



Press Release

1 October 2008

First-ever TV series on local SPCA launched worldwide

For the first time, this October the outstanding work of Inspectors from the SPCA (Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) Cape of Good Hope will be shown in a brand new series of the ever popular *Animal Cops* franchise, premiering on October 13 at 10pm on Animal Planet, DStv. At the same time the series will premier across the UK, Europe, Middle East and Africa.

The series has received rave reviews from audiences in the USA, where it has just been aired, much to the delight of the SPCA who is eager to encourage people to tune in to the show. "In addition to the great entertainment value the show offers, we believe it delivers a powerful and informative message about animal abuse and the SPCA's mission to prevent animal cruelty" said Allan Perrins, CEO of the SPCA Cape of Good Hope.

The 15-part series documents the work of inspectors from the Cape of Good Hope SPCA, one of 93 SPCAs in South Africa, South Africa's largest animal welfare organisation which enforces over 90% of animal welfare legislation.

Each SPCA 'Animal Cop' attends to approximately 20 cases each week and the team investigates up to 1,300 cruelty complaint calls made to just this SPCA every month. Along with three full time and two locum tenans veterinarians, three animal welfare assistants and 10 theatre assistants, every day (and episode) is guaranteed to be action packed.

In addition, these everyday animal welfare heroes, regularly aid other individual SPCAs in the Western Cape Region, undertaking investigations into animal cruelty and rescuing injured, abandoned and confiscated animals.

Facilities at the SPCA Cape of Good Hope include housing for over 400 dogs, 200 cats and 30 horses with 103 permanent staff and numerous volunteers on site to take care of all animals in their care.

This dedicated team treat over 150 000 animals each year and have a large adoption facility, with on average 20 animals adopted out each week.

In the last six months, animal cruelty charges have been laid against several individuals and five cases have gone to court.

This brand new series will see the inspectors investigate organised dog fighting syndicates, an underground illegal blood sport, whilst the wildlife rescue team deal with anything from seals, baboons, porcupines, antelope and snakes - and Animal Planet will be there to witness it all!

Meet some of the 'Cops':

Andries Venter – Inspectorate Manager - Fun and passionate about his job, Andries joined the SPCA Cape of Good Hope back in 2000 as a qualified Senior Inspector. He left to expand his experience and became the National Council of SPCA's Western Cape Liaison Officer, training many other SPCA inspectors and maintaining strictly prescribed standards. Andries returned to lead the team of committed and dedicated Inspectors, who daily improve the lives of hundreds of animals across the Cape Peninsula and beyond. Andries lives in Muizenberg.

Kira Joshua – Senior Inspector - Kira has worked for the SPCA since 2000 and is currently a Senior Inspector, specializing in wildlife. In addition to her SPCA Inspector qualifications, she has a National Diploma in Nature Conservation and is passionate about the wellbeing of all wild animals. With extensive experience in responding to rescues of seals, tortoises, baboons and many other species, Kira is an invaluable member of the team. Kira lives in Athlone.

James Murphy – Senior Inspector - From humble beginnings as an orderly in the SPCA hospital, during his 19 year tenure, James has worked his way up the organization and today is one of four senior inspectors. Described by his colleagues as a bit of a "McGyver", James is an experienced and able animal rescuer, with strong primary veterinary experience. James lives with his family in Tableview

Nelson Sowati - Inspector - Joined the SPCA cattery in 1972. His passion for animal welfare began as a child when he remembers shouting at children when he witnessed abuse towards horses. In 1993 he became a qualified inspector during 1997 the need was felt for an Educational Officer in the poorer areas and Nelson was appointed. Today, he is back on the team helping to make a positive difference to the lives of many animals. Nelson lives in Grassy Park.

Nelson's ethos is to educate before he confiscates and to prevent before he prosecutes and with this work ethic has earned the respect of many a Capetonian.

