



**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
OF THE WINDHOEK SPCA  
HELD AT 19:30 ON OCTOBER 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
AT THE OLD WHEELER'S CLUB, WINDHOEK**

**1. WELCOME**

The chairman welcomed everyone present and expressed his gratitude towards Old Wheelers for making the venue available to us.

**2. APOLOGIES**

None

**3. PROXY FORMS**

1 proxy was handed to the secretary by M Huester (for Mr Huester).

**4. PROCEDURE OF THE MEETING**

The chairman requested that any questions be held to the end where there would be an opportunity for all to voice their opinions during a question and answer session.

**5. MINUTES OF THE 2015 AGM AND ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

Proposed by R Redecker

Seconded by S Quarmby

**6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

None

**7. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

My name is Reinhard Redecker and I am the Acting Chairman of the SPCA committee.

A year ago a number of new members (including myself) were nominated and accepted by the SPCA members present at the AGM. Little did I know that I would be sitting here today as Acting Chairman of the SPCA Board. And believe me it was an eventful year:

The first setback, which we had was the resignation of Brigitte Meissner as SPCA Manager in February this year. She immigrated to Australia. We advertised the position and interviewed 4 candidates. We eventually employed Mrs Birgit Friedlein but we did not renew the 3 month probation contract. Anke Oetjens jumped in as temporary manager for 2 months and Sylvia Breitenstein then took over the position as kennel manager as from 1 July 2016.

More bad news hit us in May when Bernd Mauder (our chairman) and Anke Oetjens (our secretary and almost permanent face and right hand to Brigitte, Birgit and Sylvia at the SPCA) informed us that they will be leaving for Thailand since Bernd's position at Telecom was not renewed.

In September we also employed Dee Doses (also one of the applicants for the Manager's position) in order to help Sylvia manage all the duties there are. Previously Anke had taken over that roll on a voluntary basis.

Nevertheless we are still a strong and harmonious team and we have achieved to straighten out many challenges that came our way:

Walvis Bay SPCA – most of you know that the board of the WB SPCA all resigned and that help was requested via the media and the Swakopmund SPCA to get them up and running again. We felt that it was our responsibility to help and we did the following: Brigitte and Anke went to WB for 2 days to assist with implementation of standard procedures etc and we received a list of items, which they needed and supplied them accordingly. Currently they seem to be doing okay.

We furthermore helped the City of Windhoek with a rabies vaccination campaign.

We are currently busy with a campaign to find homes for bench warmers.

A huge task, which we are currently busy with is the proposed move of the SPCA to the UNAM Veterinary Campus. For a number of years, the SPCA has been investigating a possible sale of the current property and consequent move to another location. At last year's AGM we were informed by Debbie Gibson that UNAM has expressed an interest to offer us a piece of land near the proposed Veterinary Campus. We have signed an "expression of interest" document and currently we are once again busy to obtain valuations on our existing property while Bartsch Architects are making a budget for a new SPCA at UNAM. Developers will be asked to make proposals on how to make a deal that is favourable for everybody. We will however still take into account a lot of factors before making our final decision.

I would also like to mention that we are under the impression that the attitude we are getting from the general public is lately more favourable towards the SPCA. We are however still subjected to regular attacks on facebook and it seems that people do firstly not realise how much damage can be done. We would like the Public to know that the SPCA has the best interest of any animal at heart and that we are not an organisation who turns a blind eye or who enjoys to mistreat animals. To be able to do our work, we depend on the Public for donations and a supportive attitude. If the SPCA is badmouthed on a public forum by members of the Public without knowing the facts, you can make yourself guilty of defamation. Secondly nobody is acting in the best interest of the animals by badmouthing any organisation trying to help animals because the general public will start to distrust such an organisation and withdraw their support whether the accusation is valid or not. So we appeal to anybody to treat information obtained from a public forum with the necessary caution.

Lastly I would like to thank my fellow committee members for their tireless efforts to keep this very worth organisation going.

## 8. TREASURER'S REPORT

Good evening, I am Steffi Quarmby and I am the Treasurer for the SPCA.

This was my first year as Treasurer and my first experience being involved with a welfare organization. Coming from an accounting background it has been eye opening how such an organization operates. Controls have to be put into place as with any other business. The scary part however is that the SPCA is reliant on the goodwill of others to stay afloat. Initially I found it quite stressful looking at the bank balance, not knowing where the next month funding would come from. But I have since learnt to remain hopeful, as just when you think things are going to be tight there is a helping hand from Donors and Sponsors. I will tell you more about that in a bit.

