

ZIMBABWE NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS
PVO 38/69

SPCA Member Centres:

Beitbridge - Bulawayo - Chegutu - Chinhoyi - Chiredzi - Gweru - Harare - Hwange - Kadoma - Kwekwe - Marondera - Mashava - Masvingo - Mutare - Zvishavane

20 July 2004

The rescue work on farms continues unabated, but there is increased hostility in many instances, which impedes the efforts of ZNSPCA to safeguard imperiled animals.

Political tensions mount ahead of the Parliamentary elections early next year, as poverty bites and unemployment is at an all-time high. There are further reports of human deaths as a result of malnutrition. The current situation is placing enormous pressure on our already depleted natural resources and wildlife as the population struggles to survive, threatening remaining indigenous woodlands which are being used for fuel as we continue to experience an extremely cold winter. Bulawayo recorded the lowest temperature ever some two weeks ago. The situation is sadly further aggravated by unscrupulous hunters from neighbouring countries who have taken advantage of Zimbabwe's tragic predicament.

Recently in Chimanimani, Meryl and Simon were "detained" for 3 hours at Chimanimani Police Station. A Police escort had been requested to accompany them to Charleswood Farm to treat sick and injured cattle, about which the Police themselves had informed ZNSPCA. The Army were still in charge on the ground and were not allowing the few remaining workers to tend the cattle. The Police Officer-in-Charge had been quite friendly and had given his permission, saying that a Police escort would not be required, but as they were leaving 3 men (not in uniform) demanded that Simon and Meryl accompany them to a room. It is understood that the men were from Military Intelligence.

Meryl and Simon were subjected to a barrage of questions, including some very personal questions. They were both finally permitted to leave after 3 hours. Due to the obviously very tense situation in Chimanimani the team returned to Harare. As they were leaving a government helicopter landed in the village carrying about 50 soldiers.

A week later the bulk of the army departed and the Zimbabwe Defence Industries took over at Charleswood. Their General Manager in Harare gave ZNSPCA a very pleasant letter granting the ZNSPCA permission to treat "affected" animals at Charleswood. However on arrival the remaining armed personnel said they did not take orders from ZDI and refused entry to the team. Meryl later spoke to a Major at 3 Brigade in Harare who confirmed that ZNSPCA could treat the cattle. Once on the farm the ZNSPCA Inspectors introduced themselves to the new ARDA Manager. A tirade of verbal abuse ensued with the ARDA Manager stating that Meryl lived in Ruwa and "Roy Bennett does as well" (which he does not) and that he was very "suspicious" of Meryl.

Permission was finally given for the treatment of several calves, including the calf that had been speared, as well as one of Roy Bennett's horses that had sustained an eye injury.

ZDI have since withdrawn and ARDA have fully taken over. Armed Support Unit and some Army personnel are still present on the farm, but ARDA armed guards have granted access.

On a happier note, 'Bokkie' the little dog that helped save the lives of Amos Makaza and his family by raising the alarm when their house was set ablaze is to receive the Lewyt Award for Compassionate & Heroic Animals. 'Bokkie' is now well recovered having had the pin removed from his leg following 6 weeks of confinement.

Several further rescues have been carried out in recent weeks:

Three Ridgebacks were left on a farm in Raffingora following its invasion and the owner was unable to return for several weeks. An old male died the night before the team arrived. The caring domestic workers had been feeding the dogs on cooked pumpkin - the only food available. At the request of the owner, the dogs were taken to Harare and euthanised.

Another farmer was violently evicted in the Glendale area. His herd of registered Ayrshire dairy cows were moved by government trucks to a Research Station in spite of 2 attempts neither the owner nor ZNSPCA have been allowed access to check on their welfare. Charges of stock-theft have been laid.

An elderly couple on a smallholding in Ruwa were both shot by an armed settler and were hospitalised for some time. ZNSPCA supervised the feeding of their 15 hand-reared tame Duiker. The couple will not be returning to their property and at their request the Duiker were relocated and their dog rehomed.

