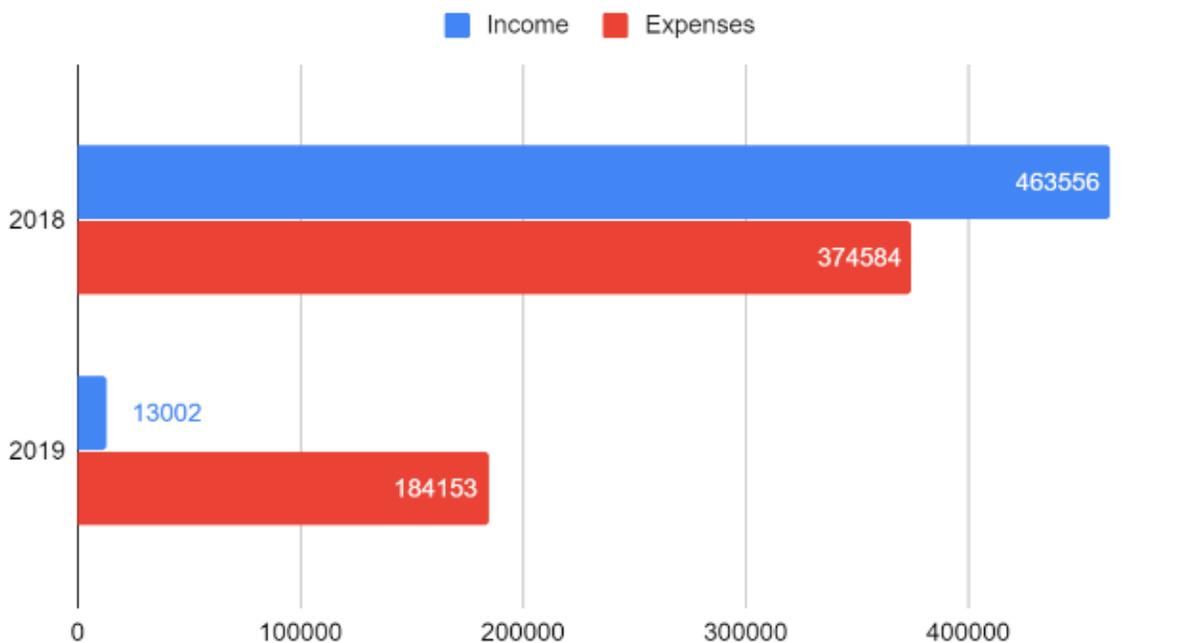


Chart 1. Shows income and expenses for SPCA Namibia during FY18 and FY19.



veterinary expenses (treatment and medicines). Much like SPCA Windhoek the branches had to spend considerable amounts of money on building repairs and maintenance and motor vehicle expenses (repairs and fuel).

SPCA of Windhoek has seen an increase in adoptions this financial year due to the staff working extremely hard on the adoption side of operations.

