Humane World for Animals



Year End Report 2025

South Africa

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Introduction

In 2025, Humane World for Animals South Africa expanded its impact across the continent, advancing animal protection through new initiatives in companion animal welfare, farmed animal protection, elephant immunocontraception, and animal law reform. We also strengthened our work in wildlife conservation and protection, human-wildlife conflict mitigation, disaster response, research, and public awareness.

These achievements were made possible by the dedication and generosity of our donors, partners, supporters, and friends. Thank you for standing with us as we create lasting positive change for animals.

Together, we look forward to building a more compassionate future for animals across Africa.

1. Ending trophy hunting of iconic South African wildlife

1.1 Protection of wildlife in South Africa

In 2025, Humane World for Animals South Africa:

- Continued to engage the Minister and the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) on the correct interpretation of Section 24 of the Constitution and the current implementation of existing legislation.
- Continued to challenge the department's policies on sustainable use (SU), largely through direct engagements during policy briefings, public consultations, and written submissions.
- Through the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) working group meetings, consistently challenged the government's adopted notion of SU.
- Submitted comments on the draft National Elephant Heritage Strategy (NEHS) and meta-population management plans.
- Highlighted that any proposed use must be assessed against alternatives and proven to be ecologically sustainable, particularly given the draft National Biodiversity Economy Strategy's focus on extractive economic activities.
- Held engagement meetings with DFFE permitting and regulatory staff about processes and policy development.
- Through engagements with the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee for Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment, members of parliament, and provincial meetings, opposed the commercialisation of the Madikwe and Mawana elephants through proposed culling or trophy hunting activities, and advocated for non-lethal alternatives.
- Uncertainty remains around the future of the Madikwe elephants, making their protection and the prevention of harmful management precedents a key focus for 2026.
- Continued monitoring the SA Hunters and Game Conservation Association's (SAGHCA) Constitutional Court case challenging the well-being definition and its enabling provisions in NEM:BA and considered approaching the court as amicus curiae should the DFFE and Parliament fail to fully oppose the application.
- Presented at two international symposia promoting elephant immunocontraception as a humane population management technology.
- Actively engaged with the Wildlife Well-being Forum (WWBF), helping to establish species-specific task teams, to ensure the consideration of well-being in the development of management plans and when making management decisions.
- Chaired three of the eight Wildlife Well-being Forum (WWBF) task teams, and are active members of three further task teams. These forums are focusing on applying a "One Health, One Welfare" approach to environmental management.
- While the WWBF task teams are still developing, extensive engagements took place on elephant management, as well as cheetah, leopard and lion biodiversity management plans, with the DFFE and advisory groups.
- Continued holding Minister Willie Aucamp accountable by advocating for the urgent implementation of NEM: BA's well-being mandate through engagements with MPs, written submissions, meetings with the Minister, and raising concerns with President Ramaphosa regarding his appointment.
- Continued supporting the Elephant Reintegration Trust via funding to present key findings at the Southern African Wildlife Management Association Conference on "Too Close for Comfort," highlighting guide interactions with elephants as disturbance factors affecting welfare and important considerations in ecotourism.

In 2026

- There remains a lot of uncertainty about the future of the Madikwe elephants, and so this area will be critical for our 2026 (and likely 2027) to ensure that it does not create a precedent in elephant population management practices.
- The outcome of the well-being Constitutional Court case will likely have far reaching consequences for how wildlife is manged in South Africa.

1.2 Ending the Captive Lion Breeding Industry in SA

In 2025, Humane World for Animals South Africa:

- Provided briefing documents to the Minister's Lion Task Team on lion bones and well-being requirements and supported the DFFE's intention to maintain a zero-lion bone quota and urged the DFFE to introduce directives and regulations encouraging voluntary industry exit options.
- Continued campaigning for the destruction of confiscated wildlife products, including captive lion bone derivatives, in line with NEMA and Humane World for Animals' policy.
- Extensively engaged parliamentarians on welfare concerns in the captive lion industry, the voluntary exit process, and steps toward full industry closure.
- Recruited volunteers to process CITES, TOPS, and lion facility permits, although quality control challenges required extensive oversight.
- Petitioned parliament to prohibit the keeping of any large indigenous or exotic cats and other predators as pets.
- Continued the development of well-being training materials focused on assessments of captive large predators.