Two couples on a farm in Goromonzi were given 4 days by war veterans and the youth militia to vacate their home of 32 years. Both couples have always been very active in the community, ran Border Collie Rescue as well as taking in displaced horses from farms. The ZNSPCA team worked from 5am to 7pm using the horse-box to move those animals which could not make the long walk, such as pregnant cows and an elderly pony with poor eye-sight. The team also moved the Collies, Cats, Chickens and Goats.

Tension remains very high in the Odzi area where a commercial farmer, who was being physically attacked, accidentally shot and killed a war veteran. Following this incident several farmers and their families have been threatened and they have fled their farms. One couple appealed to ZNSPCA to rescue their cats and dogs. The Officer-in-Charge at Odzi Police Station refused to provide a Police

escort stating that it was like a "war-zone down that road" and not even they would enter the area. The team later met the owner's maid at the Police station and drove her as close as they could to the farm. This meant driving through Kondozi (another invaded farm) which is the subject of an intense dispute between members of the government hierarchy. At one point this brave young lady said that it was not safe for the team to proceed any further. The team gave her a large bag of dried cat food, meat and a bag of dog meal which she placed on her head as she disappeared down the road. It was later established that she got through and fed all the animals.

A few days later the furniture removal workers managed to bring the dogs out and they were euthanised at Mutare SPCA. Their owners drove through from Harare to be with their beloved animals at the end.

ZNSPCA was requested to take much needed food to cattle on a farm invaded by an Army General. The owner (a widow) had not been onto the farm for 2 months but she and her son had gone out the day before to put weaner plates on some of the calves. Both were seriously beaten by soldiers as were 3 of the farm workers. As they tried to drive through the security gates one of the guards cocked his gun at their heads. A week later ZNSPCA delivered sacks of feed and treated two cows which had been wounded. There was only one army detail in sight.

ZNSPCA returned a few days later with a Police escort for the weighing and videoing of the herd, prior to them being sold. This time there were more armed soldiers present, some of whom were openly smoking mbanje (cannabis).

The team returned a third time to supervise the loading and removal of the cattle - ZNSPCA presence was to ensure that the soldiers did not interfere as they had hinted they would. Heavily pregnant cows were loaded - destined for slaughter - as well as day old calves. The farm is situated in a 'Red Zone' area (foot and mouth area) and therefore any cattle leaving the farm may only be taken direct for slaughter.

Last to leave were the five family horses and the grandson's donkey "Indaba". The ZNSPCA truck carried the Geese, Bantams and a Calf with a broken leg. As the team left, Meryl took some photographs of a huge pile of snares collected by the workers the two armed soldiers at the gate were not amused and the team beat a hasty retreat.

ZNSPCA attended Brunton Farm in Bromley, where the farmer's wife and a lady who lives in their cottage were badly beaten and robbed of all their possessions and vehicles by settlers who have been targeting the farm for some time. Earlier in the year ZNSPCA had to request that the settlers allow the horses to be fed as they had prevented the farm workers from doing so. The groom was also badly beaten and his wife taken by the settlers and raped. ZNSPCA checked on the horses two days later as the family had fled to Harare. Workers were found feeding and grooming the horses - this situation will be monitored.

A farmer who used to farm in the Tengwe area requested the assistance of ZNSPCA in recovering his herd of Sable. Rampant poaching by the settlers was taking place. Many of the animals had not been killed outright, but wounded and left to die. The war vet in charge was also refusing to allow the game, including Zebra and Wildebeest, access to feed on game cubes even though there was plenty available. Meryl and Simon held meetings with all the stake-holders i.e. Urungwe District Council, Campfire, the Police, National Parks, war vets and settlers. The Police at Magunje and Karoi openly admitted that they themselves had shot some of the game on the farm - openly declaring that all the game on farms now belonged to the government to do with what they liked, "even all the fruit and all the vegetables". National Parks supported the farmer and Urungwe District Council wanted "a percentage". After further talks with the war vets and settlers, they have at last agreed that the game may be relocated. ZNSPCA will be in Tengwe this week.

