



THE SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS OF NAMIBIA

WELFARE ORGANIZATION 6 (WO6)

# Annual Report of Activities

FISCAL YEAR 2022





## CHAIRPERSON'S LETTER

**Dear Friend,**

The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is an organization with an important cause - to be there for the animals who cannot speak for themselves. The animals that our SPCAs take in nationwide are some of the most vulnerable in our communities, and without an SPCA to provide a safe haven or relief, many of these animals would suffer.

Like any year, the SPCA teams are often consumed by their daily activities, and this year was no different; caring for the animals, ensuring they get medical attention, attending cruelty complaints, facilitating adoptions, helping with surrenders, and collecting strays. Whilst several of our SPCAs have staff members, many rely on branch committee members to take care of all inquiries, and public-facing interactions. All of our committee members are non-remunerated and do what they do for the sheer love of animals. For many of them, it feels like there isn't enough time in the day to do all that is needed. If you have ever thought about getting involved with your local SPCA - I am sure your time and support would be appreciated.

COVID-19 has definitely thrown us all for a loop, and the SPCA was no different. The third wave in 2021 was still active at the beginning of this fiscal year, resulting in a lot of surrendered animals at the time. Whilst we did see more opportunities for fundraising, the first half of this year was definitely still impacted by the pandemic. We are optimistic that the new year ahead will be easier for fundraising and events efforts.

This year we have spent quite a bit of time developing procedure manuals in order to streamline administrative and HR procedures to ensure that we practice on sound organizational principles. We hope that these procedures will also be helpful in guiding managers at our branches through HR and administrative pitfalls.

The SPCA really could not do what we do without our loyal supporters. Whether you volunteer, adopt, donate, or educate (or all of the above); you are the backbone of the SPCAs around the country. On behalf of the SPCA Namibia's Management Committee and wider team, we would like to express a heartfelt Thank You for all that you do for animals.

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**Linda Dodds**

Chairperson of SPCA Namibia-Windhoek



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## ABBREVIATIONS

AFS	Annual Financial Statement
ARA	Annual Report of Activities
FY	Fiscal Year
HaH	Have A Heart
MOHSS	Ministry of Health and Social Services
MOU	Memorandum Of Understanding
NAWA	Namibia Animal Welfare Association
RTO	Return To Owner
SPCA	The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
TNR	Trap-Neuter-Return
TVT	Canine Transmissible Venereal Tumor
UNAM	University of Namibia
URI	Upper Respiratory Infection
WAWP	Working Animal Welfare Project
WO	Welfare Organization



working with domestic animals, but not limited to. We provide a safe haven for

## About Us

The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) Namibia was founded in 1949 with its headquarters in Windhoek. The SPCA Windhoek is the shelter operations of SPCA Namibia. There are an additional seven branches throughout Namibia, of various size and scope, located in Grootfontein, Keetmanshoop, Luderitz, Oshana, Otjiwarongo, Tsumeb, and Walvis Bay. We are a Welfare Organization (WO6), registered with the Ministry of Health and Social Services. The SPCA is here to protect and prevent cruelty to animals, and to promote animal welfare in Namibia. Our organization aids animals in need through education, action, and provision of care.

The SPCA plays a pivotal role in rescuing and assisting animals that are neglected, abandoned, and/or abused all over Namibia, and together make up the largest animal welfare organization in the country, primarily

animals that have nowhere else to go, and medical care and behavioral rehabilitation for animals in need. Our team is passionate about finding loving homes for the pets in our care. Wild animals are transferred to wildlife rescue, rehabilitation, and release centers, and large domestic animals, such as horses, donkeys, and livestock, are cared for through a dedicated foster network. The SPCA's numerous shelters and foster caregiver networks can house anywhere from 20 to over 400 animals at any given time. We are primarily funded by donations from generous private individuals and corporate businesses.

## VISION, MISSION, AND VALUES

Our vision is to end animal cruelty in Namibia and, through our actions and education,



engender respect and compassion for all animals.

Our mission is to prevent cruelty, alleviate suffering, and promote the welfare of all animals.

In our day-to-day work with animals and clients, the SPCA team are guided by our values:

- Compassion
- Perseverance
- Respect
- Honesty
- Trust
- Loyalty

## MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Management Committee consists of a committed and professional team with experience and expertise in the following areas: veterinary medicine, accounting, law, corporate business and governance, human resources, administration, and education.

- Chairperson: Linda Dodds
- Vice-Chairperson: Richard Steinbach
- Treasurer: Janine Pretorius
- Secretary: Dr. Annie Marggraff
- General Committee Members:
  - Anni Roth
  - Carmen Ribeiro
  - Mark Kissler
  - Nina Foerster
  - Stefanie Busch
  - Stephanie Viljoen
  - Thivana Pillay

## BRANCHES AND THEIR REPRESENTATIVES

The SPCA Branch Representatives are a group of committed individuals passionate about animal welfare. Each branch elects one representative to report to and communicate and collaborate with headquarters. Behind each branch representative is a supportive branch committee lending its services, without whose dedication none of this would be possible:

- Alta Scott, Grootfontein Branch
- Angelique Dunn, Keetmanshoop Branch
- Fabienne Looser, Luderitz Branch
- Sarde Amadhila, Oshana Branch
- Caroline Engelbrecht, Otjiwarongo Branch
- Michelle Swarts, Tsumeb Branch
- Quinton van Rooyen, Walvis Bay Branch





## STAFF AND SENIOR MANAGEMENT

Across the nation, the SPCA employs 33 people. Some of our teams have as many as 18 employees and some of us have very few or no paid employees at all; relying entirely on branch representatives, committee members, and volunteers. Everyone plays an important part to the organization, for without their efforts, we could not be there for some of the most vulnerable animals in our country.

The senior management team, based at headquarters, collectively has over 40 years of animal welfare and animal sheltering expertise and over 55 years of animal care experience.

- Hanna Rhodin, National Director
- Sylvia Breitenstein, Director of Operations

## FISCAL YEAR

The Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) represented in this report runs from 1st of July 2021 through 30th of June 2022.

## CONTACT DETAILS

Address: 145 Robert Mugabe Avenue,  
Windhoek, Namibia  
P.O. Box: 1495, Windhoek, Namibia  
Phone: 061 238 654  
Email: [info@spcanamibia.org.na](mailto:info@spcanamibia.org.na)  
Website: [www.spcanamibia.org.na](http://www.spcanamibia.org.na)

## BANK DETAILS

Account Name: SPCA Namibia  
Bank: First National Bank  
Branch: Maerua Mall  
Code: 282273  
Type: Current Account  
Account Number: 62263228259



The SPCA Windhoek, with its animal shelter,



## Annual Activities

It appears that each year the requests for help increases, more animals are in need of a safe haven, and more stray cats are populating. Each SPCA provides the best care possible with its available resources. The structure, facilities, capacity, and financial and human resources of an SPCA influence its ability to support and be a refuge for the animals in our communities.

Currently, as at the end of the fiscal year, the SPCA has seven official branches across the country:

- SPCA Grootfontein
- SPCA Keetmanshoop
- SPCA Luderitz
- SPCA Oshana
- SPCA Otjiwarongo
- SPCA Tsumeb
- SPCA Walvis Bay

is the operational part of SPCA Namibia headquarters.

The year has been filled with not only rescuing and assisting animals in need, but all things relevant to running an organization and to continuing its improvement and growth. We keep busy taking care of the animals, educating members of our community, finding loving homes for our rehoming animals, securing veterinary care for both ordinary and extraordinary procedures, engaging volunteers and members, fundraising, building, renovating and much more.

