

30/01/2026

### **Welfare Report:**

This report is provided in response to a request from Inspector Yaaseen Abrahams of the SPCA to evaluate various species of goldfish housed in a fish tank at Sake Sushi Restaurant, Sable Square, Sanddrift.

Videos and photographs were submitted to me via WhatsApp for the assessment of potential welfare concerns involving the goldfish in the tank.

Upon evaluation of the submitted images, one goldfish was observed to have a lesion consistent with a necrotic ulcerative wound on the left side of its body. Additionally, raised scales (pineconing) were noted, which is commonly associated with bacterial infection.

Another image depicted a goldfish showing marked reddening of the operculum (gill cover) as well as erythema/redness at the base of the tail.

A further image showed a white goldfish presenting with corneal opacity of the right eye, most likely attributable to oedema. A video of this fish was also provided, demonstrating clinical signs consistent with a convulsion or seizure episode, including vertical spiralling and uncontrollable muscle spasms. It was reported that these episodes last approximately two minutes, after which the fish returns to normal behaviour.

The clinical signs observed in these three fish strongly suggest the presence of an underlying infectious or disease process within the tank. This is most likely related to compromised water parameters, underlying stress factors, or an inappropriate diet.

Immediate assessment of the water parameters is strongly recommended. The affected fish will require appropriate medical treatment. Due to the poor prognosis associated with neurological involvement—particularly where bacterial infection has progressed to the nervous system—it is advised that the neurologically affected fish be humanely euthanised, as treatment is rarely successful in such cases.

Should there be any questions or concerns regarding the health status of these animals, please do not hesitate to contact me.



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