Apart from the work on farms, the National Inspectors continue to respond to other reports of abuse. Dairy farms owned by 'new' farmers remain a nightmare. Recently on a dairy farm in Beatrice the team came across a huge pile of bones - the remains of all the dairy cows that had died there - another two herds are being monitored in the area - hygiene is non-existent and the cows receive very little supplementary feeding despite being milked twice a day.

Meryl showed Minister John Nkomo the graphic photos of the dairy herd on Collingwood Farm at a meeting last week. She reported that he was visibly shocked and said "one photograph is more eloquent than a dozen reports". He phoned the Governor in her presence and told him to proceed to Collingwood immediately - it is understood that he went there the same day.

Whilst covering the country during their investigations, ZNSPCA have also checked on Security Company dogs in Marondera, Goromonzi, Ruwa and Chipinge. Donkeys have been treated in Beitbridge, Gwanda, Balla Balla, Tengwe, Middle Save, Hot Springs, Tanganda Halt and Birchenough Bridge. The team also called in at several Police Stations in the lowveld to increase awareness of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act and the work of the ZNSPCA and SPCA's.

Two new Trainee National Inspectors (Simbashe Tambgwa and Mathias Tengaruwa) are doing excellent work in the Chinyika and Rusike communal areas. At least twice a week they go out on foot armed with a First Aid Kit and educational pamphlets. They are being well received by the villagers who previously had no access to advice on animal welfare e.g. how to care for their chickens, rabbits, dogs etc. The two Trainees have paid follow up visits on their earlier calls and have reported a great improvement in the welfare of all domestic animals. The villagers themselves have also sent messages of appreciation with further requests for assistance.

News of recent Court Cases:

CLOUDIOUS CHIKWIRA of Beatrice - fined \$50,000 or 50 days with hard labour for cruelty to dairy cows.

MCDONALD MADZIRO of Mutare pleaded Guilty to cruelty by overcrowding of livestock in his vehicle - fined \$60,000.

After over a year, the ZNSPCA case against the "hoarder" mentioned in previous reports was heard. Having said she was going to have Meryl deported - Robyn Bennett of Melfort pleaded Guilty to all counts. Her lawyer then pleaded that she had no money (true) and begged the Magistrate not to give a custodial sentence. She was sentenced to "a fine of \$400 000 or 20 months - wholly suspended for 5 years on condition the accused does not commit a similar offence".

ZNSPCA have another 12 cases pending in the courts, the most serious of which is the case of Dog Fighting in Harare.

As if the ZNSPCA has not already got enough on its plate, it has been learnt through the press that the Zimbabwe Government are planning to send a selection of our wildlife to China. In return Zimbabwe is to receive four Tigers. This country's track record of sending wildlife

to foreign countries is quite abysmal. In the past, Zimbabwe have sent Rhinos to North Korea ö they all died, including one which broke out of its crate, was hit by a car and killed. Another consignment of wild animals was sent to Algeria some time ago ö never to be heard of again. Two years ago wildlife was sent to Nigeria ö several did not survive, including a female leopard who died in her travelling crate from starvation as authorities were too frightened to let her out.

Meryl has requested a meeting with the Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Environment and Tourism in this regard.

ZNSPCA is now receiving enquiries and reports of animals from all over Zimbabwe and whilst there remains a huge backlog of follow ups to attend to, despite the prevailing challenging political and economic climate, the welfare of many animals has improved due to the involvement of our small team of brave and dedicated Inspectors.

None of which would have been possible without your kind generosity and support. Not having the means or manpower to actively fund-raise for our Society, we just could not have continued without this vital support.

Thank you for continuing to stand by us as we battle the odds in order to safeguard the animals of Zimbabwe and for understanding the difficult and sensitive nature of our situation.

Best regards and appreciation, Bernice

ZNSPCA INSPECTORATE : OCTOBER 2004 UPDATE

The small ZNSPCA crew continue to respond to the relentless reports. Their work on farms, of necessity, has increased and this has probably been the team's busiest period yet.

Inspector Simon Chikadaya has been promoted to Senior Inspector and Trainee Mahias Trengaruwa is showing great potential - Meryl reports that he has a wonderful way with animals. - presently bottle feeding 2 young orphaned lambs that were found in a kraal on an invaded farm in Featherstone. Trainee Inspector Justine Dare is kept very busy with her administrative duties, but has also been conducting investigations into condition of Security dogs.