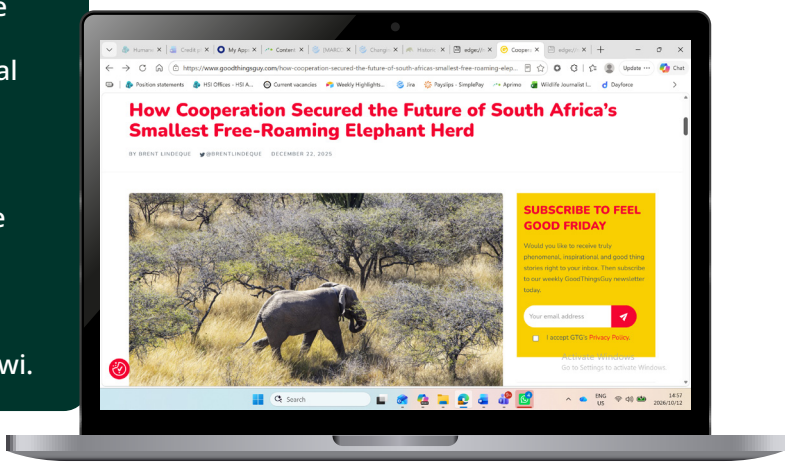
In 2026

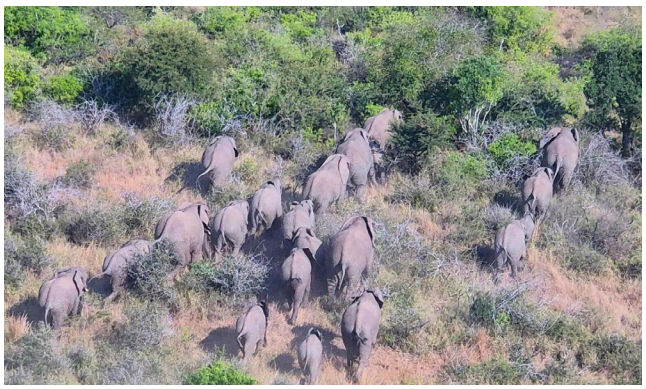
- Continue to chair three of the eight Wildlife Well-being Forum (WWBF) task teams, focusing on applying a "One Health, One Welfare" approach to environmental management.
- To meet with the combined Parliamentary Portfolio Committees on Agriculture and Environment for a briefing on the management of wildlife and the captive lion breeding industry, whilst providing a hands-on educational visit to a lion safe haven at Lions Foundation.
- We will continue to apply political pressure for the implementation of the DFFE's decision to end the captive lion breeding industry.
- To vaccinate and contracept herd elephants in three game parks in Malawi.



1.3 Promote the EIC Programme in Three African Elephant Range States to Expand the Programme Across the Continent

- Namibia: Erindi is finalising its elephant game count following the relocation of the herd, while Mount Etjo is reviewing the agreement.
- Eswatini: Eswatini Big Game did not issue a permit for implementation. The herd split, with some elephants returning to Pongola in KwaZulu-Natal.
- Mozambique: Discussions with Mozambique Wildlife Alliance (MWA) shows interest in implementing the programme in the Maputo Special Reserve in 2026.
- Malawi – African Parks was unable to vaccinate in 2025 due to extreme heat and an incomplete contract.
- Continue to support community monitor program in 3 community reserves to monitor and mitigate against HEC through support of 3 community –sourced elephant monitors trained in elephant monitoring, record keeping, and non-lethal mitigation methods. In addition, add 4 monitors and 2 additional reserves in 2025.





