

Press release
3 January 2011

Lost and found animals soar over New Year weekend – SPCA

Festivities across the Cape peninsular to welcome in 2011 has resulted in dozens of animals being reported lost and many more needing to be rescued by the Cape of Good Hope SPCA.

SPCA Inspectors started responding to calls from southern, central and northern suburbs on Friday, 31 December and worked throughout the New Year's weekend to help stray and injured animals.

Over the weekend the SPCA's emergency after-hours hotline received a total of 147 calls – 64 more than in 2009 – of which 50 were logged just on New Year's Eve. Thirty eight stray animals were picked up by SPCA Inspectors who raced across the peninsular responding to emergency calls.

“The number of calls received this year was higher than in 2009 and significantly higher than those received on an average weekend”, said CoGH SPCA Chief Inspector Andries Venter. “Where we would normally expect to receive around 70 calls between Friday and Sunday night this New Year's weekend we have been flooded with calls”, he said.

Thankfully most of the animals rescued by the SPCA were not seriously injured and the worst report was of a dog that got stuck under a neighbour's gate while trying to flee the sound of firecrackers. Other incidents included a dog which was hit by a car after its negligent owner led him across a busy road; a pregnant stray cat that gave birth at a shopping mall; and a healthy, but tired seal found resting on a beach in Melkbosstrand. SPCA Wildlife Unit Inspectors safely guided the seal back into the ocean.

The SPCA's Lost and Found department was on duty throughout New Year's Eve and reported having a busy weekend trying to reunite owners with their pets. On Friday night they received over 50 calls from owners reporting their animals missing and an additional 20 over the weekend. Twenty-two stray dogs were brought into the SPCA Lost and Found Department and five have been reunited with their owners. The SPCA has appealed to pet owners who've lost their dog/s over the past weekend to please contact the SPCA.

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