Meryl has submitted the following report on recent events:

1. Roy Bennett's invaded farm, Charleswood Estate, continued to occupy much of our time during June and July. ZNSPCA were tipped off that the Government owned Agricultural and Rural Development Authority (ARDA) was going to commence moving Roy's cattle from Charleswood to their Charter Estate in the Chikoma area. We were appalled as this would entail a journey of some 400 kilometres lasting approximately 12 hours and we knew that many of these cattle were too weak to survive the journey. We also heard that several of the experienced cattle transporters had refused the job because of the very steep gradients between Chimanimani and Mutare. The whole exercise was tantamount to stock-theft, but ZNSPCA were unable to stop it.

Simon and I drove down to Chimanimani to monitor the first load - we were not impressed with the two hired trucks and the loading of the cattle by ARDA staff was very rough. The presence of ZNSPCA was vital and we were able to stop several weaners being loaded that would never have survived the trip. We followed the first two truckloads out of Charleswood and were promptly stopped at a Police roadblock just outside the village of Chimanimani. Normally ZNSPCA vehicles are always waved through. This time they ordered Simon and I out of the truck and they just about stripped the vehicle.

Then began the long trip to Charter Estate. The two trucks were in poor mechanical shape and several times on the steep inclines, the drivers had great difficulty changing from second to first gear. At Clouds End we left them and drove down to Chipinge to collect an abandoned security dog. At 9.30 pm the ARDA vet phoned me to ask me if I knew where the Charleswood cattle were. They finally arrived at 10 am the next day, having had mechanical breakdowns and 2 punctures.

We monitored the off-loading of the cattle, several were 'down' and all were exhausted. It was as if they had not been expected - there was no access to food in the kraal they were put into and ZNSPCA had to start mobilising ARDA staff to provide hay. We returned to Charter Estate the following day to find two 'downed' cows still lying in the hot sun - no water and only a small handful of crushed maize had been placed near them. ZNSPCA cut green grass for them, collected hay and brought them buckets of water. They were extremely hungry and thirsty, but despite our efforts they both died the following day.

Over the next few weeks, approximately 600 head of Bennett's cattle were moved by road to ARDA's Charter Estate. ZNSPCA monitored the loading and off-loading when we could, but several more did not survive. We watched whilst ARDA workers superimposed their brand over Bennett's brand. On one of our many trips to Charleswood we had Roy's old mare 'Cutex' euthanised - she was loosing condition rapidly, had a very bad eye and was not being given the essential medication which we had provided for her.

2. A family was violently evicted from Pendennis Farm in Karoi, this time by an Officer from the Prison Services. Thugs arrived at 4pm and gave the family until daybreak to get off the farm. In the early hours of the morning as they were leaving they went to put the 2 family dogs in the car but 'Sheba' an elderly Ridgeback was extremely stressed and bit the Son as he tried to lift her into the car. Further attempts to catch her failed and the distraught family had to leave without their beloved dog. ZNSPCA were contacted and several days later we drove the 193 km to Karoi. Armed Prison Officers at the farm gate told us that we couldn't go in without a "pass" from Harare. We drove down the road, picked up a female Prison Officer, informed the guards that she was our "pass" and drove in.

We soon found Sheba wandering round the garden looking very lost and the house was empty and deserted. However, as soon as she saw us she disappeared into the flowerbeds. This was not going to be easy, but we had brought some steak and tranquillisers with us. She ate the drugged meat hungrily but two and a half hours later she was still running away from us. Finally she walked unsteadily into the garage and we were able to catch her. It was after dark by the time we delivered Sheba to her anxious owners who had rented a house in Harare. There was an emotional re-union that made it all worthwhile. We later heard that Sheba slept for the next 48 hours!

