

SPCA cracks down on Illegal hunting

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Hunting as a practice is often condemned by many in South Africa, however, the cruelty that is associated with hunting with dogs is severe. PHOTO: Bloemfontein SPCA

The Bloemfontein SPCA recently attended to two instances of Illegal hunting in the district of Bothaville.

According to the SPCA, the first of the two incidents took place on Sunday 10 September, where seven suspects were arrested, and 22 dogs were confiscated after multiple duikers were caught illegally.

“The incident was highly organised and showed signs of an active criminal organisation,” said the SPCA.

The second incident took place on 16 September where an additional four individuals were arrested, and two more dogs were confiscated after five porcupines were hunted illegally.

“Illegal hunting is always concerning to us as the SPCA as there is a clear correlation between the methods used in this form of hunting and animal cruelty. However, what is more concerning, is the increase in the criminal element that is present. The incidents we attend to are often erratic but it seems that the incidents in Bothaville are pre-planned and very well organised,” said Inspector Werner Botha.

He added that hunting as a practice is often condemned by many in South Africa, however, the cruelty that is associated with hunting with dogs is severe.

“The animals that are hunted will often be chased by packs of dogs where they are bitten and held by the throat before the hunters will bludgeon them to death with clubs or with homemade spears. This method includes an element of suffering for the hunted animal. The cruelty, however, is not only directed at the hunted animal. Often the dogs will be starved before the hunt and

would sustain severe injuries when hunting animals such as porcupines or wild boars as these animals would try to defend themselves," he further said.

According to the SPCA, should the accused be found guilty, they could face fines of up to R100 000 or 10 years imprisonment.

"This, however, is not the only charge they are facing as liberating an animal to attack any other animal is also a contravention of the Animals Protection Act 71 of 1962 Section 2(1)(g), among other relevant contraventions. The suspects have all been arrested and will make their respective court appearances on the above-mentioned charges soon in the district of Bothaville," said the SPCA.

Compiled by Justine Fortuin