I know that most of you will be quite bored with numbers and statistics and thus I will keep things brief and I have added some pictures of cute animals in case you do drift off. Our total income has increased from prior year by 9% while our expenses have remained relatively constant with a 2% increase. As you can see our main cost drivers are still veterinary and medical expenses, as well as pet food and wages for our staff. Overall we have remained profitable with a N\$383 thousand surplus. The financial trend shows that we are still able to cover our expenses.

When I looked at the financials I wondered what would be of interest to our members and supporters. What does it cost to run an SPCA on a daily basis? I have broken it down over the major cost drivers:

- Pet food is at N\$1,296 dollars per day;
- Veterinary costs at N\$2,040 per day;
- Wages at N\$2,574 per day, which equates to just over N\$170 per our 15 staff members;
- Water and electricity amount to N\$313; and
- With the remaining other costs amounting to N\$1,640 per day.
- This comes to a total of N\$7,863 dollars a day.

As you can see this has only marginally increased from prior year. Without our loyal members, supporters and sponsors, this would be impossible.

I would like to give you an idea of just some of our top donators that support us with cash subsidies throughout the year. As you can see these are not only businesses but also individuals that contribute on a monthly basis. Some of our contributions come by way of birthday presents, where the individual have asked friends and family to rather donate than buy gifts. Others come from funerals where the families have asked for donations instead of flowers. Even after her passing Mrs Dodds has continued to support the SPCA by way of the Lafrenz/Dodds trust. It is this selfless-less that keeps a great organization like the SPCA going and we couldn't be more thankful to each and every one of you.

Throughout the year we get donations by way of pet food, blankets and services that are provided free of charge, as well as Volunteers that provide their time. These are often hard to quantify in dollar terms, but it does not mean that they are less appreciated. We have a truly giving community and that is a great characteristic of our society.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Autohaus for their amazing Sponsorship. They have allowed the SPCA the use of their Amarok. Not only does it allow us to do be more efficient and effective but it also brings smiles to the community around us.

The greatness of a nation can be judged by the way its animals are treated. And lastly, but it no way the least; I want to thank each and every one that has made a place in their home for a previously unwanted animal.

## **9. MANAGER'S REPORT**

Good evening and welcome. As announced at the last AGM the new computer system has been up and running for just over a year now and therefore we have very interesting statistics to show. Unfortunately we do not have two years as comparison yet. It seems like we discover new features in the program every day.

As you can see on the slides, the reasons most pets are being put down by the SPCA is because they are sick. These reasons include anything from parvo to distemper and snuffles to feline Leukaemia, but also other diseases. Often people will surrender animals that have cancer. We are also receiving more and more animals with TVT.

The next slides show the adoption rates for cats and dogs coming into the SPCA. We are relatively strict in who we adopt animals out to, but still applications are rarely turned down. The number of people who are responsible owners who are willing to adopt pets from SPCA just seems to be rather low. What we want to avoid at all cost is to have animals adopted from us end in bad situations.

We receive between 150 and 200 dogs a month and between 50 and 90 cats a month. A lot of these animals make up owner surrendered animals. The reasons for surrendering pets are many and varied, but lately very many people are reporting that they have to move to smaller accommodation due to financial restraints. This is not a reason we saw so much in the past.

The next chart shows the number of cats we receive and the number re-homed and the number of dogs received and re-homed.

## **10. ELECTION OF PATRON**

There were no nominees for Patron. The Chair asked for ideas for a suitable patron. Patron plays an important role. Ideally a patron should be someone older, someone with authority and someone that society looks up to.

## **11. ELECTION OF AUDITOR**

Mr Arne Stier kindly agreed to stand as auditor again. This was approved by a majority show of hands. The Chair expressed the gratitude of the SPCA to him.

## **12. ELECTION OF ADDITIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

New committee members Ronel Esbach and Wynand Debot were nominated as new committee members. They both introduced themselves at the meeting. They were unanimously voted in by a show of hands.

The existing committee would stay on:

1. Reinhard Redecker
2. Eileen Grosse-Weischede
3. Stephanie Quarmby
4. Jolene Nel
5. Petra Scheuermann

### **13. OTHER BUSINESS**

Under other business the potential of moving the SPCA premises to UNAM was discussed. It was however noted that this discussion is premature and a lot of research still has to be done before any decision can be taken.

### **14. CLOSURE**

With no further items for discussion the meeting was closed.