### SPCA Branches - Income and Expenses - FY19

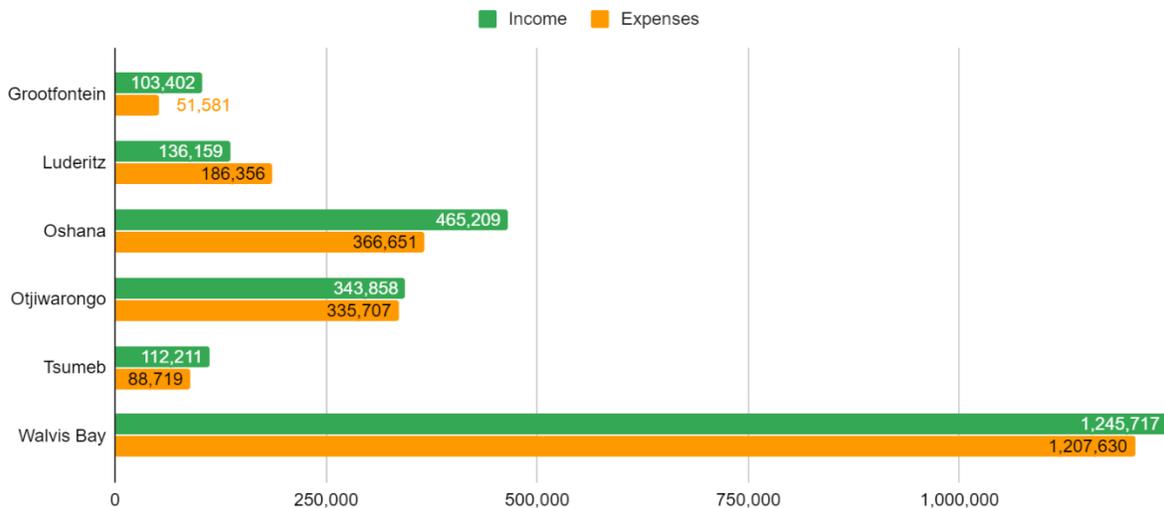


Chart 2. Showing branch income and expenses.

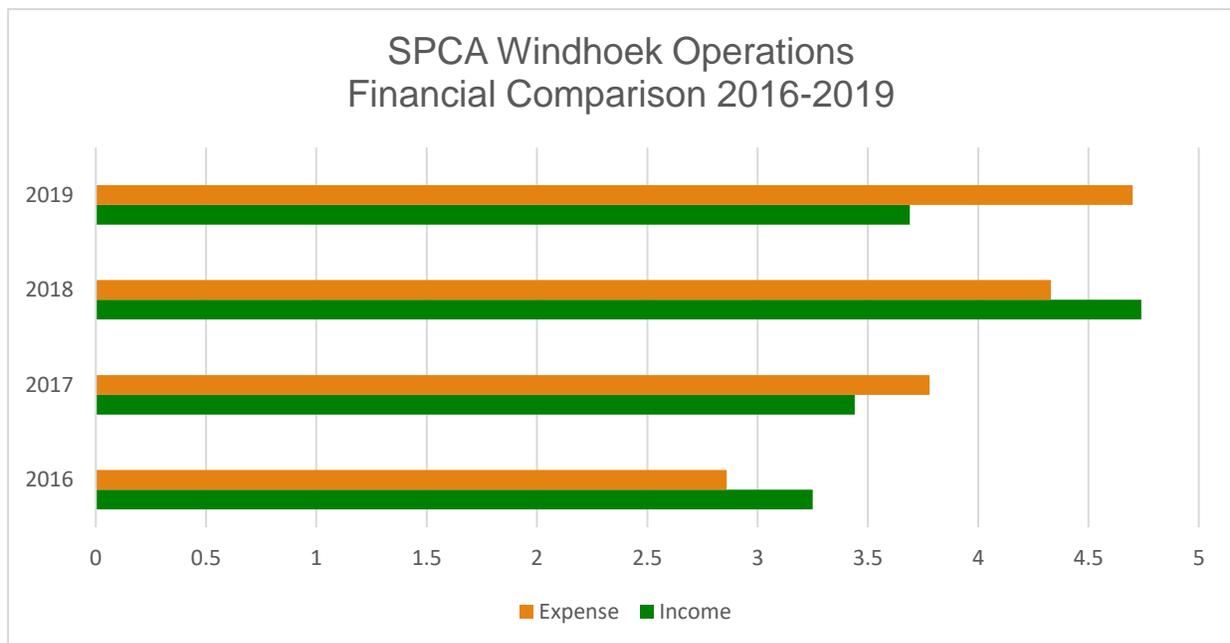


Chart 3. Showing a comparison of SPCA Windhoek operation's income and expenses.

While adoptions are up and the number of animals received by the SPCA are about the same as last year the cost per animal went up, that is: food, medical care, cleaning products, etc.

Due to the tough economic situation the SPCA in Windhoek suffered a loss this financial year.

For more detailed breakdown of income and expenditure, all the SPCAs have prepared Annual Financial Statements for fiscal year 2019.

## ANIMAL ACTIVITIES

The mandate at the SPCA is to prevent cruelty to animals. As such, one of the core functions over the years is to provide shelter to animals that has nowhere else to go. Whilst the SPCAs work with and respond to calls for many animals ranging from little birds and various wildlife, to livestock and equines, most of the animals that are seen throughout the year are cats, dogs, and other species kept as pets.