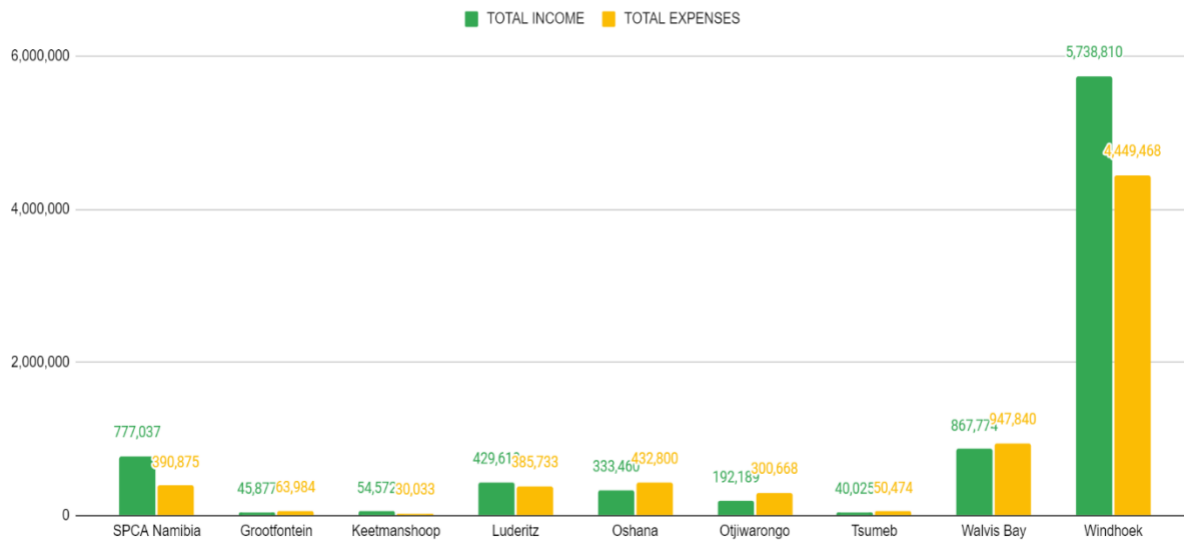
## FINANCIAL REPORT

Across our SPCAs in FY22 our total income came to N\$8,479,354 and our expenses amounted to a total of N\$7,051,875. For SPCA Namibia, grants, donations and bequests received during FY22 amounted to N\$777,037.



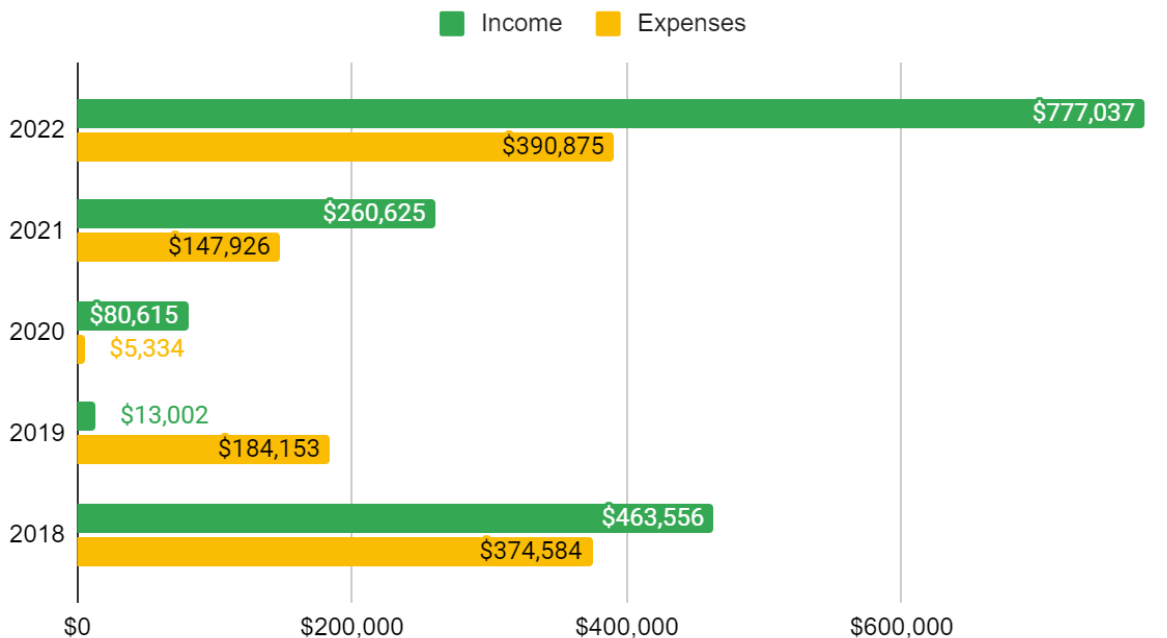


### National SPCAs Income and Expenses FY22



Graph 1. Total FY22 Income and Expenses for the National SPCA's.

### SPCA Namibia - Income and Expenses 5 Year Comparison



Graph 2. Total Income and Expenses for SPCA Namibia FY18 through FY22.



## Notable Income

This year the biggest source of income for most SPCAs was from donations, grants and bequests, and then from adoption fees.

In Windhoek, the team recorded an increase in donations, events/campaigns and grants and bequests. The Municipal grant was received at the beginning of the FY and the management and Chairperson are busy negotiating with the City Police for fair compensation for services rendered to function as the Municipal Impound for dogs. During the first half of the FY, events were still impacted by COVID-19 restrictions, though it was often under workable conditions compared to the first one and a half years of the pandemic.

The SPCA Windhoek team has seen a decrease in adoptions this financial year, and thus a decrease in incoming adoption fees.

## Notable Expenses

The branches spend most of their funds on pet food, salaries/wages, and veterinary expenses (treatment and medicine). Most teams had to spend considerable amounts of money on building repairs and maintenance, and motor vehicle expenses (repairs and fuel). In Windhoek, repairs and maintenance to the property are and will always be a constant expense. Vehicle expenses will continue to rise due to fuel prices and the high monthly mileage. The vehicles are also older and more often in need of mechanical attention.

Medicines, veterinary services and pet food expenses have increased due to drug and vaccine shortages and less pet food

donations received. We also recorded a minimal increase in salaries.

*Please note that all funds displayed in tables and graphs are Namibian Dollars.*

## Notes on the Audit

The financial statements are at this stage correct, but the auditor might still make some minor changes. For the second year, the Branch Financials are included in the SPCA Namibia and SPCA Windhoek Annual Financial Statement (AFS). They will be included as a summary report, but not qualified or audited by our auditors.





