



AFFIDAVIT - VETERINARY REPORT

I, the undersigned,

Dr G Birch
SAVC registration number D06/5077

do hereby make oath and state that:

1.

I am employed as Veterinarian by the Cape of Good Hope Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals ("SPCA") at corner of 1st Avenue and First Road, Grassy Park. 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.

2.

On 16th May 2025 the below animal was admitted to the Cape of Good Hope SPCA Animal Hospital after being seized by Inspector Jeffrey Mfini.

3.

ANIMAL DETAILS

- **Admission Number:** A63537
- **Species:** Canine
- **Breed:** Pitbull
- **Sex:** Male, intact
- **Age:** Adult
- **Tattoo/Microchip/Other Identification:** None
- **Name:** Unknown
- **Colour/Description:** Tan and black
- **Body Weight:** 17 kg

4.

EXAMINATION FINDINGS

A clinical examination was conducted, with the following findings recorded:

- **Temperature:** Within normal limits.
- **Mucous membranes:** Pale pink.
- **Lymph nodes:** Generalised lymphadenopathy was present.
- **Thoracic auscultation:** Within normal limits.
- **Abdomen:** Distended, with an enlarged spleen palpable.
- **Demeanour:** Quiet but responsive and generally of good demeanour.
- **Body Condition Score:** 1/9 according to the Nestlé PURINA Body Condition System, with marked generalised muscle wasting.
- **External parasites:** Fleas present.
- **Skin and pressure areas:** Bilateral lateral hock pressure sores/granulomas were present.

- **Gastrointestinal signs:** Regurgitation was observed during the afternoon.

Diagnostic investigations:

- **Blood smear:** Polychromasia and anisocytosis consistent with anaemia; monocytosis and thrombocytopenia were also present.
- **Haematocrit:** 12%.
- **Canine Distemper Virus test:** Negative. Minor bilateral purulent ocular discharge was noted.
- **Radiographs:** Mass effect / organ enlargement around abdomen. Bone fragments were observed moving through the gastrointestinal tract.

5.

VETERINARY ASSESSMENT AND COMMENTS

The animal was found to be in an extremely poor body condition, with a Body Condition Score of 1/9 and significant muscle wasting. This degree of emaciation and clinical signs are indicative of a chronic process rather than an acute loss of condition.

Chronic canine ehrlichiosis can result in significant deterioration in body condition and may be exacerbated by an inadequate or insufficient diet and inadequate parasite control. The clinical findings and laboratory abnormalities most likely point to Ehrlichia Canis infection.

The bilateral pressure sores and granulomatous lesions over the lateral hocks, together with associated hair loss, are consistent with prolonged pressure and repetitive tissue trauma. Such lesions may be associated with inadequate or insufficient soft bedding and prolonged contact with hard or unsuitable surfaces.

The history and observation of regurgitation, together with the reported vomiting and/or regurgitation, may be associated with chronic disease affecting the oesophagus or stomach, gastrointestinal inflammatory or allergic disease, or other underlying pathology. If occurring over an extended period, chronic vomiting or regurgitation may contribute significantly to weight loss and deterioration in overall condition.

The combination of extreme emaciation, severe muscle wasting, severe anaemia, thrombocytopenia, suspected chronic infectious disease, external parasitism and other clinical abnormalities indicates that this animal was in a severely compromised state of health and welfare at the time of examination.

6.

VETERINARY ASSESSMENT AND COMMENTS

It is my professional veterinary opinion that the animal was suffering from severe and chronic ill-health, as evidenced by its Body Condition Score of 1/9, marked muscle wasting, severe anaemia and associated clinical and laboratory abnormalities.

The findings are consistent with a prolonged period of disease and/or inadequate care and nutrition. The animal required ongoing veterinary treatment, monitoring, appropriate nutrition and dedicated long-term care.

If appropriate and sustained veterinary treatment and dedicated aftercare by a responsible owner are not available, I am of the opinion that euthanasia would be a humane and medically justified course of action to prevent further suffering.

G Birch

DEPONENT
Dr G Birch (BVSc)

The deponent has acknowledged that he knows and understands the contents of this affidavit/declaration, which was signed and sworn to before me at GRASSY PARK on this the 18 day of September 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

COMMISSIONER OF OATHS

CITY OF CAPE TOWN

18 SEP 2026

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Full names:



JUSTIN DE VOS

Designation:

COMMISSIONER OF OATHS
Peace Officer - Law Enforcement

City of Cape Town Staff No. 40004230

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