The year 2018/2019 has been another busy year for all the SPCAs. This part of the report will mainly concentrate on the numbers of animals that the SPCA have seen throughout the year.



Image 4. Showing different animals other than cats and dogs that the SPCAs help throughout the year.

Animal Intake, total: 4,466

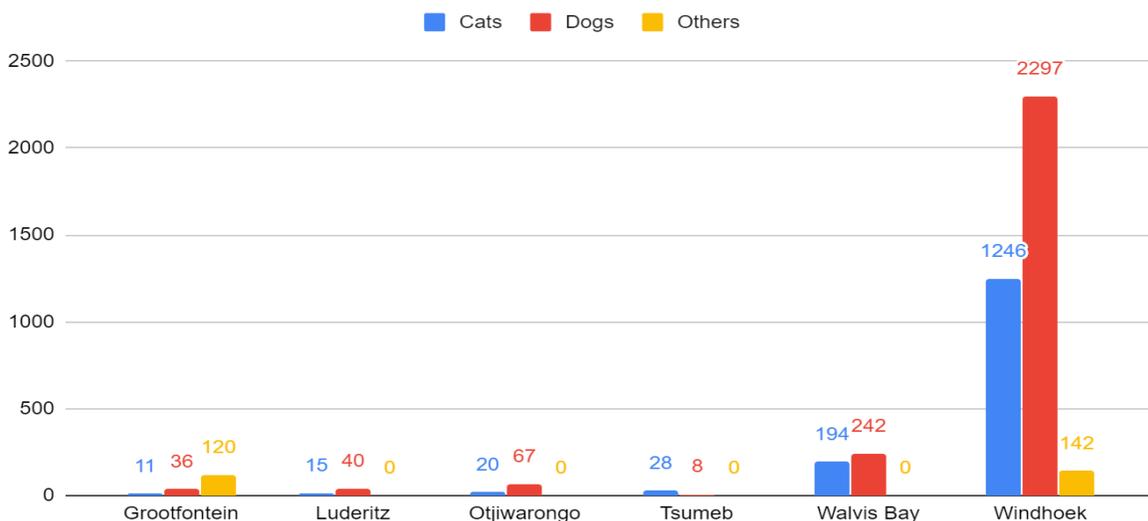


Chart 4. Showing animals coming to all the SPCAs.



This past year, the SPCA in Windhoek has for the first time included animals coming in in the 'Others' category. Currently not all other SPCAs are registering those numbers. The 'Others' category include animals such as rabbits, rats, hamsters, cattle, donkeys, horses, and birds. There are not enough of them to warrant a separate category for each in a report like this.

For further details on how many animals each of the SPCAs have helped this year, the individual Branch and Operations Annual Report of Activities FY19 are available.

#### ANIMAL INTAKE

The total number of animals received in FY19 by all the SPCAs is 4,466 which has kept all busy. For clarification, some of the SPCAs are considered an 'open-admission' shelter, meaning any animal coming in through the doors is accepted, other SPCAs

are 'limited-admission' shelter, meaning that once they are full they may only take in emergency cases or once they have the ability, space or financial, will they accept new animals again. Out of all cats and dogs taken in throughout the year 55% of animals were surrendered by their owners and 45% were taken in as stray.

#### ADOPTION

The adoption rates vary amongst the different SPCAs, and many factors are valid to review in adoption successes. The Walvis Bay branch have frequent and informative adoption ads helping with rehoming animals and percentage wise have rehomed a large number of animals based on their intake.

The SPCA in Windhoek has increased their adoption rate by 22% from the previous year, having invested a lot of time in various adoption campaigns and specials.