## SPCA Namibia and Branches Summarized Income statement FY22

	SPCA Namibia	Windhoek	Grootfontein	Luderitz	Otjiwarongo	Keetmanshoop	Walvis Bay	Tsumeb	Oshana	TOTAL
<b>INCOME</b>										
Boarding Fees		234,274		70,620			49,410	7,960		362,264
Collections and events		153,260			14,148	13,262		520		181,190
Donations and Street Collections	777,037	1,172,639	33,850	347,760	91,632	20,310	617,021	21,970	313,260	3,395,479
Grants and bequests		3,330,953								3,330,953
Interest Received		118,119	561				241			118,921
Medical expenses recovered and strays		87,501	2,000			500	2,548			92,549
Membership Fees		58,470	900	600	1,300	3,600	100,445	800		166,115
Microchip and dog tags		7,826								7,826
Adoption		427,391		4,350	85,109	16,900	55,826	8,775	20,200	618,551
Other income		28,983	8,566	6,280			42,161			85,990
Net revenue from pet food		10,109					122			10,231
Other - Pet Food (Hills)		170,047								170,047
Pet Food (COS)		-159,938								-159,938
Insurance claim recovered		109,285								109,285
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>777,037</b>	<b>5,738,810</b>	<b>45,877</b>	<b>429,610</b>	<b>192,189</b>	<b>54,572</b>	<b>867,774</b>	<b>40,025</b>	<b>333,460</b>	<b>8,479,354</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>										
Accounting fees and Audit Fees	4,000	57,000					27,141			88,141
Bank Charges	957	46,026	64	5,081	9,318	2,347	7,856	1,101	16,012	88,762
Cleaning and Refreshments		42,227	1,611	5,715	1,180	50	2,641	240	413	54,077
Depreciation		16,638					2,675			19,313
Small events and Tags		24,181	450						8,859	33,490
Insurance		41,179								41,179
Licenses and subscriptions	14,722	13,412					2,148		922	31,204
Legal fees		1,144								1,144
Medicines and veterinary services		649,410	4,456	97,355	73,834	13,430	250,936	9,024	221,364	1,319,809
Advertising & promotion	1,151	-			288	1,521				2,960
Motor vehicle repairs and fuel		95,876		6,990	3,519		15,382		27,341	149,108
Office, Printing, and Computer expenses		8,647	17	755	3,350		18,862		1,425	33,056
Pet food and Pet supplies		766,224	27,327	41,688		11,123		10,663	18,018	875,043
Repairs and Maintenance		196,559	14,206	150,337		562	8,637		23,495	393,796
Salaries, wages and rations	280,799	2,271,999	15,853	59,567	186,511	600	465,384	27,648	108,641	3,417,002
Security		7,444					3,007			10,451
Telephone and postage		33,059		9,465	1,915	400	29,908	1,798	3,857	80,402
VAT expense		91,831								91,831
Water and electricity		78,429		300			60,457			139,186
Travelling Expenses, Meetings and Entertainment	55,593	-		7,800			9,930		617	73,940
Other Expenses	33,653			680	20,753		42,876		1,835	99,797
Theft		8,184								8,184
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>390,875</b>	<b>4,449,468</b>	<b>63,984</b>	<b>385,733</b>	<b>300,668</b>	<b>30,033</b>	<b>947,840</b>	<b>50,474</b>	<b>432,800</b>	<b>7,051,875</b>
<b>Surplus / (Deficit) for the year</b>	<b>386,162</b>	<b>1,289,342</b>	<b>-18,107</b>	<b>43,877</b>	<b>-108,479</b>	<b>24,539</b>	<b>-80,066</b>	<b>-10,449</b>	<b>-99,340</b>	<b>1,427,479</b>
<b>Accumulated funds at the beginning of the year</b>	<b>105,801</b>	<b>2,690,218</b>	<b>66,058</b>	<b>34,088</b>	<b>261,800</b>	<b>3,980</b>	<b>156,275</b>	<b>13,073</b>	<b>478,570</b>	<b>3,809,863</b>
<b>Accumulated funds at the end of the year</b>	<b>491,963</b>	<b>3,979,560</b>	<b>47,951</b>	<b>77,965</b>	<b>168,230</b>	<b>28,519</b>	<b>76,209</b>	<b>2,624</b>	<b>379,229</b>	<b>5,252,250</b>

Table 1. Summarized income statement for FY22 for all SPCAs.

## SPCA Windhoek - Five Year Financial Summary



	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>\$5,738,810</b>	<b>\$3,740,512</b>	<b>\$5,033,644</b>	<b>\$3,692,785</b>	<b>\$4,749,533</b>
Adoptions	\$427,391	\$473,584	\$510,813	\$437,652	\$424,680
Boarding Fees	\$234,274	\$173,026	\$225,830	\$226,517	\$283,270
Donations, Events & Grants	\$4,656,852	\$2,813,379	\$4,040,994	\$2,775,450	\$3,655,293
Membership	\$58,470	\$58,983	\$66,987	\$19,500	\$33,300
Other Income	\$361,823	\$221,540	\$189,020	\$233,666	\$352,990
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$4,449,468</b>	<b>\$3,890,246</b>	<b>\$4,426,339</b>	<b>\$4,708,868</b>	<b>\$4,331,898</b>
Medicines, Food & Vet Expenses	\$1,415,633	\$955,004	\$1,333,772	\$1,662,345	\$1,286,508
Salaries & Wages	\$2,271,999	\$2,232,865	\$2,298,000	\$2,312,767	\$2,214,451
Other Expenses	\$761,836	\$702,377	\$794,567	\$733,756	\$830,939
<b>PROFIT/(LOSS)</b>	<b>\$1,289,342</b>	<b>(\$149,734)</b>	<b>\$607,305</b>	<b>(\$1,016,083)</b>	<b>\$417,635</b>

Table 2. Income and expense summary over five financial years at SPCA Windhoek.

## Financial Highlights

**Total Income\***  
+ N\$ 8,479,354

**Total Expenses\***  
- N\$ 7,051,875

**Most Common forms of income** come from donations, grants, bequests, adoption fees and boarding

**Biggest expense groups** include veterinary and medical care, pet food and supplies, and salaries and wages



## ANIMAL ACTIVITIES

The mandate of the SPCA is to prevent cruelty to animals. As such, one of our core functions has become to provide shelter to animals in need. Whilst the SPCAs work with and respond to calls about many animals ranging from birds and wildlife to livestock and equines, we primarily take in cats, dogs, and other species kept as pets.

For the third year in a row, the SPCAs kept records of animals other than cats and dogs in order to create a more accurate and detailed picture of our work. The 'Others' category includes animals such as rabbits, rats, hamsters, cattle, donkeys, horses, birds, wildlife, and many more. For the purposes of this report, they have been grouped into a single category.

Some SPCAs are contracted by their municipality as the Municipal Impound. Agreements between the SPCAs and their

local governments dictate which species they take in, and payment structures for the services provided.

A continued concerning observation and trend in all of the towns where there is an SPCA branch is the increase in cats, both free-roaming and feral. The teams in Oshana, Otjiwarongo, and Windhoek are struggling with the sentiment by members of the public and/or businesses that feral cats must be caught and taken away or euthanized due to a lack of funding for Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) programs. Oftentimes, TNR is not supported by those who report feral cats. When funding allows, all SPCAs would like to make further inroads on TNR programs. One in which the Luderitz team has made some encouraging advances.

In Grootfontein, our branch representative cites seeing many neglected animals and people who are unable to afford food and health care for their pets.



## Animal Intake

Collectively, the SPCAs rescued 5,167 animals across the country which is a 2% increase in intake from the previous fiscal year. A total of 80% of those animals were taken in by SPCA Windhoek. The SPCAs in Luderitz, Keetmanshoop, Oshana, and Tsumeb all recorded an increase in animal intake, whilst Grootfontein, Walvis Bay and Windhoek all recorded a minor decrease in animal intake. Most notably, the Luderitz shelter had a 98% and Keetmanshoop a 74% increase in animal intake. The team in Windhoek, for the first time in several years, recorded a decrease in intake, by just over 1%.

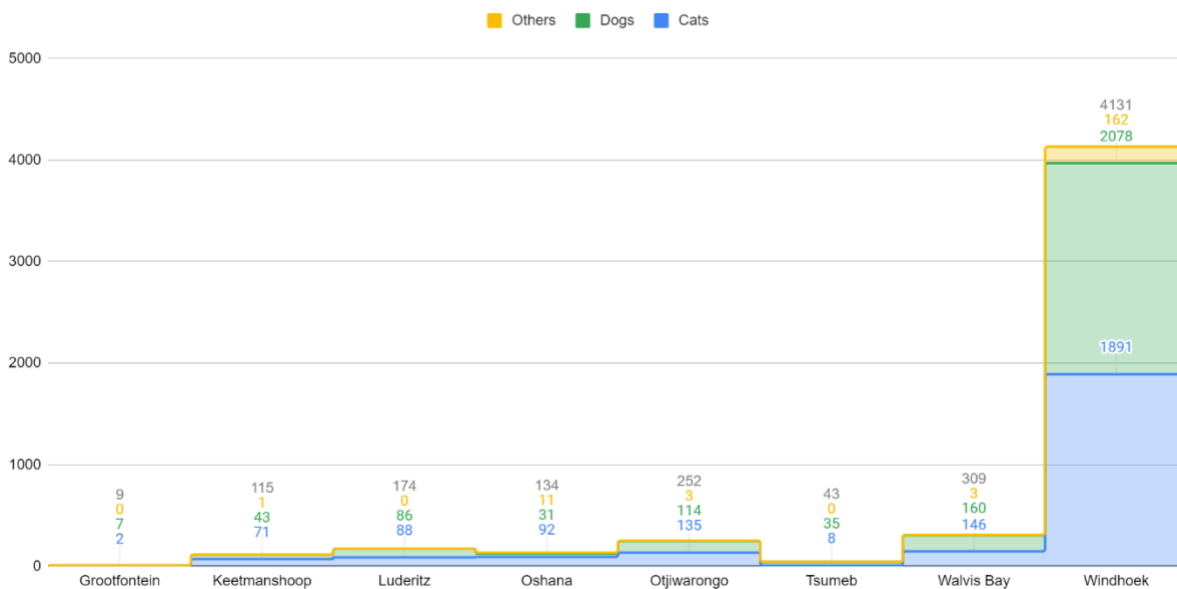
The SPCAs have a variety of ways in which we operate; in Windhoek, we have an open-admission shelter, meaning any animal in need will be taken in; others are limited-admission, meaning they have a