1.4 Implemented Elephant Immunocontraception in South Africa

- Successfully shepherded the remaining Mawana elephants herd into Loziba Wildlife in November 2025, obviating the need for further culling.
- Met EIC targets of 72 reserves and increased elephant numbers by 450 in 2025, with one new reserve added and three more expected in 2026.
- Aim to increase the total number of treated females in 2026.
- Madikwe and Pilanesberg are scheduled for May 2026 (640 animals). Existing reserves increased by 116 animals, from 1,704 to 1,820.
- Three elephant monitors from Mawana's Ezemvelo KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife programme were trained through a grant provided to Elephants Alive to support human-elephant coexistence.
- Two collars were deployed at Mawana/Loziba for human-elephant conflict (HEC) mitigation. Approximately R120,000 worth of mitigation tools (fox lights, bangers, sirens, and foggers) were dispatched to ground crews.
- Continued supporting human-elephant conflict early-warning systems through the deployment and support of elephant satellite collars.
- As the two-strand "Ele-Fence" is not yet complete, funding for excursion mitigation has not been stopped and should this support cease, herds may be culled.
- Promoted the Tuskers: Saving the Last Gentle Giants documentary in South Africa, the UK, and Italy. The documentary was showcased at the Humane World for Animals UK Still Life Exhibition with Britta Jaschinski's art exhibition and was a finalist at the Italian Pet Carpet Film Festival.

1.5 Promote Human Wildlife Co-existence

- In Tanzania, funding was provided to Peace for Conservation for three community wildlife protection and community development projects; Dance4Conservation, Arts4Wildlife, and Canoe Ecotourism.
- Successfully collaborate with the APWG and VulPro in the release and rehabilitation of compromised pangolin and rehabilitated/captive bred vultures, and other species.
- Made verbal submissions to the DFFE regarding species and working documents to be considered at the CITES CoP20.
- To utilise the Parliamentary Question process to monitor CITES reporting
- Developed briefing and position documents with HWFA international offices on critical species proposals and working documents. Worked with HSUS to engage the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and European authorities regarding trophy hunting compliance in South Africa..
- Opposed future relocations of cheetahs from South Africa to India.
- Continued monitoring multiple court cases involving well-being and quota setting which foundational papers were obtained for all cases, and attorneys were briefed to investigate the implications of the cases and any potential interventions needed.
- While the status of these cases remains somewhat unclear, the appointment of Minister Aucamp is expected to bring developments in 2026. It will therefore be critical to re-evaluate strategic positions throughout 2026.
- Sponsored an additional print run of the Vusa the Elephant Guardian comic for distribution in Tanzania and to other Humane World for Animals partners and reserves.
- Created a Pangolin Hotline for the Waterberg Pangolin Stakeholders to call.
- According to the DFFE database, 15 pangolins were retrieved in South Africa during 2025, significantly fewer than in previous years.
- The APWG is responsible for providing intelligence on four pangolins involved in the illegal wildlife trade, resulting in one successful retrieval.

- Submitted a letter to the Minister of the Environment in the Democratic Republic of Congo regarding the capture and transfer of chimpanzees within the country and abroad.

In 2026

- With the draft NEHS, the draft National Guidelines for Metapopulation Management of elephants, lions, and cheetahs, and the PETT soon to be released, alongside increasing human-elephant conflict, there is a greater need than ever to promote coexistence strategies and interventions, as well as metapopulation interventions that support immunocontraception uptake and bull relocation programmes.
- If culling is permitted in provincial or national parks, the floodgates may open, and immunocontraception could become further marginalised.
- Engage African conservation organisations and scientists on trophy hunting issues.
- Highlight and support concerns regarding trophy hunting across the African continent.
- Create a support base to assist in renewed attempts to ban trophy imports into the UK and EU countries.
- Continue and expand the African Conservation and Welfare Alliance between Humane World for Animals SouthAfrica, FOUR PAWS South Africa, Blood Lions, World Animal Protection, and Voice4Lions.
- Continue strengthening relationships developed within provincial and national departments to further pangolin conservation work in South Africa.
- Facilitate training sessions for environmental inspectors and permitting staff on welfare and well-being legislative requirements.





2. Farmed Animal Program

2.1 Food Systems and Food Policy Reform:

- In 2025, Humane World for Animals South Africa launched the discussion paper Agricultural Policy Reform in South Africa: Addressing Animal Welfare within a Just, Agroecological Food Systems Transition.
- The main themes of the paper were addressed at the Dialogue: Addressing Animal Welfare within a Just Agroecological Food Systems Transition in South Africa, hosted by Humane World for Animals in collaboration with the Institute for Economic Justice and the Trust for Community Outreach and Education. The dialogue was attended by NGOs, government representatives, organisations, farmers, and indigenous knowledge keepers.
- In 2026, we will continue the discussion around our food system and animal welfare with the launch of our documentary, What Feeds Us, which contrasts the dominant industrial agriculture system with food production systems that address concerns around social, environmental, and animal justice.

