



## **Affidavit – Veterinary Report**

I, **Dr. Leon Hector**, hereby make oath and declare in English as follows:

**1.**

I am an adult male veterinarian registered with the South African Veterinary Council (SAVC) under registration number D26/19195. I hold a Bachelor of Veterinary Science degree (BVSc). I am currently employed by the Cape of Good Hope SPCA. I am competent to provide veterinary services and experienced in identifying clinical signs of neglect and cruelty in animals.

**2.**

The facts contained in this affidavit fall within my personal knowledge unless indicated otherwise or unless it appears so from the context. The facts are also, to the best of my knowledge and belief, both true and correct.

**3.**

On 28 July 2026, I conducted a clinical examination on a equine admitted into the care of the Cape of Good Hope SPCA. The animal had been seized from a property situated at the corners of Stellenbosch Arterial Road and Robert Sobukwe Road, Cape Town, by Inspector Mark Syce under SPCA case number INSP235402.

### **3.1. ANIMAL INFORMATION:**

The details of the animal are as follows:

- **Admission Number:** A52558
- **Species:** Horse (*Equus Ferus Caballus*)
- **Breed:** Crossbreed
- **Sex and Reproductive Status:** Female, intact
- **Colour and Markings:** Palomino Cross
- **Microchip:** Unknown
- **Name:** Mollie

### **3.2. CLINICAL EXAMINATION FINDINGS:**

Upon clinical examination, the following findings were recorded:

- **Body Condition Score:** 2/5 (markedly underweight)
- **Behaviour:** Fair and appropriate for the circumstances
- **External Parasites:** None observed at the time of examination
- **Dentition and Hooves:** In fair condition
- **Eyes:** Within normal limits

### **Additional clinically significant findings:**

- The horse presented with multiple untreated wounds located over the withers (spinal region), the left pectoral (chest) region and both hind limbs.

I, **Dr. Leon Hector**, hereby further make oath and declare in English as follows:

- The wound over the withers was severe and consistent with a chronic pressure or friction injury.
- The animal was markedly underweight, with prominent ribs, vertebral processes and pelvic bones clearly visible and readily palpable, indicating a significant loss of both adipose tissue and skeletal muscle mass.
- Generalised muscle wasting (muscle atrophy) was evident throughout the body.
- There was no clinical evidence of an acute or chronic disease process that could reasonably account for the poor body condition observed at the time of examination.
- The overall clinical presentation was consistent with prolonged inadequate nutritional intake, chronic underfeeding and inadequate husbandry.
- The distribution, location and appearance of the wounds were consistent with injuries sustained through prolonged use of ill-fitting, poorly maintained or improperly used tack, or the continued use of tack over existing wounds without appropriate veterinary intervention.

#### 4.

##### **VETERINARY OPINION:**

Based on my clinical examination and professional veterinary experience, it is my opinion that the horse had been subjected to prolonged neglect.

The Body Condition Score of 2/5 represents significant emaciation and reflects a prolonged period during which the animal failed to receive adequate nutrition to meet its physiological requirements. The extensive loss of body fat and muscle mass is not consistent with a short-term period of reduced feed intake, but rather indicates chronic nutritional deprivation over an extended period.

The untreated wounds involving the withers, left pectoral region and both hind limbs are indicative of a failure to provide appropriate veterinary care. The severity and chronic nature of these lesions suggest that they had been present for some time and were allowed to progress without intervention. Such wounds are inherently painful and predispose the animal to prolonged inflammation, secondary bacterial infection, delayed healing and chronic tissue damage.

Furthermore, the wounds over the withers are consistent with repeated trauma caused by tack, indicating that the animal may have continued to be worked despite the presence of painful open wounds. Continued use of tack under such circumstances would have substantially exacerbated tissue injury and caused unnecessary pain and suffering.

In my professional opinion, there was no clinical evidence of an underlying disease process sufficient to explain either the animal's poor body condition or the presence of the wounds. The clinical findings are therefore most consistent with prolonged inadequate husbandry, insufficient nutritional management and a failure to provide necessary veterinary treatment.

