



STEVE TSHWETE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

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MEDIA RELEASE:

Barking dogs are cause for complaint

The Municipality has received a number of complaints about dogs especially in the Presidentrus/Olifants Lodge areas.

As these complaints fall under the Municipal By-laws the Traffic Department and SPCA are working together to resolve the issues of barking dogs and dogs wandering in the streets.

While dogs have the right to bark, especially if there are intruders on the property or they are being threatened, continuous barking day and night for no apparent reason is cause to lay a complaint at the Traffic Department.

The complaint will be investigated and if necessary the SPCA will be contacted, who will investigate the welfare of the animal and its living conditions.

If the SPCA finds that the welfare of the animal is compromised in any way they will take the matter further as per the Animals Protection Act 71 of 1962.

Once investigated by the SPCA and the welfare of the animal is ensured, the Traffic department can then issue a fine in terms of the by-laws if barking does not stop.

It will only be deemed a true complaint if more than one neighbour feels that they are been disturbed by the noise of the barking dogs.

Dogs roaming the street

The **SPCA Will not** run after a stray dog in the street because the animal can run in front of oncoming traffic and get seriously injured or killed.

Furthermore people's lives can be compromised as sudden stopping of vehicles or dodging the animal can cause accidents.

The SPCS advises the public to do one of the following:

- 1) Pick up the dog and bring it into the SPCA.
- 2) If transport is a problem or you are scared of getting bitten, try and contain the animal inside a closed area, phone the SPCA during office hours and we will collect the animal.

Should the whereabouts of the dog's owner be known the SPCA will investigate the complaint, checking on the welfare of the animal and its living conditions.

If no problems are found, a warning will be issued, as it can be seen as temporary abandonment, with the owner putting the life of the animal in danger. If the problem persists the Traffic department can be phoned to issue a fine.

Currently the municipality is reviewing its by-laws and is considering the possibility of obtaining a warrant from a magistrate that the Traffic department can instruct by the owner of the animal/s to legally sign the dog/s over to the SPCA.

However, vexatious complaints (continuously complaining about issues that have no grounds for complaint) is also prosecutable under the same Animal Protection Act 71 of 1962.

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Yours faithfully

WD FOUCHE
MUNICIPAL MANAGER