



23 February 2017

To whom it may concern

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: ANIMAL CARGO LEFT IN WAREHOUSES FOR LONG TIME PERIODS

The National Council of SPCAs have been actively involved in improving on animal welfare standards of animals transported by air by enforcing the Animals Protection Act No 71 of 1962 and also through promoting the IATA Live Animal Regulations at all cargo companies flying animal cargo. We do this work across South Africa and work with other enforcement bodies such as the SAPS, SARS Customs, Nature Conservation, DAFF, IPATA and IATA.

It has been brought to our attention too often that persons who are charged with the responsibility to collect animals on arrival at the respective airports are not collecting their animal cargo on arrival and often leave those animals for 10 to 20 hours before arriving to collect them. It has also been brought to our attention that some cargo companies appear to allow this to take place.

The following has reference in this regard -

1. The IATA Live Animal Regulations states:

Arrangements must be made for animals to be delivered to the consignee or his agent as soon as possible upon arrival at destination. The shipper must advise the consignee of the anticipated arrival. The carrier must notify the destination and transfer stations if animals are off-loaded or if the flight is delayed. Whenever possible, shippers must be notified of anticipated delays of flights in order that delivery to the carrier can be postponed accordingly. To expedite delivery, it is essential that shipments be dealt with immediately upon arrival at the cargo building. This will apply to both inbound and outbound shipments. If a consignment of live animals cannot be delivered to the consignee and if time does not permit the delivering carrier to contact the issuing carrier or the consignor, the delivering carrier may take immediate action to dispose of the consignment in the best interest of all participating carriers and inform the issuing carrier or consignor of any action taken.

2. The Animals Protection Act No 71 of 1962 states:

In terms of the Animals Protection Act No 71 of 1962, it is an offense to convey, carry, confine, secure, restrain or tether any animal under such conditions or in such a manner or position or for such a period of time or over such a distance as to cause

that animal unnecessary suffering; or in conditions affording inadequate shelter, light or ventilation or in which such animal is excessively exposed to heat, cold, weather, sun, rain, dust exhaust gases or noxious fumes; or without making adequate provision for suitable food, potable water and rest for such animal in circumstances where it is necessary. It is also an offence to unnecessarily starve or under-feed or deny water or food to any animal.

Furthermore, kindly note that any person who wilfully obstructs, hinders or resists an officer in the exercise of his/her powers or conceals any animal or thing with an intent to defeat the exercise of such powers, or who upon demand fails to give his name and address to such officer, shall be guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to the penalties as set out.

We therefore firmly advise that all animal cargo must be collected by their owners in no longer than two (2) hours from the time of arrival. Failing which, the cargo companies are advised to contact their local SPCA's (or other animal welfare organisation if there is no SPCA) to come and collect the animals to be taken care of. The owners must then go and claim those animals at the relevant SPCA within the legal pound period for that municipality and motivate their reasons for leaving the animals in those conditions for such a period of time. The owner will be liable to pay a boarding fee as specified by the relevant SPCA.

We look forward to your co-operation.

Kind regards



Alwyn Marais
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Special Projects Unit
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF SPCAs