3. When driving through Karoi recently, we found a German Shepherd and a Labrador, both in excellent condition, running around in a very anxious state in the middle of the main Karoi/Kariba road. We managed to catch them and get them into the back of the ZNSPCA truck. We later discovered that their owner's farm had been invaded and they were away. Neighbours rallied round and moved all their possessions to another farm, putting the two dogs temporarily in the garden of the local churchyard. Later a resident, unaware that the dogs were there, left the gate open. The dogs were later re-united with their owners.

4. In mid-August we received a frantic phone call from another farmer, again in the Karoi area. He was the owner of 2 tame Lions 'Beau' and 'Storm'. Officials from National Parks had arrived at the farm together with the Police, wanting to arrest him because he did not have a Permit for the Lions and because he had "dangerous animals" on the farm. They had obviously been sent by war veterans in the area who wanted the farmer to leave. He was taken away by the Police and spent two nights in jail for this "offence". In the meantime, we applied to the Parks Department for an urgent Permit. The farmer was released on the Monday but he and his Wife felt it was not safe to go back to the farm. He had left two workers (whom the Lions loved!) to look after them. A few days later, a neighbour phoned to say that the Police and Parks were back again, this time to "confiscate" the Lions. I spoke to one of the officials and informed him that the Permit was being processed, that the female was pregnant and could possibly abort from the stress of being moved. Parks later left the farm, without the Lions.

The issue of the Lions' Permit was then held up by a major investigation into corruption taking place at National Parks. In an official's words "all permits will in future go under the microscope". Eventually, it was issued, but by this time the farmer had taken the matter of his arrest to Court where it was ruled that his detention had been unlawful. The harassment continued and he and his Wife decided to leave the farm for good. He requested the ZNSPCA's help with relocating the Lions to another farm in the Karoi area. In the meantime, Storm had given birth to two cubs, but sadly the stress of not having 'Chalkie' with her had taken its toll and she rejected the cubs - one subsequently died, but the other is being hand-reared and is doing well.

The Lions were successfully darted by a game-capture unit and relocated to a spacious new boma on the other side of Karoi. It was a huge wrench for Chalkie to say good-bye to his beloved Lions for the last time - he and Sandy left for the UK a few days later.

5. Several months ago farmers in the Odzi area had been violently evicted and left behind many of their possessions, including horses. The owners were concerned about their welfare but it was not safe for them to visit the farm. The ZNSPCA gained permission from the Police Officer-in-Charge to check on the horses. We found war veterans in the garden who had been sent to "guard" the property. They helped us find the horses which were in a pretty bad way - a chestnut pony mare had a wire snare round both hind legs, dragging half a tree behind her, several of the Palominos (these belonged to the farmer who had accidentally shot and killed a war veteran when he was attacked) had bad ear infections caused by ticks, with pus pouring down their cheeks. A young gelding had very bad mange and all the horses were covered in ticks, especially large Bont ticks. It took some time to catch the mare with the snare, but we were able to cut the wire and treat the wounds. One or two of the Palominos were approachable and we were able to treat them, but the young gelding was very nervous, as were the other 5 Palominos. ZNSPCA is grateful to Mark Evans who accompanied us to Mapor Farm and who used all his Monty Roberts cunning to catch the horses. I asked the resident war vets if we could uplift the 7 horses and pet donkey. We were referred to the war vets in Mutare and the Chairman later phoned to give ZNSPCA the necessary authority. Two weeks later, we returned to Mapor Farm with a large lorry borrowed from a local farmer, horse cubes, hay and of course Mark Evans accompanied by wife, Claire. We had a feeling the settlers had been chasing the horses as they were even more elusive. Sadly, in spite of our search, there was no sign of the pet donkey 'Tackies', presumably stolen for ploughing. It took us 6 ½ hours to catch and load them with the little chestnut gelding being the easiest of the lot. Without Mark and Claire, Simon, Mathias and I would still be trying to catch them. Because they were so stressed we decided to move them a short distance to a 'safe' farm on the outskirts of Mutare. Mark offered to leave one of his grooms with the horses for a week whilst he got to know their temperaments and suitability for re-homing. The two owners had given ZNSPCA instructions "to do what you have to do" as they were now living in suburban Mutare unable to have the horses back.

