

Municipal pound facility for farm animals under consideration

According to Acting Knysna Municipal Manager Dr Michele Gratz, the establishment of a pound for farm animals may save the municipality money. “At the moment we transport stray and diseased farm animals to the SPCA facilities in George. We are conducting a feasibility study to determine the affordability of establishing and operating our own facility, subject to the availability of suitable premises.”

A total of 24 head of cattle were impounded and transported to George during the four-month period of 1 September 2019 to 31 December 2019, at a cost of R1500.00 per load.

An appropriate site will need to have access to water and electricity. Cost implications will include the construction of the pound itself, ramps, storerooms, electric fencing, office- and ablution facilities. “We’ll also need to appoint two staff members to manage and clean the facility, and acquire a vehicle and trailer,” said Dr Gratz.

The motion to consider this project was tabled at the Council meeting held on 28 November 2019. “The municipality had previously established a temporary holding facility for impounded stray farm animals near the municipal garden waste disposal site in Old Place,” she explained. “This facility was closed due to the high risk posed by its location. Since then, we have been transporting impounded animals to George.”

“Knysna Animal Welfare currently performs the function of impounding stray and diseased domestic animals,” said Dr Gratz. “They receive a Grant-in-Aid donation from Council for rendering these services and the buildings and kennels are leased from the municipality. It is, however, not their responsibility to impound stray and diseased farm animals, nor is the size of their facility suitable for this function.”

Municipal officials recently visited the pound facilities of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) in George. The purpose of this site visit was to garner information regarding the operation of such a facility and the preliminary resources required to establish a similar facility in Knysna.

“Specific conditions regarding the impoundment of animals are set out in the relevant bylaws and will be strictly adhered to should a local pound be established,” she said. “Municipal tariffs for the keeping and feeding of animals will have to be approved by Council. For now, we await the outcomes of the feasibility study and the identification of suitable land.”

ENDS