maximum capacity of animals they can take in and house at any given time, or may only take in emergency cases; and still others are entirely foster-based. These different models significantly impact the intake capacity of our various branches. In Windhoek, the team continued to see many rabbits and guinea pigs brought in which are often difficult to rehome.

A stray animal is an animal without a known owner - either a true stray or a lost animal. Any animal coming in without a signed surrender form is processed as a stray, but the stray-hold policy of each SPCA varies depending on municipal bylaws and internal policies. The stray hold ranges from three to fourteen days.

In FY21, the Windhoek team recorded a 129% increase in cat intake during a five year period (from 882 cats to 2,009 cats). Warnings to the City of Windhoek have

Animal Intake - Total: 5,167



Graph 3. Animals taken in by the SPCAs in FY22.

amounted to no visible or known increased effort on their behalf. The overpopulation of



cats and feral cat colonies has also been reported by all of the SPCA teams.

Other organizations working with cats have also reported a significant increase in the stray cat population. This issue is likely to continue to worsen, and the SPCA strongly encourages their various towns to invest in TNR. During the third COVID-19 wave, which partly fell in the beginning of this FY, the Windhoek team took in several pets from very sick pet owners, or from those who had passed away. Furthermore, the Windhoek team recorded an increase in cat and dog surrenders compared to the previous year. Owners often citing 'moving', 'sick or injured', and lastly 'unwanted litters'.

Both the teams in Keetmanshoop and Luderitz, are trying to find alternatives to people surrendering their pets - to try and keep pets in their homes if and when viable. Both have offered low-to-no-cost sterilizations and sometimes other treatments that the animals may have needed. Both noting that it has helped keep more pets with their owners who already love them.

## Adoption

Across the country's SPCAs, a total of 792 animals were adopted and overall adoption rates decreased by a total of 7%, a continued slightly slowed yet negative trend from the year before. Many of the SPCAs have reported fewer adoptions correlating with COVID-19, the uncertainty it has created, and the effects it has had on people and their finances. The following branches did, however, see a positive increase in adoption rates; Luderitz (125%) and Keetmanshoop (136%). Unfortunately, the other five SPCAs

saw a decrease in adoptions this year; Otjiwarongo (-21%), Oshana (-12%), Tsumeb (-31%), Walvis Bay (-35%), and Windhoek (-1%).

In an effort to encourage adoptions, all of the SPCAs hosted two joint and national adoption drives, each for the duration of a month. October 2021 was Adopt A Shelter Dog Month and June 2022 was Adopt A Shelter Cat Month. Each month, there were adoption specials and reduced adoption fees on select animals. In addition, two 'Clear the Shelter' initiatives were held, where for one Saturday only, adoption fees were reduced and sponsored goodie bags were given to successful adopters. Leading up to each 'Clear the Shelter' the Head Office drove media campaigns, including radio and TV interviews. Across our branches, teams have tried various initiatives to encourage adoption.

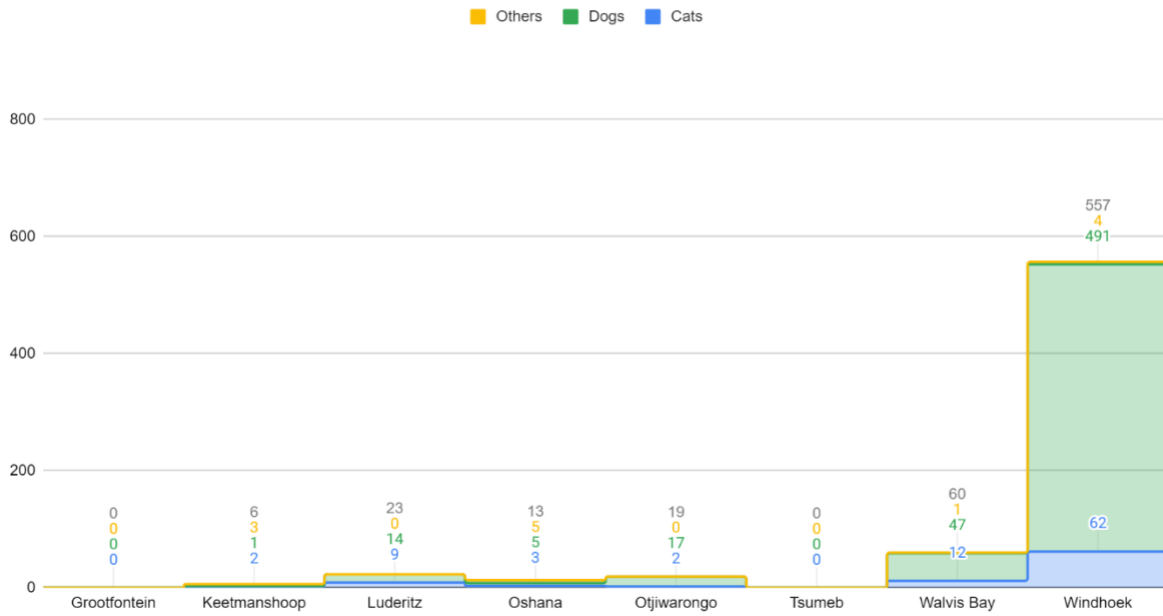
## Returned To Owner

The Returned To Owner (RTO) category are lost animals who have successfully been reunited with their owners. RTO numbers correlate highly with the admission model of each particular SPCA. An open-admission shelter will have a significantly higher RTO rate than a limited-admission shelter. Collectively, a total of 678 animals were reunited with their owners, of which 557 were RTOs in Windhoek.

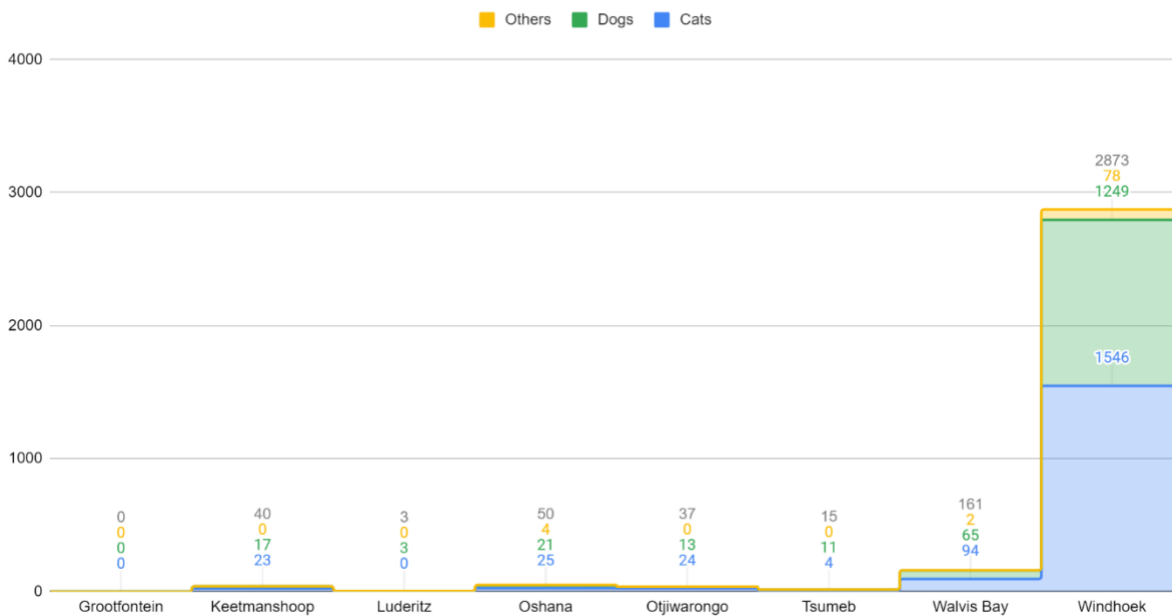
An increase in overall RTOs, by 39% from the previous year, is an encouraging figure.