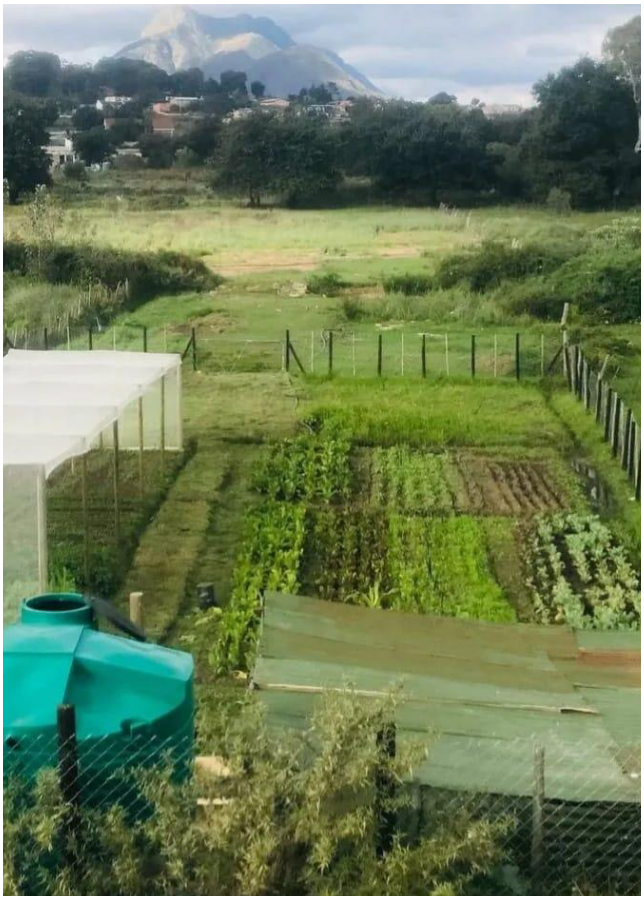
2.2 Plant-Based Meals Integrated into the National School Nutrition Programme

- In 2025, we continued to support the Greyton Farm Animal Sanctuary Pigs to Plants pilot project by providing a grant to transition several more pig farmers to food gardens and increase the sustainability of the project through the Graceful Garden value-added product range.
- Humane World for Animals South Africa worked within the pilot project communities to promote plant-based meals using produce from the farmers, while workshops created awareness and education around forgotten indigenous plants that have the potential to address food insecurity and malnutrition.
- This work extended to three schools in the area, where food gardens were established and children were encouraged to participate in the National School Nutrition Programme by assisting cooks in developing delicious recipes incorporating food from the gardens. Incentives such as the Seedling Project also helped create excitement among students.
- In 2026, we will continue working with the various governmental departments to encourage the expansion of this work across the Western Cape and nationally.

2.3 Animal Welfare: Tackling the Worst Animal Cruelties

- In 2025, Humane World for Animals South Africa welcomed the public statement from SPAR confirming that it will transition all SPAR-brand eggs to cage-free by 2030. We are particularly encouraged by its interest in developing an agroecological supplier base to support commitments to social justice, animal welfare, and the environment.
- After several years of discussions with the South African Pork Producers' Organisation (SAPPO), the organisation released its updated Pig Welfare Code, which includes the immediate phase-out of gestation crates and a transition to full group housing during gestation by 2032. Humane World for Animals will continue to monitor the transition and work with the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS) to ensure their standards follow suit.
- Humane World for Animals South Africa continued to track the latest international research on the use of CO^2 gas as a pre-slaughter stunning method and critiqued research published by the University of Pretoria that permitted the continued use of high-concentration CO^2 gas at Molare Slaughterhouse. In 2026, we will continue collaborating with other animal protection organisations on this issue.
- We submitted comments on the draft Regulations for the Exportation of Live Animals by Sea, alongside more than 17,000 submissions. Our organisation's position remains that there are inherent harms in this trade that cannot be regulated, and that the South African government must withdraw the draft regulations and introduce new regulations prohibiting the export of live animals by sea, in accordance with South Africa's Animals Protection Act and international best practice.
- The King V Code on Corporate Governance is a set of principles and practices for good governance in South Africa. All listed companies are required to comply, while unlisted companies are encouraged to align with its principles and disclosure requirements. In 2025, Humane World for Animals South Africa achieved the successful inclusion of "animal rights and welfare" in the King V Code on Corporate Governance under Principle 2: Responsible Corporate Citizenship. Humane World for Animals South Africa was the only institution to request the inclusion of animal welfare. The Chairperson of the King V Committee invited us to draft a Practice Guidance document and Practice Note for submission to the King V Ethics Committee. In 2026, we will submit this draft for approval by the committee.