#### Adopted Animals, total: 875

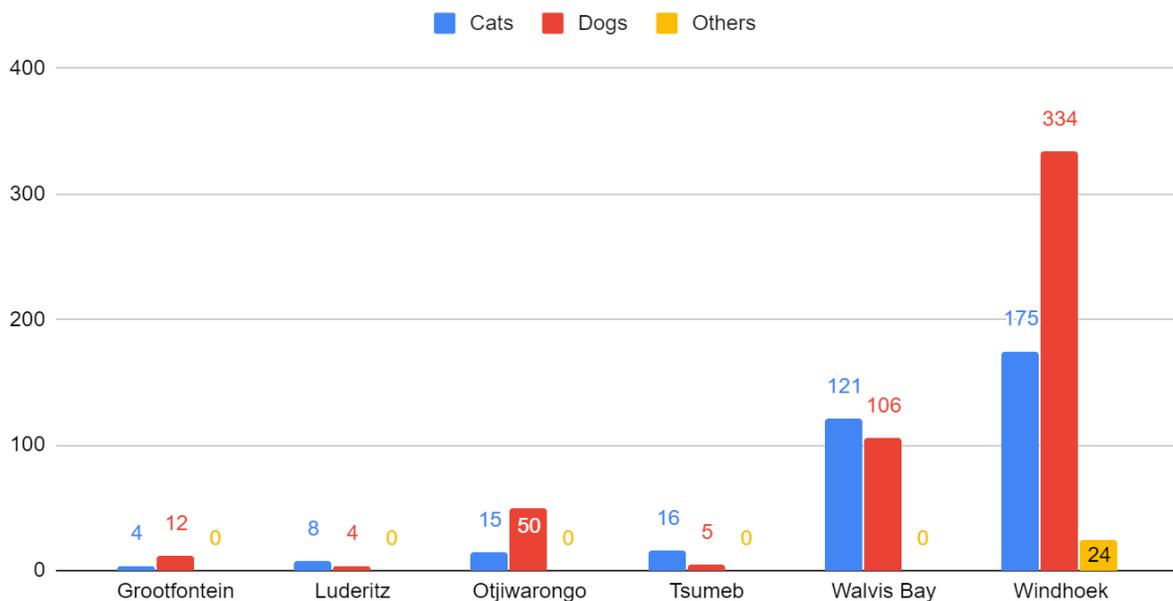


Chart 5. Showing number of adopted animals.



All of the branches are doing the best that they can and there are many considerations at play; location, size of town, investment in advertisement etc.



Image 5. Shows a happy ending for a dog that was adopted from the SPCA Walvis Bay branch.

#### RETURNED TO OWNER

The Returned To Owner (RTO) category of animals being reunited with their owners is heavily dependent on the admission type

that each of the SPCA apply. An open-admission shelter will have a significantly higher RTO rate than a limited-admission shelter. Currently, only three SPCAs are keeping records of RTO animals. A total of 596 animals were RTOs, majority by the SPCA in Windhoek with 581 of lost animals being reunited with their owners.

#### EUTHANASIA

The SPCA 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 for them. Unfortunately, this is not always possible. It is not uncommon that the SPCAs will often get or specifically pick up severely sick surrenders or strays, that are so sick that the only option is euthanasia.