Returned To Owners - Total: 678



Humanely Euthanized - Total: 3,179



Graph 4. Number of animals adopted across Namibia, including totals.

Graph 5. Number of animals, including totals, returned to owners across Namibia's SPCAs.

Graph 6. Number of animals euthanized by major intake species, including totals.



Furthermore, the Windhoek team has recorded a 65% increase in dogs reunited with their owners. A significant improvement from last year.

Historically, very few cats had been reunited with their owners but we are glad to report that it is becoming more common.

## Humane Euthanasia

Staff and committee members in our SPCAs face difficult decisions every day. They need to triage emergency cases with disease outbreaks, and other veterinary treatments that are required. Other times, aggressive animals are brought in by police authorities or owners who are unable to cope with certain behaviors.



assessments. With limited funding, resources, space, and not enough adoptions, difficult decisions must be made to maintain a healthy population in our shelters. We aim to alleviate the suffering of sick or injured animals, and strive to keep confirmed aggressive animals from being released back to the public. The SPCAs make every effort to keep euthanasia rates as low as possible by rehoming or returning as many animals as we can to their homes. Unfortunately, this is not always possible. It is not uncommon for the SPCAs to take in severely ill surrenders or strays. These animals are often so injured or diseased by the time they reach us, that euthanasia is the only humane option.



Humane euthanasia decisions are never taken lightly but are considered a management tool in an open-admission shelter. The SPCAs humanely euthanize animals based on medical and behavioral

In Windhoek in particular, the annual number of intakes far exceeds adoptions. Our open-admission policy means that no animal is turned to the streets or left to suffer. This policy also mitigates significant public health risks by reducing animal overpopulation and preventing packs of stray dogs from forming (which would increase the presence of zoonotic diseases, create bite risks for members of the public and potentially spread



rabies). Namibia is considered a high-risk rabies country, and thus it is crucial for public health and the safety of the animals in our

community that no animal is left on the streets if it can be avoided.

## ***Animal Highlights***

**Total Animals Rescued**

**5,167**

**Total Animals Adopted**

**814**

**Total Animals Reunited  
with Their Owners**

**678**

**Some Species helped**

Cats, dogs, rabbits, guinea pigs, goats, dassies, jackal, raptors, and small wild birds.



## Animal Services

Across the country, there are a total of ten Animal Inspectors, of which three are officially certified; the others work closely with the police to carry out their inspectorate duties. The SPCA in Windhoek has two full-time Animal Inspectors, and a third Animal Inspector performing other duties, certified by the Magistrate in the District of Windhoek. All of our Inspectors work hard throughout the year responding to complaints, confiscating animals when

needed, picking up stray and surrendered animals, doing pre-adoption house inspections, and taking animals to and from private veterinary clinics.

Individuals at several of the branches have warrants under the Animal Protection Act of 1962 and they, along with the Windhoek Inspectors, and other representatives, work closely with the police to uphold the law. Offsite activities such as attending complaints, pre-adoption house checks, and picking up strays and surrenders amounted to a total of 2,611\* actions nationally.

## *Animal Services and Inspectorate Highlights*

**Total Animals Complaints Attended**  
**+ 436**

**Pre-Adoption House Checks**  
**+ 569**

**Total Stray Animals Collected**  
**904**

**Total Surrendered Animals Collected**  
**702**

*\* Unfortunately, 3 months worth of data was lost from the Windhoek team due to a break-in in February and a crashed computer later on.*

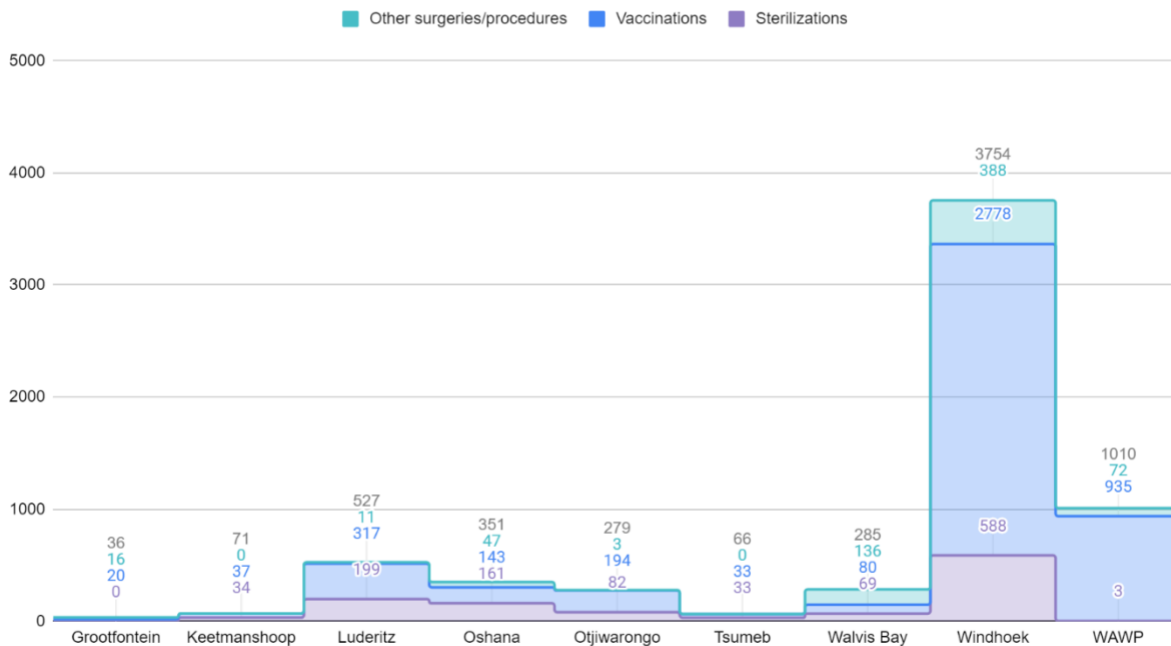


## Animal Health

All of the SPCAs receive animals in need of medical help, and we see it as our duty to provide veterinary care - both preventative and post illness or injury.

The national SPCA Namibia and Windhoek are the only ones who have veterinarians on their teams. Our Windhoek veterinarian has the formidable task of ensuring the health of the many animals that the SPCA receive. In Windhoek, there can be anywhere from 250 to 400 animals in our care at any given time, and with over 4,100 animals coming in

Veterinary and Medical Procedures - Total: 6,379



Graph 7. Medical procedures, sterilizations and vaccinations completed by a veterinarian for the SPCA animals across Namibia.

annually, the Windhoek-based veterinarian stays busy caring for in-house patients only.



Our SPCA Namibia veterinarian is employed on a part-time basis, coordinating the efforts of our Working Animal Welfare Project (WAWP), launched in October 2021.