3 Companion Animal Program

3.1 Healthy Pets, Healthier Communities Campaign

- The Healthy Pets – Healthier Communities (HPHC) expanded its operations across Bredasdorp East, Struisbaai North, Napier, Arniston, Elim, and Macassar, focusing primarily on increasing access to care and providing regular primary healthcare interventions. The average sterilisation percentage across all towns in CAM is is over 80% in all towns except Bredasdorp.
- The Primary Healthcare Clinic (PHC) recorded a strong community response, with more than 1,500 pet visits at both locations, leading to a welcome decrease in reported vaccine-preventable diseases. Welfare metrics also showed improvement. Additionally, we hosted a health education workshop in Bredasdorp through a local child welfare NGO, where 15 children successfully completed and graduated from the programme.
- The Macassar programme focused on establishing a critical baseline population survey in July 2025. The data revealed an estimated population of 4,951 dogs (51% sterilised) and 1,798 cats (71% sterilised). Similar to CAM, the PHC in Macassar recorded a high service volume of 1,000–1,500 pet visits in 2025, resulting in reduced reports of common diseases.
- Operationally, the programme prioritised building local capacity and built a network of volunteers in CAM. The team successfully used community walkabouts with Community Animal Welfare Volunteers (CAWVs) to raise awareness about available services and deliver educational messages, particularly to households identified as being less likely to sterilise their pets.
- Overall, the HPHC programme demonstrated clear success in increasing access to care and reducing vaccine-preventable diseases in both Macassar and CAM. Moving forward, the programme's primary operational focus will be to further improve access to care in both areas, while strategically prioritising local capacity-building and addressing logistical challenges to ensure sustainable long-term impact.



4 Disaster Response and Risk Reduction Program

2025 marked a year of growth, learning, and strategic progress for our Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Programme. We strengthened our ability to protect animals and support communities during crises.

4.1 Our Key Milestones

- Through rapid disaster response, we successfully deployed to six crisis and disaster events, providing critical support to animals and their guardians. These interventions reflect our growing capacity to respond swiftly and compassionately when emergencies strike.
- Community outreach initiatives in high-risk areas included numerous disaster awareness and preparedness activities in three vulnerable communities: Schaapkraal, Khayelitsha, and Macassar. These efforts helped strengthen local knowledge, preparedness, and resilience against recurring natural disaster risks.
- Through emergency relief and support, we provided emergency grants to five animal welfare organisations, namely Orkney Animal Shelter, Animal Welfare Society of South Africa (AWS SA), Tom Ro Haven, Mdzananda Animal Clinic, and Hawk Hounds in the Western Cape. We also distributed more than 420 kg of dog food, along with blankets and food and water bowls, to our partners for delivery to affected communities, ensuring that animals and their caregivers received immediate relief.

4.2 Capacity Building Through Training

- In May and June, we hosted two impactful workshops. The first workshop was a partner training session aimed at equipping animal welfare organisations with the skills and knowledge needed to respond effectively during disasters.
- The second workshop was specialised training hosted at the Agricultural Research Council, focused on helping staff develop standard operating procedures and implement the Incident Command System (ICS) for protecting animals during crises, while enhancing coordination, communication, and efficiency during emergency deployments.
- Ongoing discussions with AACL Durban have laid the groundwork for potential collaboration to strengthen and coordinate disaster response efforts in KwaZulu-Natal. These discussions represent a positive step towards building a national safety net for animals during disasters.

4.3 Commitment to Quality Training

- In March 2025, we conducted comprehensive firefighter and safety training to strengthen emergency preparedness and ensure the highest standards of safety during disaster response operations.