Euthanized Animals, total: 2,469

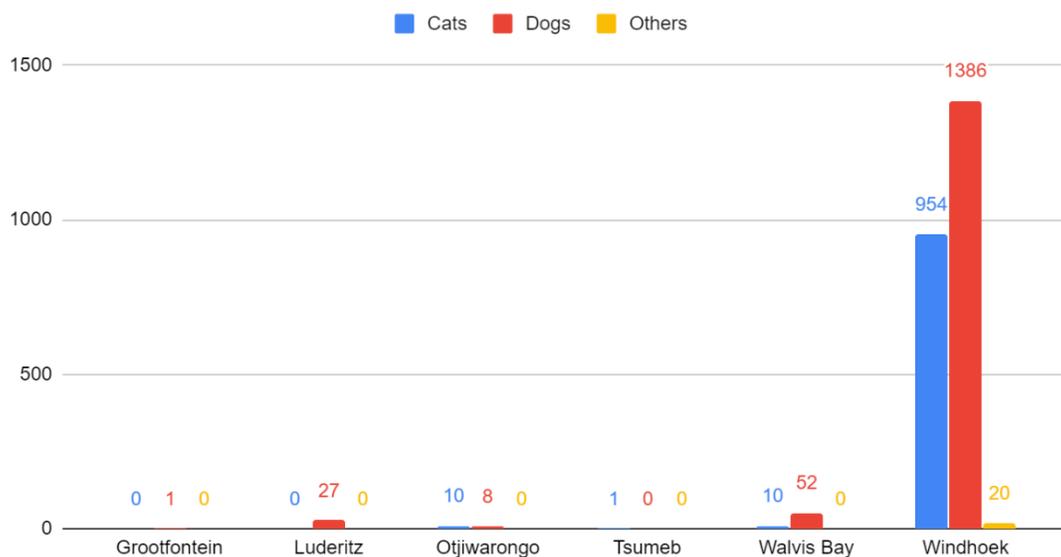


Chart 6. Showing total number of animals euthanized.



Euthanasia decisions are never taken lightly and is considered a management tool in an open-admission shelter.

In Windhoek in particular, looking at the annual number of intakes and number of adoptions, the SPCA knows that those animals in need would be turned to the streets or left to suffer should the organization not have an open-admission policy. This would not only let animals suffer unnecessarily but could also be considered a significant health risk as packs of stray dogs would start to form and increase as many of these animals are not sterilized further contributing to overpopulation issues; bite risks for members of public would likely increase; and thus the risk of rabies would likely increase as well. Namibia is considered a high-risk rabies country and thus it is crucial that no animal is left to the streets if it can be avoided.

## ANIMAL SERVICES

The SPCAs has several Animal Inspectors, and personnel performing the duties of Inspectors to the length the current Animal Protection Act 1962 permits it. The Inspectors work hard throughout the year responding to complaints, confiscating animals when needed, picking up stray and surrender animals, and taking animals to and from the private veterinary clinics. The SPCA vehicles are constantly running and the many kilometers and their years are starting to leave their marks with many repairs in this past year. Some of the branches do not have vehicles but are in desperate need of one.

### SPCA Inspectors' Accomplishments

#### 'At A Glance'

- **Collected a total of 1,725 animals**
  - 1,092 strays
  - 595 surrenders
- **Attended 319 complaints with follow-ups**
- **Completed 437 pre-adoption house checks**

*Figure 1. Brief overview of the SPCA Inspectors' undertakings in FY19.*

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

The SPCAs are all largely driven by their operational and emergency activities, often with little room to spare for other programs or new initiatives.

### HISTORY

In the last year, the committee and the management has completed an extensive investigation into the structure of SPCA Namibia and its branches. In 1949, the SPCA first established its center of operations in what is now Namibia with its headquarters in Windhoek.



## STAFFING

In the beginning of the fiscal year 2019 Monique Redecker, SPCA Windhoek CEO, was overseeing SPCA Namibia until the end of her employment, end of August in 2018. Harald Fulle was appointed the SPCA Namibia CEO as from mid-August 2018 until the end of his employment throughout March 2019. After Harald Fulle's departure SPCA Namibia was not in a financial position to hire a new employee and the responsibilities shifted to Hanna Rhodin, General Manager at SPCA Windhoek operations.

## HUMANE EDUCATION

The SPCA believes that the youth of today are the guardians of animals in the future. Today, the SPCA are visiting schools and speaking to children visiting the SPCA about compassion toward animals and responsible pet ownership. The SPCA in Windhoek only recently started keeping records of how many children they reach each month.

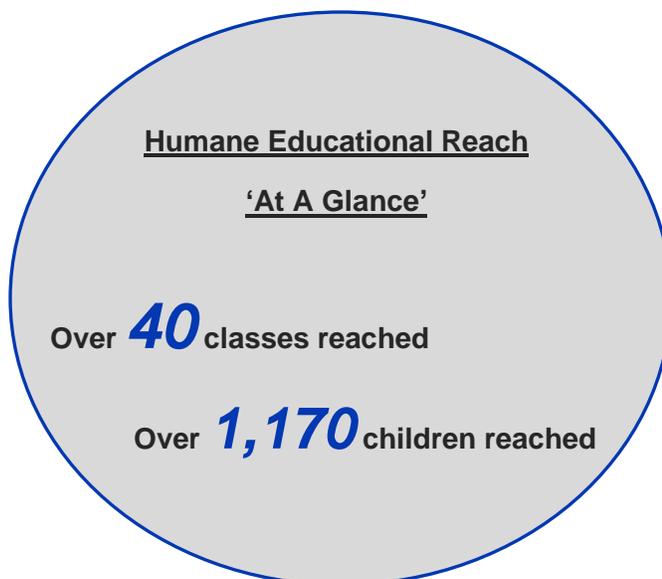


Figure 2. Brief overview of the SPCA's Humane Educational reach in Windhoek from January-June 2019.



