



Swartland and West Coast

NPO No.: 000-390

P O Box 168, Darling, 7345

Tel: 022 492 2781

Fax: 0864595614

info@swartlandwestcoastspca.co.za

www.swartlandwestcoastspca.co.za

SWORN AFFIDAVIT

I, Jameson October, hereby make oath and declare in English as follows:-

1.

I am an adult male employed as an Inspector by the Swartland and West Coast Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals ("SPCA") at West Coast SPCA in Vredenburg with contact telephone number 022 289 0998.

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 3 November 2025, the Swartland and West Coast SPCA received a complaint from the South African Police Service (SAPS) in Vredenburg regarding an incident in which puppies were allegedly hit to death with a shovel at number 111 Vink Street, Vredenburg. Warrant Officer Kleynhans informed me that the neighbour, Mrs. Hester Rubenheimer of number 109 Vink Street, was reported to have struck the puppies with a shovel.

4.

The owner of the puppies, Ms. Tashlien Cloete (telephone number 076 350 7521), was contacted for further information. Ms. Cloete stated that her neighbour, Mrs. Rubenheimer, killed the puppies with a shovel over the weekend. She told me that the puppies had been buried and that a case had already been opened with the SAPS, and that her mother had provided an affidavit in connection with the case.

5.

I went to the property at 111 Vink Street, Vredenburg, where Ms. Cloete had dug up the puppies that had been buried. When I saw the puppies and the terrible injuries they had suffered, I was overcome with shock and deep sadness, knowing that no innocent creature should ever have to endure such pain and fear. I asked her to explain what had happened over the weekend. Ms. Cloete said that her female dog had four puppies and that Mrs. Rubenheimer's dog had entered her yard and gone up to the stoep area where her dog and puppies were lying. Ms. Cloete explained that her dog attacked Mrs. Rubenheimer's dog, probably to protect her puppies. According to Ms. Cloete, Mrs. Rubenheimer became angry because her dog had been attacked and then entered the property and struck the four puppies to death with a shovel.

6.

I observed the female dog belonging to Ms. Cloete at number 111 Vink Street, and she did not appear to be injured. I also saw the dog at number 109 Vink Street, and that dog was also not injured. I collected the four deceased puppies, wrapped them in a blanket, and took them to Weskus Veearts Seny for a post-mortem examination.

7.

On Monday, 3 November 2025, Mrs. Lopez, a teacher at Laerskool Eden (telephone number 076 275 9830), contacted our office. She reported that a child in her class had come to school that morning very traumatised after witnessing what had happened to the puppies. The child is reportedly the daughter of Ms. Cloete, the owner of the puppies.

8.

I hereby wish to lay charges of **animal cruelty** in terms of **Sections 2(1)(a) and 2(1)(f)** of the **Animals Protection Act No. 71 of 1962** against **Mrs. Hester Rubenheimer**.

In terms of **Section 2(1)(a)** of the Act, which prohibits any person from *torturing, terrifying, or cruelly beating any animal*, Mrs. Rubenheimer's actions in striking the puppies to death with a shovel amount to cruel beating and torture.

In terms of **Section 2(1)(f)** of the Act, which prohibits any person from *using on any animal any equipment, appliance, or object in a manner that causes the animal to be injured or to suffer unnecessarily*, Mrs. Rubenheimer used a shovel on the puppies in a way that caused them severe suffering and death.

DEPONENT

The deponent has acknowledged that he/she knows and understands the contents of this affidavit/declaration, which was signed and sworn to before me at _____ on this _____ day of _____ 2025, the regulations contained contained in Government Notice No R1648 of 19 August 1977, as amended, having been complied with.

COMMISSIONER OF OATHS