In 2026

- Launch grassroots awareness campaigns through schools and mobile clinics.
- Strengthen community resilience by embedding animal welfare into disaster preparedness initiatives.
- Expand volunteer and partner training to ensure readiness across regions.
- Deepen our use of ICS protocols to enhance coordination and impact during emergencies.





5 Use of Animals in Bioscience Research and Toxicology Testing

5.1 Major Highlights in Bioscience Research

- Humane World for Animals South Africa hosted a post-conference day on New Approch Methodologies (NAMs) in conjunction with the South African Association for Laboratory Animal Science, entitled Global Trends in a Local Context: New Approaches and Building Trust. The purpose of the conference was:
- To create awareness of NAMs and microphysiological systems, and to explore how NAMs can benefit research.
- To discuss global trends in openness in research and the benefits of transparency in the verification of institutions, Animal Research Ethics Committees (ARECs), and facilities, while improving efficiency in the ethics approval process.
- To launch the Humane World for Animals South Africa Science Unit, which has a limited offering to serve as Category C representatives on ethics committees.

5.2 Transparency

- South Africa's National Standard (SANS 10386:2021) for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes encourages transparency. However, there is currently negligible transparency across institutions. Susanna Louhimies, chief architect of Directive 2010/63/EU, spoke at our conference on international trends in openness and the ALURES database. Dr Bert Mohr linked this to the current status of animal ethics compliance in South Africa, demonstrating how this directly affects our ability to measure compliance with the SANS code.
- We subsequently wrote again to the National Health Research Ethics Council (NHREC), once more calling for transparency, and held a meeting with Professor Tiaan Brink, co-chair of the NHREC, regarding transparency.
- Through our Animals in Science Unit (ASU), we were invited to the NHREC stakeholder meeting, where, for the first time since 2013, we were able to obtain data on the numbers and species of animals used in research by entities registered with the NHREC, as well as the severity of testing involved.
- This is considered a long-term campaign due to the resistance we continue to encounter, but it remains essential for improving welfare standards, driving the 4Rs across institutions, and aligning South Africa with international trends.

5.3 Replacement

- During our post-conference event, we invited international speakers to discuss practical and locally relevant approaches to replacement methodologies, as well as how South African researchers are currently implementing replacement strategies in their work. One speaker from the South African Medical Research Council has since joined the Biomed21 team to provide input into the project. We continue to map locally relevant opportunities to advance replacement approaches.

5.4 Responsibility

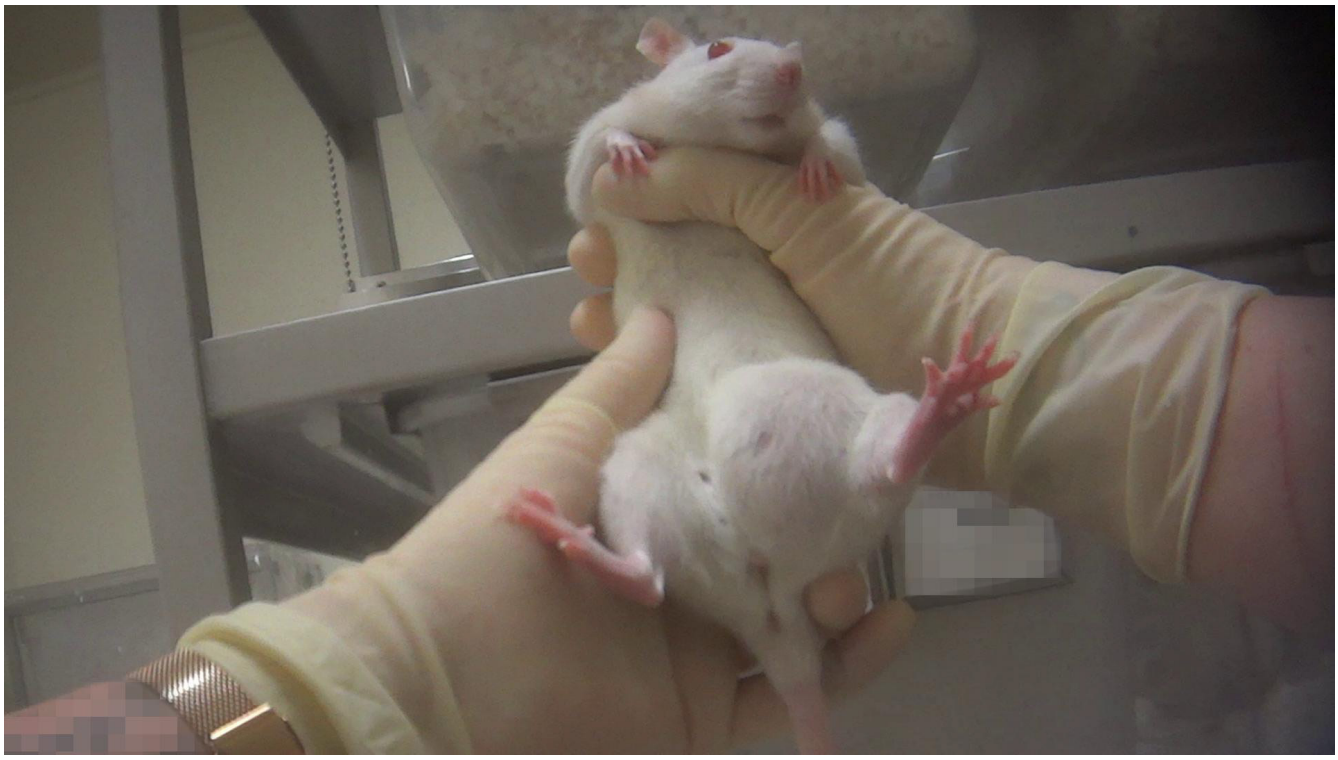
- We sponsored 30 individuals from various ethics committees and institutions to attend the Essence of the SANS 10386:2021 online course, which outlines the requirements for ethical oversight and emphasises that animals may only be used when no alternatives are available.