Some branches work with their local veterinarian, while others face challenges in accessing veterinary care, ranging from financial constraints to distance. Notably, the SPCA in Luderitz and their community have no resident veterinarian. However, Windhoek Animal Hospital has an ad-hoc veterinary clinic on the SPCA Luderitz premises, and their visits every 2-3 months provide some relief and consistent access to care. The new Luderitz team has continued to build working relationships with the veterinarians in Mariental and in Keetmanshoop. However, the need for a resident veterinarian or more frequent visits is crucial for the continued and improved health of the animals in the community,

especially when pertaining to emergency cases and injuries.

Whilst the Otjiwarongo team does not have an in-house veterinarian and mostly make use of the Omaruru state veterinarian, the staff have a clearly laid-out health protocol which includes physical examination upon intake, anti-parasite treatments, vaccination schedule per veterinarian instructions, and weekly temperature checks. However, they continue to receive many dogs with Canine Transmissible Venereal Tumor (TVT). In Windhoek, TVT cases amounted to 55 this year, similar to last year's figures. Unfortunately, both the Otjiwarongo and Windhoek teams have had problems importing *vincristine*, the drug needed to treat TVT, so most infected dogs were euthanized.

## ***Vet and Med Highlights***

**Total Vaccinations Administered**

**+ 4,537**

**Total Animals Sterilized**

**+ 1,169**

**Total Animals Given Special Treatment/Surgeries**

**+ 673**

**Surgical highlights**

Fixing of broken legs by surgery, amputation, small exotic animal spay/neuter (rats and hamsters)



Many of the SPCAs express the need and desire to provide more sterilizations and TNRs to members of the public. Unfortunately, lack of funds often hinders such initiatives. In Luderitz, the team secured funding and now closely work together with Have-a-Heart Namibia to provide TNR and no-cost sterilizations to pet owners within the low- to no-income communities. The small branch ensured a total of 199 animals were sterilized, no small feat.

Our Windhoek shelter veterinarian notes that sterilizations went up from 516 to 588 this year. We have done a small number of what we call 'A-Spay-A-Day' sterilizations, mostly of repeat surrenderers to avoid more litters coming in.

The Windhoek team is glad to report that we have seen a decrease in 'Snuffles'/Upper Respiratory Infections (URI) in cats after we built our new cat intake area. Overcrowding in catteries causes stress in cats, thus lowering their immune response. As of April 2022 our cats have been separated upon intake. Comparatively between FY21 and FY22, this has resulted in a decline in cats treated versus euthanized for URI going from 177 to 105 and 539 to 324 respectively.

The SPCA in Windhoek has been working closely with the University of Namibia (UNAM) School of Veterinary Medicine, with whom we have signed an official Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The partnership provides students with the practical experience they need and select veterinary services free of charge to the animals at the SPCA. Every year, the final year students do a one-week rotation with our resident veterinarian, giving them an opportunity to learn about shelter medicine, animal health in large animal populations, and animal welfare. We hope this

experience will impact their future careers and philosophies around animal welfare and charitable work. Under the guidance of their professors, the UNAM students also perform many spays and neuters free of charge, and take on cases requiring x-rays or more thorough medical workups.

The SPCA Windhoek team has an initiative called Dixie's Fund, a fund dedicated to ordinary and extraordinary medical treatments for animals in our care. This fiscal year, FNB generously donated N\$100,000.00 towards this fund. This has enabled us to make a positive change in many animals' lives.

## Working Animal Welfare Project

The SPCA Namibia is excited to share the success of its new initiative 'Working Animal Welfare Project' (WAWP) in partnership with SPANA, a UK based organization. The project was launched in October 2021 and focuses on working animals, namely donkeys, horses, and mules, in some of our most rural communities in Namibia, oftentimes where no veterinarian is closeby. As we launched the project, we also grew our team with a part-time veterinarian and project coordinator. The project has three major cornerstones, 1) veterinary relief, 2) community outreach, and 3) humane education. In the first seven months of the project, the SPCA treated 566 animals, 66 more than was the 'Year 1' target. The need for veterinary and tack relief has been bigger than anticipated and we are glad that the efforts have been welcomed.



Since the beginning of WAWP we have established a beautiful collaboration with Namibian Animal Welfare Association (NAWA), and a continued one with Pako Magazine. The NAWA has joined several of the SPCA's field trips, which happen one week every month, where we join forces and NAWA in large part focuses on replacing poor tack for the donkeys and horses.

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

The SPCAs are largely consumed with daily operational and emergency activities, often with limited manpower or funds left over for other programs or new initiatives. The animals in our care often dictate our day-to-day activities, which include: medicating and feeding, cleaning, surgeries (by staff veterinarian or transport of such animals to the veterinarian of choice at branches), emergency response,

investigating complaints, collaborating with other organizations, responding to phone

calls, emails and Facebook messages, planning events, campaigns, and fundraisers, the many administrative tasks required to run an organization, and much more. However, our headquarters and its branches value operational and program development and improvement. We strive to constantly progress through training, keeping up with best practices, and supporting one another.

## Branch Visits and Work

The SPCAs are stronger as an organization because we work together. By having SPCAs around the country with committee members, branch representatives, and employees, we can collectively do more for more animals. We share knowledge, ideas, and help support and guide each other. In order to create a strong foundation and foster communication, the SPCA Namibia Chairperson, senior management at



headquarters, and all of the branch representatives meet quarterly via Zoom.

After having difficulties in scheduling the previous year's branch visits, due to COVID-19 lockdowns and conflicting scheduling, it meant that this year we tried making up for the previous year's missed visits. We made two trips to Otjiwarongo, Tsumeb, and

## Members

The members of the SPCA are our lifeline. Without members, our organization would cease to exist. As such, they are incredibly important to the SPCA's mission to provide care for the animals who need us the most.



Grootfontein each. We went on one trip to Walvis Bay, the first official branch visit to our second largest shelter. The visits to Keetmanshoop and Luderitz were scheduled for early August in FY23.

For the second year, the many SPCAs joined forces in both fundraising initiatives and adoption drives. Several branches took part in the 'Clear the Shelter' event, an adoption drive first hosted by SPCA Windhoek in 2019, this year hosted both in July 2021 and in June 2022. The headquarters provided marketing materials for all participating branches and a mutual date was agreed upon. Unfortunately, some changes had to be made for the local dates.

In Windhoek, we have seen the concerning trend of a decline in members for the second year in a row. From July 2021 to June 2022, we went from 264 members to 216 - a 18% decrease in active members. Many of our other branches also struggle with retaining and bringing on new members. However, Keetmanshoop went from having no active members to about 20 new members by the end of June 2022.

## Governance

The SPCA team has put considerable efforts into formalizing aspects of the SPCA, both at headquarters and at the branch level. In an effort to do so, the committee and management are creating manuals to provide guidance for anyone from employees to volunteers.





Furthermore, significant efforts have been made to amend the Constitution. Several efforts and much good work has been done by previous committees and management, and a strong draft has been circulated for quite some time. The Ministry of Health and Social Services (MOHSS) has very strict procedures for amending a Constitution. Although previous attempts to update the Constitution have been made, because these procedures were not completely adhered to at the time, the Amended Constitution of 1967 was the one recognized by the MOHSS. This fifty-four year old document was vastly outdated and in dire need of amendment. The SPCA team was glad to table the Draft Constitution at the 2021 Annual General Meeting whereby it was accepted by the members present. Furthermore, the updated objectives had to be advertised in the Government Gazette and at least one national newspaper (the SPCA listed it in three).

## Community Outreach

Whilst immediate action or official charges are sometimes warranted, often education is key. Many times, improper animal care is simply the result of a lack of experience and education. We strive to be a reliable and welcoming resource for pet owners in order to assist more animals and prevent or alleviate suffering.

Both the Otjiwarongo and the Windhoek teams participated in activities related to World Rabies Day on 28 September. The Otjiwarongo team assisted with the dipping of dogs in their rural area where their efforts were combined with educational outreach of humane treatment of animals and importance of sterilizations. The Windhoek

team joined forces with the Veterinary Association of Namibia (VAN), who together with HaH Windhoek did a mass vaccination campaign in Katutura.

