

Reporting ANIMAL ABUSE

Every country has laws prohibiting animal cruelty and all of them have serious consequences. However, animals still rely on our protection by reporting abuse especially in countries where laws are not enforced as they should be.

WHERE DOES BOSCHPOORT SAFARIS FIT IN?

We believe in communication, conservation, and education to move forward. The World Conservation Union (IUCN) defines “conservation” to mean both the protection and sustainable use of natural resources, including wildlife. By introducing private game reserve industries in South Africa, it provides a unique situation in wildlife conservation worldwide. Most of South Africa’s wildlife are on privately owned land under strict regulations and legislations for their specific region. The purpose of this legislation is to protect wildlife populations in South Africa and to establish parameters for legal trade and the sustainable management of species. The private game farming industry values wildlife conservation and impacts biology, ecology, sociality, economy, and culture on various levels.

It is important to have a common goal of practicing ethical management, breeding and hunting in a sustainable and viable manner and not let negative publicity overshadow the contribution of the sector towards conservation and its socio-economic benefits. We as a country and a community need to be a united voice to address the challenges facing the industry. Viable and responsible management and utilization of wildlife populations should be the cornerstone of all the wildlife industries in South Africa (national, provincial, and private).

REPORTING ABUSE

Reporting abuse depends on the situation you are in, but a basic guideline may help you decide what the best action to take is.

STEP 1: Know the signs of animal abuse.

It can be difficult to define animal cruelty if you don’t know what to look for:

- Poor body condition and noticeable trauma
- Lack of food or water
- Lack of shelter
- Lack of sanitation
- Abandoned
- The animal is tied or caged
- Chains or padlocks around the animal’s neck
- Signs that the animal has been used/trained for fighting
- The animal’s behavior is abnormal
- Too many animals for the space provided
- Signs of violence



STEP 2: Define the situation

Negligence is the most reported form of animal cruelty and then in lesser amount, direct violence. Neglect can be described as a failure to provide the basic needs for an animal (water, food, lack of care and shelter). Direct abuse can be described as someone beating or physically attacking an animal.

STEP 3: Act immediately by direct contact

If you witness suspected cruelty to animals and you are inside a game reserve or nature reserve, contact the emergency number for the reserve as soon as possible. There should be a response team on every reserve trained to know what to do and how to evaluate the situation. Always include as much detail as possible (dates, times, footage etc.) and ask for feedback to know that your voice has been heard.

STEP 4: Alternative actions to take

Call your local SPCA by visiting their website (Find Your Nearest SPCA | SPCA Branches in South Africa (nspca.co.za)). The SPCA's Wildlife Protection Unit, in operation since 1987, is often being called upon to assist in the resolution of practical problems. The Unit's activities include – wildlife rescue operations, lobbying to outlaw unethical practices, monitoring of conditions in zoos, sanctuaries and rehabilitation centres, elephant-back safaris, captive predator facilities etc. through proactive inspections and complaint investigations and assisting SPCAs around the country with wildlife issues in their respective areas.

In extreme cases report it to the police (911). If your area's animal welfare agency or local authority are not equipped to deal with animal cruelty cases, you can contact various private organisations.

The Animal Anti-Cruelty League (AACL), who has been protecting and caring for animals since 1956, is another resource you can use to report animal cruelty. To report animal cruelty to the AACL, you can simply visit their website at <http://www.aacl.co.za/report-animal-cruelty/> or alternatively phone them on 011 435 0672.



REFERENCES

Report animal cruelty | The Humane Society of the United States

Find Your Nearest SPCA | SPCA Branches in South Africa (nspca.co.za)

Report Cruelty | Cape of Good Hope SPCA (capespca.co.za)

Home - AACL

Wildlife Protection Unit | Wildlife Rescue Operations | Animal Protection Act (nspca.co.za)

sapredators.co.za