Wayne Hector – Inspector – Two years ago Wayne joined the society as an Animal Care Assistant. His strong work ethic and keenness to learn secured his position with the inspectorate. In 2007 he passed his exams with flying colours to become a qualified inspector. He has excelled in his duties to prevent cruelty to animals and earned him huge respect, and helped him secure a recent promotion to manager of the Swartland and Westcoast SPCA.

Dr Miles Penfold – Senior Veterinarian – Extremely thorough and competent Miles leads the surgical team that last year performed 7 530 operations and procedures. Trained at Pretoria University Onderstepoort Veterinary faculty, he joined the SPCA Cape of Good Hope in early 2007 after spending five years working for other animal welfare organisations and veterinary practices locally and abroad. No challenge is too big for Miles who is totally committed to providing a world class service to those most in need. Miles lives in Plumstead.

Dr Joy Barry – Veterinarian - Qualified at Onderstepoort in 2004 and thereafter worked in private practice in Pretoria for a year. In 2006 she spent 18 months working as a locum tenens vet in the UK. In 2007 she returned to South Africa and at the end of that year joined the permanent staff at the SPCA hospital. Joy lives in Glen Cairn.

Dr Kukie Ncamsile Harris - Locum Tenans Veterinarian – Kukie is one of handful of black women veterinarians in South Africa. Educated in Lesotho and trained at Medunsa, she has followed her passion to bring quality veterinary care to those who need it most and thus alleviate animal suffering. She was the senior veterinarian at the SPCA Cape of Good Hope and now serves in a Locum Tenans capacity. Kukie lives in Muizenberg.

Dr George Birch – Veterinarian - Qualified at Onderstepoort in 2005 and thereafter worked at the Tygerberg Veterinary Hospital until joining the Cape of Good Hope SPCA in February 2007. Highly skilled in the treatment of domestic animals, George is a committed member of the SPCA veterinary team. George lives in Kenilworth.

Winati “Chief” Mkaliphi - Chief Veterinary Orderly - Joined the SPCA in 1976 as a hospital assistant and is now the Chief Veterinary Orderly. He has a reputation in the hospital for his willingness to help and his extensive knowledge and ability in helping to prepare animals for surgery and the treatment of sick and injured animals. His superior knowledge has earned him respect and the title of 'Chief'. Winati lives in Grassy Park.

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Issued by the SPCA Cape of Good Hope. For further information or visuals, please contact Sarah Scarth on sscarth@spca-ct.co.za or 021 700 4154 or 083 271 3768.

Notes to the editor

Background information –SPCA Cape of Good Hope:

Established in 1872, the SPCA Cape of Good Hope is the founding society of the SPCA movement in South Africa and the oldest animal welfare institution in the country. It is affiliated to the RSPCA, is a member of WSPA and an Executive member of the National Council of SPCA's South Africa.

Over the past 136 years it has carried out its mission to prevent cruelty to animals, through education, law enforcement, veterinary care services (24 hour animal hospital and three mobile clinics serving impoverished communities) and running a kennel, cattery, horse care unit and adoption centre, which every year places hundreds of animals in loving and caring homes.

The team of 103 supported by an active volunteer force, speak, protect and care for all animals.

Their area of operation is vast and covers approximately 11 000km². Last year alone the society sterilized over 4000 animals, thus reducing the region's animal over-population problem. In so doing they not only improved the health of the individual animal but also prevented many unwanted litters of kittens and puppies. In the same period they re-homed 784 companion animals and responded to thousands of reports of animal cruelty.

Leading this dynamic team is CEO Allan Perrins, who as a former inspectorate, hospital and operation manager for the society, brings a wealth of experience and compassion to the position. Calm under fire and determined to root out and prevent animal cruelty wherever possible, Allan is supported by an active board of directors, whose Chairman Anthony Sedgwick has been a driving force in transforming the organisation into one of the most professional and effective animal welfare groups in the region.

Steadfast in their determination to raise awareness of animal welfare and to significantly reduce and prevent animal cruelty, they provide veterinary care to those communities most in need 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

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