In Keetmanshoop, the state vet ran a Rabies Vaccination Campaign in October 2021, whereby the SPCA assisted and helped dip dogs as well. In April 2022, the team set out to the informal settlement to dip dogs again, and reached approximately 100 dogs.

The Luderitz team after wildlife attacks, together with two veterinarians, facilitated a two day rabies campaign where they successfully vaccinated 148 animals.

## Humane Education

The SPCA believes that the youth of today are the guardians of animals in the future. During a normal year, the SPCAs visit schools and invite children to tour our shelters to learn about compassion toward animals and responsible pet ownership. However, 2020 and 2021 have been anything but normal. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, children and their education have been significantly affected with lockdowns, school breaks, and an overall decrease in school hours. There have simply not been the same kind of opportunities to provide humane education through school visits and shelter tours.

However, the SPCAs are making significant efforts to expand our Humane Education Programs to be able to reach many more children and schools, and to encourage responsible pet ownership in adults. In



January 2020, the SPCA in Windhoek was awarded a grant by SPANA to create a holistic humane education booklet for children, a poster illustrating the proper care of working animals (namely donkeys), and a curriculum (still in the works) to use in educational outreach for at least 2,000 children in underserved communities. This project has now been combined with SPCA Namibia's WAWP.

We have all, however, been glad to see that at least some shelter visits have been organized this year. In Windhoek, we had a total of 122 children come for a talk and a shelter visit. In Walvis Bay, they had a total of nine shelter visits and one school visit. The Otjiwarongo team launched an educational initiative called "Simon Says". Simon was a soft blue rhino who visited a local business each month. Each month had a different theme in relation to animal welfare and encouraged different donations.

## Volunteer Program

The volunteer programs at our SPCAs are a vital part of our work. Thanks to our volunteers, we are able to do more for

animals in need. Many of the SPCAs rely heavily on committee members for not only high level policy work, but also for day-to-day operations (at the smaller branches). Our volunteers are sometimes at the core of our operations and routinely complete tasks that better our organization, from cleaning kennels to transporting and socializing animals, graphic designing, administrative tasks, facilitating events and fundraising.

In Otjiwarongo, we have what we call the 'OSS Interactors', young volunteers who come each week to socialize the animals and help with various tasks. The Walvis Bay team cites a growth in their volunteer program, in part thanks to word-of-mouth by other volunteers and in part thanks to targeted social media posts, encouraging volunteers to join the team. In Tsumeb, we saw a slight uptake of volunteers from the Tsumeb Gymnasium Private School, where the students picked the SPCA for their volunteer project.

In Windhoek, we welcomed a Volunteer Coordinator to the team to better facilitate our volunteer communications and to host our monthly and mandatory Volunteer



Orientation. This is a volunteer and non-remunerated position.

Some of our smaller SPCAs struggle to enroll and retain volunteers, yet they remain hopeful that members of their communities will become involved.

## Events, Fundraising and Grants

There is no doubt that the COVID-19 pandemic affected businesses and organizations like the SPCA everywhere, and had a direct impact on fundraising - especially during the first half of this FY. During lockdowns, indoor events were not an option, and even out of lockdown, there were restrictions on the number of people permitted at gatherings. Sponsors, who during a normal year would be happy to sponsor events, projects or programs, often cited that they simply did not have the budget to do so. It forced us to get creative, exploring new ways to raise money and was, without a doubt, a difficult fundraising climate.

Nationwide, most of us hosted the Mutt-Strutt around September. This was a national dog walk. This was the first time we ever tried a national fundraiser with varying results in raising funds, but we managed to get a lot of dogs to walk which they sure enjoyed.

In Windhoek, the team held a few in-person events in the fiscal year; the Mutt-Strutt, the Animals by Night, a Quiz Night, and a Yard Sale. The team also hosted several online fundraisers; a calendar contest, a Christmas for Critters shoe box drive, a virtual auction, a Wish List to Santa for the holidays, a Membership Drive and a Match Your

Donation Challenge to raise funds for Dixie's Fund. Additionally, the team wrote and submitted a total of five grant funding applications toward both operational expenses and project-based initiatives.

Both Walvis Bay and Windhoek offer merchandise for sale in their shelters. In Windhoek, the shelter retails Hill's (internationally recognized cat and dog food company) and is also able to sell prescription diets, as we have a registered veterinary clinic. We also started offering pet microchipping at our clinic in an effort to successfully reunite more pets with their owners. Furthermore, and one of the most successful fundraising efforts this year, was the opening of our 'PAW-sitivity Charity Shop'; it is a second hand store where people donate goods and the SPCA sells them to members of the public. Both Grootfontein and Keetmanshoop have had some success in selling 2nd hand items.

The Walvis Bay team was the beneficiary of Indongo Sports Day and the WCE Shelter dog and cat campaign - the latter a food drive. The Tsumeb team were also the beneficiary of a fundraiser hosted by the Tsumeb Crossfit team. The Otjiwarongo hosted a raffle draw, a Knobel Day, and a couple of cake/cupcake sales to generate some funds.

An important part of covering expenses is the municipal agreement several of the branches have in their towns. In Windhoek, the municipal grant of N\$140,000.00 was received at the beginning of the FY. No



efforts to rectify their lapsed and minimal payment has yet been made. It covers almost 10% of dog impound services provided to the City of Windhoek.

The grant funding and request for a three-year partnership with SPANA by SPCA Namibia was submitted in the beginning of the FY, and approved shortly thereafter.

The Windhoek team submitted a grant application to the Pupkewitz Foundation for a renovation project, which was awarded and executed in the beginning of the FY.

## *Communication and Media Highlights*

Radio and Newspaper Interviews and Features  
**+ 193**

Notices, Newsletters, and Press-releases  
**+ 58**

Featured on Average **3 to 4** per week  
How often SPCA animal welfare messages in the media are featured

**Hot Topics**  
Animal welfare, animal care tips, WAWP, PSAs, adoption promotions, campaigns and more



## Communication

The SPCA Namibia and Windhoek team has very good relationships with Radiowave, HitRadio, German NBC, and Kosmos, and we are often featured on these channels. We have official collaborations with weekly features at Radiowave, HitRadio, and the German NBC. The headquarters team sends out regular notifications to various media entities and has received great support and coverage, not only on the radio channels, but also through Namibia Media Holdings.

## Building and Maintenance

Currently, all branches but Grootfontein, Keetmanshoop, and Oshana have an official animal shelter and/or a municipal property from which they can operate. For those that do not have a shelter, it has hindered their growth and capacity to take in animals. Keetmanshoop is working to secure a property from which they can operate and support their municipality in controlling the stray animal population.

All existing SPCAs with animal shelters have run-down facilities, often requiring constant maintenance and in dire need of renovations. The team in Tsumeb states that their shelter facilities need a lot of maintenance and renovations, but that they do not have funds to invest in their buildings. Their existing funds are quickly depleted to purchase pet food and pay for veterinary expenses.

Both Luderitz and Windhoek have been able to conduct a considerable proportion of renovations and work needed on their facilities in the last fiscal year. The Luderitz team secured significant funding for shelter

renovations. They have demolished their old catteries and built new sanitary enclosures as part of their old dog kennels. They have renovated some of the old dog kennels as an intake area, and their rehoming kennels have been slightly upgraded with shading, wind-barriers, and separate encampments to group different dogs together.

In Windhoek, the team won a grant awarded by the Pupkewitz Foundation to renovate their Lafrenz 1 and 2 kennels (total of 15 kennels) and adjacent dog yards. Furthermore, the team finally embarked on rebuilding their cat intake area with isolation cages to separate incoming cats and thus decrease stress-levels as well as the risk for cross-contamination.

The Grootfontein team have built a cattery so that they can better care for cats when they do come through and more separate kennels for their dogs. The Otjiwarongo team planted trees in the dog yards to ensure all dogs have some shade in the hot summer months, other than their dog houses. The Walvis Bay shelter has seen some upgrades as well in order to ensure the safety of their 'high-jumping dogs' and to decrease kennel stress in dogs by adding visual barriers in front of the kennel doors.



