

**From:** NSPCA Wildlife Protection Unit wild8@nspca.co.za  
**Subject:** RE: Emoya Complaint  
**Date:** 15 May 2018 at 20:23  
**To:** Minunette Heuser minunette@emoya.org.za



Dear Minunette,

Thank you for informing us and for your timeous reactions.

I truly am sorry for your loss as I know you all work very closely with your animal.

Wishing you strength,

Kind regards



**Irinka Schröder**  
**Wildlife Protection Unit: National Inspector**

Tel: +27 11 907 3590/1/2/3  
Fax: +27 11 907 4013  
P O Box 1320, Alberton, South Africa, 1450  
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**From:** Minunette Heuser [mailto:minunette@emoya.org.za]  
**Sent:** Monday, 14 May 2018 10:44 AM  
**To:** NSPCA Wildlife Protection Unit <wild8@nspca.co.za>  
**Cc:** NSPCA Wildlife Protection Unit <wild3@nspca.co.za>; NSPCA Wildlife Protection Unit <wild7@nspca.co.za>; Albert le Roux <albert@emoya.org.za>; Lloreen le Roux <lloreen@emoya.org.za>; Savannah Heuser <missheuser@gmail.com>; Derek Jooste <derek@kismethp.com>; Peter Caldwell <peter@oldchapelvet.co.za>  
**Subject:** Re: Emoya Complaint

Dear Irinka

A short note to inform you that yesterday morning we noticed a change in Joseph's behaviour. We send videos to Dr Caldwell. Within a short period, the clinic let us know that he was on his way.

Joseph was put to sleep yesterday afternoon as we always said we would not allow him to suffer.

RIP Joseph <3

Kind regards  
Minunette Heuser

On 14 Apr 2018, at 4:37 PM, Minunette Heuser <[minunette@emoya.org.za](mailto:minunette@emoya.org.za)> wrote:

Dear Irinka

\*\*\*Joseph\*\*\*

Since Joseph arrived at Emoya on 1 April 2016, it was clear he was a special needs lion due to the abuse, neglect and malnutrition he suffered before he was rescued ±2 years prior to his arrival.

He would have never coped in one of the larger enclosures (1,2 hectares) and has been living in a much smaller area he could navigate quite easily due to his "blindness".

We have several photos of Joseph when he arrived at Emoya as well as recent photos - proving a huge improvement in general appearance and health.

During May 2016 Dr Caldwell diagnosed him with bilateral cataracts with bilateral glaucoma. Due to Joseph's age and

because he has always been frail, the best possible treatment for treating his eyes was a specially formulated spray to relieve discomfort and/or pain caused by the glaucoma and to prevent secondary infection. The alternative, is to have both eyes removed. This option was discussed a few weeks ago but Joseph's health deteriorated on 26 March 2018 and sedation was not an option (as per Dr Caldwell's clinical report).

Joseph suffers with arthritis. This may be age related or due to the above-mentioned abuse. The arthritis is treated by the Predator supplement, enriched with vitamins by Dr Caldwell as well as additional joint-specific supplements to promote joint health. We suspect that the sudden drop in temperatures may have had an influence on his wellbeing.

When Joseph's health deteriorated recently, Dr Caldwell suggested some changes be made which we implemented promptly.

Joseph responded well to the changes made:

- he is being fed tender, juicy pieces of meat with a tweezer - this method is used as positive reinforcement when his eyes are treated with the spray several times every day and while Joseph was not feeling well also the "tool" we used to feed him and encouraged him to eat
- he continues to receive supplementation
- his enclosure was adapted to ensure we can have easy access to Joseph from all sides but at the same time this "shelter" had to protect Joseph from the natural elements ... rain, wind and the general cooler weather we are experiencing lately

We would love to send you a video of Joseph's dwelling. It is at all possible to do this via Whatsapp? In the video you can see how we have adapted Joseph's dwelling:

- 2m x 2m wooden house ... with a thick layer of hay to keep him warm ... he has 24/7 access (unless the room is being cleaned) ... the wooden house is well ventilated
- 4m x 1,6m adapted L-shaped shelter build from steel and conveyer belt ... one of the 4m lengths is solid conveyer belt as well as the "roof" of the same length and 1,6m wide ... the "front" of this shelter is Bonnox fencing and allows mid and late afternoon sun under the roofed area
- between the two areas (wooden house & conveyer shelter) is a totally open area of ±1,6m x 1,6m with full day sun (Joseph loves sleeping in the dappled sunshine)
- He has access to clean, fresh water
- The different areas are cleaned daily. Fresh hay is supplied regularly.
- Joseph has a house mate, Ricardo with whom he communicates regularly ... the two old lions often lay side by side next to fence