We returned a week later. Sadly in this job decisions have to be made and we euthanised five of the seven, returning to Harare with a Palomino gelding and the chestnut pony. A vet was called in to attend to both of them and in Mark and Claire's care they are looking much better already. 'Alaska' and 'Denver' will be re-homed as soon as the vet has given them the all clear.

6. Brunton Farm, Bromley, was mentioned in our last report (owner's Wife badly beaten and house ransacked). ZNSPCA were monitoring the feeding of the horses, but after a few days workers were chased away by a local war vet (female) who wants the farm. Horses had to be moved and two were euthanised as unsuitable for re-homing.

Three cats were left behind and for over 6 weeks ZNSPCA has been checking the cat traps every day. The cats are very nervous because the house is not empty and settlers are camped in the garden. Tragically a settler with a grievance against the owners took 2 of the cats out of the traps before we got there and their bodies were found floating in a nearby well. We called the Police and had him arrested. He is due to appear in Court soon. As for 'Silver', we are determined to catch her and now have the resident settlers on our side. We have put the trap inside the house and have broken a window in the lounge, which she is now using to get in at night.

7. Distressed Nyanga residents asked ZNSPCA to check on 6 horses that belonged to Brondesbury Park Hotel that, in spite of the hotel being closed, horses are still there. Hotel has been closed for two years due to current decline in tourism, but a skeleton staff remains including two grooms. Horses were not in bad condition, there is plenty of grazing and the grooms are doing the best they can under difficult circumstances. However, ZNSPCA euthanised one young horse that was very ill - neck and throat covered in abscesses - had apparently been like that for some time.

8. August Hill Farm, Goromonzi, elderly owner violently evicted for the second time. His farm was taken over several months ago by a member of the Central Intelligence Organisation who felled many fir trees and sold the wood, but did not move in. Owner informed the local Police that the farm continued to be unoccupied, so the Police told him to return. He had been living there for several weeks when he was violently evicted again. Extremely traumatised, he left for his original home in Scotland. ZNSPCA was called in to rescue the owner's pet cat for the second time. After two weeks we caught his cat but found her very dehydrated and stressed, however after a week at the vets she had made an excellent recovery and we are hoping to re-home her.

9. The Sable on Tengwe Estate were mentioned in the previous report - ZNSPCA had high hopes that after many weeks of negotiating with all stake-holders, with the Movement Permit issued by the Parks Dept and a Game Capture Unit organised, that we would at last be able to secure the release of the Sable. However, it was not to be. We arrived at the gate of the farm early in the morning. The large trucks to move the Sable belonging to the Game Capture Team were already in place, but so was a large mob of settlers, war vets, ex-workers and their rent-a-crowd. Two armed guards from National Parks arrived to oversee the re-location but to no avail. The crowds were demanding a "percentage" in exchange for allowing the removal of the farmer's Sable - this could run into millions and was pure extortion. All ZNSPCA could do was once again express our concern over the welfare of the Sable as they were being hunted and poached every weekend by Government Officials from Harare. No one would listen to reason and finally a delegation, including war vets, National Parks and the Game Capture Unit departed for the offices of the Urungwe District Council.

Simon and I waited outside the gate all day, nearby a beer hall provided loud music and alcohol to keep up the spirits of the waiting crowds. At 5.30 pm, it was starting to get dark and the crowd were getting restless and talking about stoning the ZNSPCA truck - we left, having waited 9 ½ hours. Returning to the farm the following morning, it was to learn that the meeting had not reached any agreement and the crowds were continuing to refuse the trucks entry. We headed back to Harare. Since then a fire has swept through Tengwe Estate and there is virtually no grazing for the Sable. I spoke to the main war veteran at the farm this week who informed me that he was "now bored with the issue of the Sable and wants to get on with farming" - but he will still not allow them to be moved. ZNSPCA will continue to fight for their re-location to a safe place.

10. Lusoff Farm in Featherstone - The Police phoned to report that sheep were dying in large numbers on this farm where the owner had been evicted, but had left the sheep on the farm in the hopes that he would be able to return. ZNSPCA was provided with a Police escort and found the situation critical. There was no grazing and several lambs had died, as their mothers had no milk. We were shown the 'graves' of many adult sheep. The owner was advised and immediately sent supplementary feed and moved all the sheep to an unlisted farm this week.