## Vehicles

Some of the SPCA branches have official vehicles, either their own or generously sponsored; several are in great need of repairs and/or replacement. In Windhoek, our three vehicles are constantly running, and the many kilometers and their years are starting to become evident, with a number of repairs in this past year. Currently, Autohaus Windhoek is generously sponsoring an Amarok. Our vehicles ran a total of 76,675 kilometres. Indongo Toyota is a wonderful supporter of several SPCAs, and has sponsored a vehicle and servicing for our branches in Otjiwarongo and Walvis Bay. Several years ago, they also donated a vehicle to the Windhoek team. Others, such as Grootfontein, Keetmanshoop, Luderitz, and Tsumeb utilize private vehicles. All these four branches are in need of a company vehicle.

## Live Import-Transit-Export

The consulting firm EnviroLeap has circulated a report regarding the *'Environmental Scoping and Management Plan. Proposed TradePort Namibia's On-the-hoof Sheep Import-Transit-Export trading by Sea to Asia and The Pacific (Middle-East and other Markets) Region, along the Trans-Oranje Corridor and through the Lüderitzs'* and a Public Consultations Report, following the opening report the preceding year. The SPCA submitted a response to the Report on 30 September 2021, strongly opposing the trade which has historically, and to this day, been marred by animal cruelty. Furthermore, the SPCA sent a letter to the Minister of Agriculture warning them and urging them to stop any attempts at the trade. The SPCA mobilized its supporters by drafting a template letter addressed to the Ministry of Agriculture. In October the same year, the SPCA received a copy of the Minister's response, in summary, stating

that the trade would not be allowed due to the ban of live imports from South Africa due to



Foot and Mouth Disease. Whilst the SPCA is happy that the trade was not permitted, we are still watching this space for any potential changes, and we will continue to speak up for livestock to spare them from this horrendous trade.

## The Year Ahead

To do the best that we can for animals in our community, we see it as our responsibility to continue to research and stay up with best practices. With newfound knowledge, many times it is only the mindset that needs to change. However, other times it requires innovative ideas and creative solutions to achieve those improvements. That is something that we at the SPCA, always strive for. The reality is that oftentimes we are limited by sheer manpower or financial resources to make those changes and betterments. With that being said, there are still a few core areas we will be focusing on this year.

## ADOPTION AND CREATIVE SOLUTIONS

With the continued negative trend in adoptions, finding more suitable homes for the animals in our care is of utmost importance. We will continue to collaborate, transfer animals between our SPCAs, and drive adoption campaigns in order to successfully match our animals with the right families. In Windhoek, we are making some staffing changes to better facilitate off-site adoption events in an effort to take our animals to places outside of the shelter.

## WORKSHOP

It really felt like this year ran away with us, and before we knew it - the year was over. In 2020, the SPCA Namibia hosted its first Virtual Workshop. Our second edition will take place in August 2022. The sessions will include HR 101, Budget 101, Dog Body Language, Dog Behavior, how to identify and describe animals with colors and markings, an update on our WAWP for all to better understand the project, and lastly an international speaker talking about grant writing.

## SHELTER FACILITIES

Many of us who have a shelter, have old or rundown facilities, and maintenance and renovations are often a priority year after year. We have a high stress environment subject to wear-and-tear from animal exposure, heavy chemicals, and the harsh Namibian weather.

In Tsumeb, the team hopes to give their kennels a fresh coat of paint and to improve their cat enclosures.

The Luderitz team will continue to make building improvements. Their latest project includes a boundary wall around their property as there has been an increase in hyena and jackal attacks in the area; there have been attempts to steal their dogs; and dogs have “escaped” (and been brought



back) numerous times. They are hoping that these improvements will not only provide a safer environment for their animals but also encourage more boarding clients.

The Windhoek team are looking at doing some major renovations this year, most notably the removal and replacement of the current asbestos roof that is broken and leaking in the four major areas of the shelter. The roof will be replaced by a zinc roofing. Furthermore, the organization has won a grant to renovate its sunshine kennels. And lastly, the kennels, and especially the gates, in Lafrenz 3 are in dire need of renovation.

## ANIMAL SERVICES

Some of the SPCAs have strong municipal agreements and support, while others struggle to get compensated for the services they provide to their municipality. Some have no official agreements with their municipalities. Notably, Keetmanshoop and Luderitz are still in the process of negotiating a workable arrangement for their

SPCAs provide impound services to their towns. The SPCA in Windhoek is busy negotiating better compensation for the dog impound services currently provided for the City of Windhoek.

## SEALS

The SPCA has no doubt that the current seal slaughter in Namibia is inhumane with its current clubbing method. Seals have long been an internal topic of conversation, and the team are seeking expert advice and input to carefully draft a position statement on the matter.

## CATS, CATS, CATS

All of the SPCA continue to report on the explosion of the feral and stray cat population. We all want to place focused efforts on TNR.

The Windhoek team is exasperated by the sheer volume of cats that continue to come





in. We will most likely continue to have high euthanasia rate of cats, but we are looking and seeking legal advice on how we can lower this rate whilst still ensuring that the welfare of the cats is considered - all considering some of the latest initiatives and research on how to handle high rate stray and feral cat populations.

## GOVERNANCE

The importance of good governance never stops and it is a responsibility that the management committee and headquarters take seriously. A range of documentation are in the works, which includes an Employee Manual and a Committee Manual, documents that will be utilized across the SPCAs. Many of the smaller branches simply do not have the time or individuals to work on projects like these; we want to enable them to focus on what is most important - the animals.

## Thank You

To think back at the team who first decided to establish SPCA Namibia (SWA at the time) in 1949, we can only imagine what a dedicated group of individuals that must have been. Over the years, the teams have shifted, changed, and expanded. With now seven branches around the country, in addition to SPCA Windhoek, we can all but take a moment to reflect on what we have been able to do for animals in Namibia over the last 70 plus years. Thousands and thousands of animals have been provided with a safe haven, numerous animals have been adopted, the many smiles on families with a new friend. However hard animal welfare and animal rescue sometimes can be, we are all optimists, that change can and will happen slowly but surely. Everyone who touches animal welfare is important, whether you work with the animals, volunteer, donate, help educate near and dear, sterilize pets, or adopt. Only together do we make an impact and for that we would like to say Thank You for what you are able to do.



**This Report was prepared by:**

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- Selma Lagerfeldt, Otjiwarongo Branch Secretary
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- Quinton van Rooyen, Walvis Bay Branch Representative
- SPCA Namibia – Walvis Bay Branch - Annual Report of Activities FY22 and SPCA Walvis Bay Branch Annual Financial Statement FY22
- SPCA Namibia-Windhoek Annual Financial Statement FY22

**This Report was reviewed, edited and approved by:**

- Linda Dodds, Chairperson SPCA Namibia-Windhoek
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- Annie Marggraff, Secretary, SPCA Namibia-Windhoek

**Report Resources:**

- SPCA Namibia – Grootfontein Branch - Annual Report of Activities FY22 and SPCA Grootfontein Branch Annual Financial Statement FY22
- SPCA Namibia – Keetmanshoop Branch - Annual Report of Activities FY22 and SPCA Keetmanshoop Branch Annual Financial Statement FY22
- SPCA Namibia – Luderitz Branch - Annual Report of Activities FY22 and SPCA Luderitz Branch Annual Financial Statement FY22
- SPCA Namibia – Oshana Branch – Annual Report of Activities FY22 and SPCA Oshana Branch Annual Financial Statement FY22
- SPCA Namibia - Otjiwarongo Branch - Annual Report of Activities FY22 and SPCA Otjiwarongo Branch Annual Financial Statement FY22
- SPCA Namibia - Tsumeb Branch - Annual Report of Activities FY22 and SPCA Tsumeb Branch Annual Financial Statement FY22