As his full-time care takers, we can confirm the following:

- he has improved dramatically from ±2 weeks ago
- he eats very well(±4kg of meat per day)
- he drinks water regularly
- he urinates & has healthy bowel movement
- he sleeps peacefully ± 20-22 hours per day
- his breathing is good and monitored hourly 24/7
- he roars
- he shows interest in the cleaners and Emoya maintenance staff
- he moves around from his wooden house to the outside and sheltered areas and water through
- he has access to full day sun which he absolutely loves
- he shaded areas
- his eyes are being treated several times a day

We have send Dr Caldwell regular video updates during the last two weeks. Dr Caldwell is satisfied with his recovery.

We believe, despite the fact that Joseph is an old battered lion, who have suffered much during his lifetime, that euthanasia is not an option (yet). Joseph is still loving life.

The moment we notice that Joseph is not eating heartily anymore, or losing weight, or not being able to get up and walk around anymore or urinate on or soil himself, we certainly will consider euthanasia.

Again, we extend an invitation to come visit Emoya, the facilities and animals in our care.

Best regards  
Minunette Heuser

On 13 Apr 2018, at 9:55 AM, NSPCA Wildlife Protection Unit <[wild8@nspca.co.za](mailto:wild8@nspca.co.za)> wrote:

Dear Minunette,

Thank you for the invitation to inspect the facility at any time. We understand that the community holds your facility in very high regard.

Please refer to the attached letter for your perusal.

We shall await your response at your earliest convenience.

Kind regards

<image001.gif>

**Irinka Schröder**  
**Wildlife Protection Unit: National Inspector**

<image008.jpg>

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**From:** Minunette Heuser [<mailto:minunette@emoya.org.za>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 12 April 2018 10:57 AM  
**To:** NSPCA Wildlife Protection Unit <[wild8@nspca.co.za](mailto:wild8@nspca.co.za)>  
**Cc:** [info@emoya.org.za](mailto:info@emoya.org.za); NSPCA Wildlife Protection Unit <[wild3@nspca.co.za](mailto:wild3@nspca.co.za)>; NSPCA Wildlife Protection Unit <[wild7@nspca.co.za](mailto:wild7@nspca.co.za)>; Albert le Roux <[albert@emoya.org.za](mailto:albert@emoya.org.za)>; Lloreen le Roux <[lloreen@emoya.org.za](mailto:lloreen@emoya.org.za)>; Savannah Heuser <[missheuser@gmail.com](mailto:missheuser@gmail.com)>; Derek Jooste <[derek@kismethp.com](mailto:derek@kismethp.com)>; Peter Caldwell <[peter@oldchapelvet.co.za](mailto:peter@oldchapelvet.co.za)>  
**Subject:** Re: Emoya Complaint  
**Importance:** High

Dear Irinka

Thank you for your mail.

I have taken the liberty of cc'ing our board members as well as our veterinary surgeon, Dr Peter Caldwell.

Attached please find Dr Caldwell's report on Joseph dated 23 March 2018.  
We are more than happy to take a video of Joseph's accommodation - on recommendation of Dr Caldwell.

We also invite you to inspect Emoya facilities at any time. Please do not hesitate to contact me on Whatsapp or email should you require more information.

Best regards

Minunette

+27 83 313 2254

On 12 Apr 2018, at 10:44 AM, NSPCA Wildlife Protection Unit <[wild8@nspca.co.za](mailto:wild8@nspca.co.za)> wrote:

Good Morning Pieter and Minuette,

I hope and trust that this e-mail finds you well and in good spirits.

We have received the following complaint from a member of the public and request a response from yourselves:

"Please look at emoya cat sanctuary fb page, I feel totally sick to my stomach. They have a completely blind male lion named Joseph. He apparently has a degenerative skeletal disease(?) He is being kept in a very small area under an a frame. On the videos you never see him stand up or move. They cut the video at those points. He keeps licking his lips – a sign of pain? They are feeding him cut up meat with tweezers! That's not a lion anymore! It's heart-breaking – king of the jungle? He needs to be put out of his pain & suffering. It is really cruel to make him live like this."

Please could you respond in terms of this complaint and provide us with the latest veterinary report to confirm that the animal is not in pain and suffering?

Could I request a response within the next 24 hours so that we may also provide feedback accordingly?

Kind regards

<image001.gif>

**Irinka Schröder**  
**Wildlife Protection Unit: National Inspector**

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<2018-04-13 Letter to Emoya - Joseph.pdf>