11. For two and a half years ZNSPCA has been fighting for the release of 90 Sable that have been incarcerated in bomas at Somerby Farm, Norton at the Quarantine Station there. Due to a long complicated dispute over ownership, involving a conservancy and politicians, the Sable have been living a miserable existence in small bomas lined with black shade cloth. The Sables' deteriorating health has resulted in most youngsters that were born not surviving or else the mothers aborting. Adults' hooves have grown too long as they have not worn down naturally. Twice all the Sable have had to be tranquillised in order have their hooves trimmed - on the first occasion this was funded by ZNSPCA.

As the wrangles continued in Court and the whole issue became a political hot potato, the Sable began to die because they were not being fed properly. ZNSPCA has now "seized" the sable in terms of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act - we obtained a Court Order from a Provincial Magistrate in Harare and this in effect puts them in our care, until they are strong enough to be re-located. Funding has been set up for their feeding and now that, after many months, they are receiving the correct food - their recovery has been remarkable. One female has died in the last week, but she had recently aborted and for her, sadly help came too late.

Ironically the day after ZNSPCA obtained the Court Order, the Supreme Court ruled that the Sable did belong to the original owner (i.e. the farmer and his associates).

There are now only 54 sable left from the original 90, but in a few weeks time, they will have their hooves trimmed again and will be set free on a conservancy. ZNSPCA's long fight for their release has all been worth it.

We have held meetings with:

- the Permanent Secretary for Lands in an effort to relieve the plight of the Dairy Cows at Collingwood Farm, Concession - he said he did not want to see our photos of the starving cows as he is "an animal lover"!
- the Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Environment and Tourism in an effort to secure the release of the wild Leopard held in captivity by National Parks at Nyamaneshe;
- the Executive Director of ARDA in an effort to secure the release of Roy Bennett's horses at Charleswood Estate.

ZNSPCA continues with its work in the Chinyika and Rusike communal areas with Trainee Inspector Mathias visiting the villagers there as often as possible. We are currently trying to save a few cows belonging to a widow in the Chinyika area. The grazing is non-existent but we have been taking hay and soya bean stalks to her and so far the desperately thin cows are holding their own.

Many of the local people come to our office at Goromonzi seeking help for their animals - puppies, day-old chicks, donkeys, goats, etc. One old man walked a very long distance to ask us for help for his donkey which had been attacked by a pack of dogs belonging to settlers. It was in a bad state, but we have patched him up and filled him with a long-acting antibiotic. He has found himself a little patch of settlers' wheat to munch on and we do hope he makes it.

In addition to the farm issues which take up so much of our time, we have also dealt with the transportation of livestock, security dogs, chicken vendors, baboon control on the timber estates, etc.

COURT CASES

Michael Madondo of Eaglesnest was found Guilty of Cruelty to a horse by a Rusape Magistrate, was fined \$100,000 and banned from keeping an animal for 6 years. This was an excellent result for us as this banning is provided for in the Cruelty Act but so few Magistrates use it.

We have since discovered that he is still keeping another two horses on his property. When ZNSPCA informed the Magistrate, he requested that we uplift the two horses immediately, inform him afterwards and he would have Madondo arrested and "put inside". The Magistrate informed us that Madondo had tried to bribe him to drop the case and had also asked ZANU PF 'Chefs' in the area to see that the charges against him were dropped - this is one Magistrate who will not be treated with contempt.

I have also appeared in Goromonzi Court twice in the Mtetwa case - a woman who was keeping 12 large dogs in small cages. She is very argumentative in Court - case remanded to 30 September.

The trial date for our dog fighting case is 17 November. The accused has already appeared in Court and was remanded IN CUSTODY pending Z\$200,000 bail. The shocked expression on the accused's face was a picture. His mother paid the bail 2 days later.

We have many other cases awaiting trial dates, and several dockets being drawn up before being passed on to the relevant Police Stations.

(End of Report)