

Press Release

11 May 2010

SPCA removes nine greyhounds after owners arrested for illegal hunting

Two men have been arrested for hunting illegally with the dogs in Phillipi Nature Reserve. They were caught with a dead grysbok, which is suspected to have been killed by the dogs. When City Parks Law Enforcement officials apprehended the hunters, it is reported that they shot at some of the dogs when they were attacked by them. Of the nine greyhounds picked up by the SPCA, some have open wounds which will be assessed and treated by SPCA vets.

Hunting with dogs is an ongoing and common problem in the greater Cape Town Metropole. City Parks has their own law enforcement division, who are called in to assist reserve management in such cases. The perpetrators are in custody and a likely to appear in Mitchell's Plain Magistrates court on charges of illegal hunting in terms of the Nature Conservation Act. (No details on maximum fines available).

The SPCA suspects that the perpetrators may be repeat offenders who when caught in the past have just paid an admission of guilt fine and been released. The SPCA believes this is an organised event (i.e. hunting to sell the meat) although it is expected that the accused are likely to claim it is subsistence hunting. The SPCA will join forces with City Parks to insist that SAPS follows through with a prosecution.

Greyhounds are used because they are fast, natural hunters with a keen sense of smell. They are often kept in large packs in small, confined spaces and the females are bred continually and dogs will be trained for hunting from around eight months. Living conditions for these animals is generally bad.

Ends

For more information please contact Sarah Scarth on 021 700 4154 or email sscarth@spca-ct.co.za

Notes to the editor – the dogs are currently in the care of the Cape of Good Hope SPCA