

**Press Release**  
**22 August 2010**

**Athlone Cooling Towers implosion impact on animals**

A team of Cape of Good Hope (CoGH) SPCA Inspectors together with four Animal Anti-Cruelty League (AACL) inspectors and a veterinarian of the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals (PDSA) were prepared to receive a flood of lost and stray pets today as a result of the Athlone Cooling Towers implosion.

"We were concerned that many animals would become injured in their attempts to escape the loud bang as they are able to hear a wider range of sounds than humans can (around seven times louder). We are relieved that only 26 animals were taken in by the SPCA", said CoGH SPCA Chief Inspector Andries Venter.

Of the 26 animals, four were surrendered to the SPCA by their owners, three dogs and a cat admitted for sterilisation, and the rest were strays collected in the areas surrounding the towers prior to the implosion.

All animals were admitted to a temporary holding facility manned by SPCA volunteers at the Langa Sports Field, which enabled the animal rescue team to keep the animals safe until their owners reclaimed them. No animals were claimed and were taken to the SPCA in Grassy Park.

As a direct effect of today's event, two stray dogs were caught in a water channel, which was quickly filling up with water, along the N2, and a Rhombic Skaapsteker snake found at the Pinelands Clyde Sports Field.

The two dogs were rescued by City Council Fire Services and were taken to the SPCA. They are both well and unharmed. The snake unfortunately suffered fatal injuries after being allegedly trampled by crowds who gathered to witness the implosion.

In preparation for the implosion, the SPCA visited homes in the surrounding areas on Friday, 20 August to advise pet owners of how to protect their animals, and together with City Council Pound Officers, the SPCA patrolled the affected areas from 7am today to collect stray animals and protect them from the potential negative effects of the blast.

"The CoGH SPCA's preparation for this event forms part of a Disaster Risk Management plan submitted by the SPCA and other animal welfare organisations to City Council. We would like to thank the AACL, PDSA, Disaster Risk Management and City Council Fire Services for their assistance", said Venter.

Concerned members of the public are asked to please report any lost, injured or stray animals to the SPCA 24 hr control centre - 700 4140 /59 or a/h to 083 326 1604.

Please contact the SPCA on 021 700 4140 during office hours to report a lost pet.