5.5 Animals in Science Unit (ASU)

- We established a competent and experienced team, the Animals in Science Unit (ASU), to serve on ethics committees. This enabling mechanism was created to help raise standards at key institutions considered leaders in their respective fields and likely to have far-reaching influence.
- The ASU has established credibility within the industry, allowing us to participate in key stakeholder meetings, and one of our members has been nominated to serve on the NHREC in 2026.
- We are currently serving at leading institutions such as the UCT Faculty of Health Sciences, the UCT Science Faculty Ethics Committee, the Agricultural Research Council, and the University of the Witwatersrand. We have also been accepted to serve on South African National Parks (wildlife) in 2026.

In 2026

- In 2026, we will continue efforts to serve on the South African Medical Research Council, the only institution working on primates, as well as Stellenbosch University, which recently experienced a breach of ethical protocol.
- Our work has enabled us to contribute to and shape the following:
  1. UCT Faculty of Health Sciences Terms of Reference and SOPs
  2. UCT Science Faculty Animal Ethics Committee Terms of Reference and SOPs
  3. North-West University Terms of Reference and SOPs
- As leaders in the field of research, we hope that other institutions will align themselves with the ethical improvements made to these documents.





Building a Stronger Movement

Humane World for Animals South Africa continues to invest and support the development of animal protection sector in South Africa. The Farmed Animal Alliance met frequently during 2025, and new organisations concerned with the fate of farmed animals received training in effective advocacy in the South African context. We also strengthened partnerships outside of the animal welfare sector through engagement with organisations active in the food justice and food system transformation space.

In 2025, our partnership in the Animal Law Project continued to grow the movement for better animal protection law. We held an Animal Law Colloquium at the University of Johannesburg, where Justice Kollapen, currently serving on the Constitutional Court, delivered the keynote address in support of the formalisation of constitutional values in new animal protection law. The work of the Animal Law Project was presented to two Parliamentary Portfolio Committee's, multiple members of Parliament and senior Department of Agriculture, Environment and Justice officials, ahead of a planned 2026 drive for the adoption of new law. The ALP also submitted animal-centric comment in new local government bylaws, and public participation processes on constitutional criminal law amendments.

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Page 9: Left - Nonhlanhla Moroenyane (Chef Noni) & Right - Nicola Vernon

Page 10: Fagan Vollenhoven

Page 11: Top & bottom - Mneno Malizole

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Thank you!

We thank all our supporters, partners and volunteers for their contributions in time, money and effort, which make this work possible!

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