Image 6. Featuring a humane educational outreach visit by the SPCA Oshana branch.

## THE YEAR AHEAD

The SPCAs are largely driven by its operational activities and its ability to respond to emergency cases. The animals in the care of the organizations often dictate the day to day activities with everything from medicating, feeding and cleaning the animals, surgeries, emergency responses, investigating complaints, collaborating with other organizations, to ensuring phone calls are answered, email and Facebook messages responded to, planning events, campaigns, and fundraisers, all administrative tasks accompanied by running an organization, and much more. However, the headquarter and its branches continues to place efforts in operational and program development and improvements. Whilst there are aspects reviewed and revised throughout the year, the coming year will have four main areas of focus: The Constitution; Corporate Governance; and Collaboration, Training, and Support.



*Image 7. A happy dog in the safe care of SPCA In Grootfontein.*

## CONSTITUTION

The last recognized constitution by the Ministry of Health and Social Services (MOHSS) is the SPCA's 1967 Constitution. Attempts have been made at amendments since, but none of the proposed constitutions have amendment years on them nor have they been processed properly. A constitution with amendments, once finalized, must go through the MOHSS for approval, to then be tabled at an AGM or an SGM and voted on by the members of the society. A quorum must be present with majority of the votes in favor of the amended constitution. Once it has been approved by the members as well, a year and proper signing of the constitution must take place.

The 1967 Constitution is in dire need of amendments to be relevant and modernized and will be one of the core focus areas of the Society in the coming year.

## CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The SPCA will be working on Corporate Governance in the coming year, as clarity of structure, internal reporting requirements, policies, and more is necessary moving forward. Not only will this aid the SPCA in becoming a more coherent organization, but also shed light to the Society's members, members of the public, and private and corporate supporters.

## COLLABORATION, TRAINING, AND SUPPORT

The SPCA headquarters and the branches communicate on a regular basis and support each other when possible.

In the coming year and moving forward, branch visits will be planned on an annual basis to both work on the working relationship, but also to learn from each other, and for headquarters to help with hands-on training and support.



*Image 8. Featuring a training session in dog handling and training when SPCA headquarters visited the SPCA Luderitz branch to work together.*



The SPCA hope to be able to get all of the SPCAs together for a training and retreat as many have never met. The animal sheltering field is constantly evolving and to stay up to date with the latest and for continued learning, the retreat would provide for roundtable discussions and training by professionals in the field as well as professionals providing training on diet, medical protocols for animal shelters, and more.

For this to happen, the SPCA must secure funding to be able to organize such a retreat as many of the branches have limited funds to spare and would need travel allowances and housing provided for to be able to participate.

## HUMANE EDUCATION

The SPCA is making significant efforts to expand their Humane Education Program to be able to reach many more schools and children, as well as encourage responsible pet ownership in adults. Many of the SPCAs struggle to find the time and with limited capacity and resources, efforts in youth education is often sparse. SPCA headquarters aim to put together a humane education program that can be of benefit for all of the branches nationwide without putting additional strain on the branches.

## THANK YOU

Every person who adopts an animal, volunteer for animals, donate toward the animals, educate about animals, and are a member of the SPCA contribute in their own ways, whether as a private individual or a corporate business, to the life of the

organization, and its ability to be there for those who have no voice and those animals who have nowhere else to go.

You are the ones who make the SPCA tick and what makes this possible. You save lives through your actions and are all heroes in the eyes of animals. Thank you.



