

DONKEY SKIN COSMETICS

Written by SPCA
Tuesday, 14 March 2017 12:15 -

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Donkey skin used in cosmetics according to reports, SPCA

March 9, 2017

There has been an increasing number of reports of donkeys being slaughtered for their skin, which is transported to China and used in medicine and cosmetics. This is according to a report released by the Kloof and Highway SPCA last week, which urged community members to be on high alert.

Speaking about this, Lisa Môrck of the SPCA said that donkeys were being brutally slaughtered in many areas and their skins salted and packaged to be transported to China where they are rendered and processed to obtain a gelatinous substance from their skins used to make Ejiao – an ingredient in traditional Chinese medicine and for cosmetics. “Donkeys are being rounded up or stolen, then transported and inhumanely slaughtered for their skins,” she said. “Evidence indicates that the method of slaughter is horrendous. Indications on carcasses have shown a hole behind the head. That is, the donkeys appear to have been ‘immobilised’ with an instrument, then skinned, probably whilst still conscious. Death would have been slow and excruciatingly painful for these animals.”

Last week the National Council of SPCA’s raided the Excelsior Lion Farm in the North West Province, where evidence of a large numbers of donkeys having been inhumanely slaughtered was uncovered, as well as approximately 100 skins. In a statement, the NSPCA confirmed that 10 donkeys had been inhumanely slaughtered on the property on 28 February. The NSPCA believed the farm was a commercial operation involved in the donkey skin trade and was also

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linked to the recent sale in Hartswater in the North West Province, where an estimated 450 donkeys were auctioned and sold. This follows days after the NSPCA announced that Gumtree had decided to ban the sale of all donkeys and mules on the site, not just the hides and byproducts. Commenting on this, Christine Kuch of the NSPC said that the donkey skin issue had brought the matter to the fore. "It is a major step forward that Gumtree has taken and for this we support and thank them," she said.

"They have taken the lead on this issue and deserve credit for recognising the implications and effect of Internet advertising of this kind."

Recently, the Kloof and Highway SPCA assisted the National Council of SPCA's with the successful re-location of some of the donkeys from Sani SPCA to Kloof and Highway SPCA, KwaZulu Natal for safe keeping. Earlier in January this year, the Sani SPCA was involved in the impounding of the donkeys destined for Lesotho and four people were arrested. The four accused appeared in court and received R1000 fine. The remaining donkeys have been successfully transported to Benoni SPCA, Gauteng.

"The Kloof and Highway SPCA are pleased to report that the donkeys arrived safely at our SPCA last Friday afternoon," said Môrck. "We have a vet on site to care for them and our staff have been very busy settling them in and ensuring they are as comfortable as possible after their horrific ordeal. The other donkeys arrived safely at Benoni SPCA in Gauteng on Friday evening and are doing well."

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Môrck thanked all involved in the project as well as members of the public who have made donations towards the care of the donkeys. "We will keep everyone posted with regular updates about our new friends," she said, adding that anyone interested in adopting can contact the Kloof and highway SPCA on 031 764 1212/3 or email adoption@kloofspca.co.za

Abstain from all western forms of cosmetics. Other haraam substances used in these cosmetics are urine, human placenta, aborted fetuses, etc.

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