#### 5.

##### **PROGNOSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The prognosis for this animal is considered fair to good, provided that appropriate veterinary treatment and husbandry interventions are implemented without delay.

The following recommendations are made:

- A gradual, veterinarian-supervised nutritional rehabilitation programme should be implemented to safely restore the animal's body condition while preventing metabolic complications associated with refeeding.

I, **Dr. Leon Hector**, hereby further make oath and declare in English as follows:

- Immediate veterinary treatment should be initiated for all wounds. This should include appropriate wound cleaning, debridement where indicated, pain management, antimicrobial therapy if required, and continued wound care over an extended period to facilitate complete healing.
- Regular veterinary reassessments should be conducted to monitor improvements in body condition, nutritional status and wound healing, with adjustments to the treatment plan as clinically indicated.

6.

## **CONCLUSION**

The clinical findings documented during my examination demonstrate that this horse had been subjected to prolonged neglect characterised by chronic undernutrition and a failure to provide appropriate veterinary care.

The severe loss of body condition would have resulted in persistent hunger, weakness, reduced physical capacity and depletion of essential fat and muscle reserves. Such a state is associated with compromised immune function, increased susceptibility to disease and considerable physiological stress.

The untreated wounds would have caused continuous pain, inflammation and discomfort over a prolonged period. Given their location over weight-bearing and movement-associated regions of the body, particularly the withers, these injuries would have caused pain during normal movement and would have been significantly aggravated if tack continued to be used. The prolonged failure to treat these wounds unnecessarily extended the animal's suffering and increased the risk of secondary infection, delayed wound healing and chronic tissue damage.

The distribution and appearance of the wounds are consistent with injuries sustained from the prolonged use of ill-fitting, poorly maintained or improperly fitted tack. In my professional opinion, the continued placement and use of tack over these wounds would have caused repeated friction and pressure on already damaged tissues, resulting in ongoing trauma, exacerbation of the existing injuries and significant pain each time the animal was handled or ridden. The continued use of tack under these circumstances would have prevented normal healing, prolonged the inflammatory process and caused avoidable suffering.

In my professional opinion, the cumulative effect of prolonged nutritional deprivation together with untreated traumatic wounds resulted in significant and avoidable pain, suffering and distress. These conditions were entirely preventable through the provision of adequate nutrition, appropriate husbandry, correctly fitted tack and timely veterinary intervention.

It is therefore my opinion, on a balance of veterinary probability, that the clinical findings are consistent with prolonged neglect and constitute a serious compromise of the animal's health and welfare.

7.

**I know and understand the content of this declaration.**

**I have no objection to taking the prescribed oath.**

**I consider the prescribed oath to be binding on my conscience.**

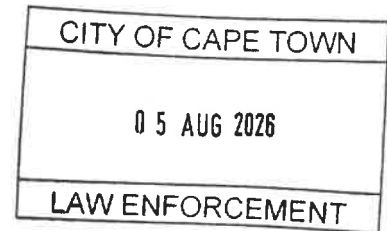
  
**DEPONENT**  
**Dr. Leon Hector (BVSc)**

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|-------------------|
| CITY OF CAPE TOWN |
| 05 AUG 2026       |
| LAW ENFORCEMENT   |

I, **Dr. Leon Hector**, hereby further make oath and declare in English as follows:

The deponent has acknowledged that he knows and understands the contents of this affidavit/declaration, which was signed and sworn to before me at SPCA on this the 05 day of August 2026, the regulations contained in Government Notice No R1258 of 21 July 1972, as amended, and Government Notice No R1648 of 19 August 1977, as amended, having been complied with.

 J De Vos  
40004230  
**COMMISSIONER OF OATHS**



**Full names:** JUSTIN DE VOS

**Designation:**  COMMISSIONER OF OATHS  
Peace Officer - Law Enforcement

**Business address:** City of Cape Town Station No. 40004230  
101 Old Strandfontein Rd, Ottery, Cape Town, 7808