*Image 9. Featuring two cats at the SPCA in Otjiwarongo.*



*Image 10. Featuring supporters helping SPCA in Tsumeb with a project for their cats.*

**Disclaimers:**

- The SPCA Oshana branch has been non-compliant with the Annual Report of Activities and as such, their numbers and achievements have not been included in this report.
- The SPCA Otjiwarongo Branch has only animal income/outcome records as of January 2019.
- The SPCA Tsumeb and SPCA Walvis Bay Branches have not kept return to owner records.
- The SPCA Tsumeb and SPCA Walvis Bay Branches have not kept records of complaints attended nor complete Inspector activities by their Inspector or responsibilities that normally would fall under Inspector activities.

**Report Resources:**

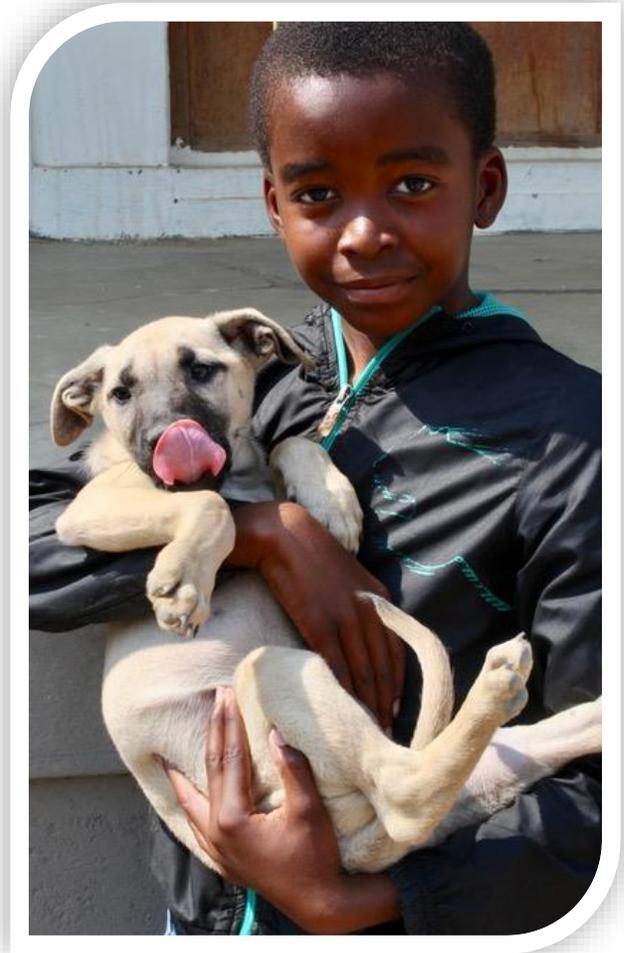
- SPCA Namibia – Grootfontein Branch - Annual Report of Activities FY19
- SPCA Namibia – Luderitz Branch - Annual Report of Activities FY19
- SPCA Namibia - Otjiwarongo Branch - Annual Report of Activities FY19
- SPCA Namibia - Tsumeb Branch - Annual Report of Activities FY19
- SPCA Namibia – Walvis Bay Branch - Annual Report of Activities FY19
- SPCA Namibia – Windhoek Operations - Annual Report of Activities FY19

**This Report was prepared by:**

- Hanna Rhodin, General Manager, SPCA Namibia-Windhoek
- Sylvia Breitenstein, Branch Manager, SPCA Namibia-Windhoek
- Dr. Annie Marggraff, Chairperson SPCA Namibia-Windhoek
- Charlotte Veldsman, Treasurer, SPCA Namibia-Windhoek
- Alta Scott, Grootfontein Branch
- Aisha Pitsch, Tsumeb Branch
- Caroline Engelbrecht, Otjiwarongo Branch
- Derek Brune, Oshana Branch
- Elize Swartz, Luderitz Branch
- Gavin Brasler, Walvis Bay Branch

**This Report was reviewed and approved by:**

- Dr. Annie Marggraff, Chairperson SPCA Namibia-Windhoek
- Charlotte Veldsman, Treasurer, SPCA Namibia-Windhoek
- Marianne Röder, Secretary, SPCA Namibia-Windhoek



*Image 11. Featuring a visitor at one of SPCA Windhoek's community outreach initiative 'Shelter Open Day'.*



