

SWORN AFFIDAVIT

I, Dr Jani van Wyk, hereby make oath and declare in English as follows:

1.

All facts herein contained are, except where otherwise stated, within my own personal knowledge are both true and correct.

2.

I am a qualified veterinarian of 3.5 years' experience and am employed at the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals (PDSA) situated at 38 Tarentaal Road, Bridgetown in Athlone and can be contacted on the telephone number 021- 638 5134.

3.

On 13 July 2023, I examined a juvenile feline domestic short hair that was presented to our hospital by the owner, Ms Najwa Adams, for the primary complaint of profuse bleeding after a surgical procedure of castration that occurred at her house on 12 July 2023.

4.

The facts recorded in this report were established by an examination requiring skill in veterinary science. My findings and observations upon examination of the cat was recorded as follows:

5.

Cat: "Howard"

- Description: Black and white domestic short hair
- Sex: Sterilised male
- Age: Juvenile 11 months
- Weight: 4.6kg
- Body Condition Score: 3/5
- Temperature: 36.3 (anesthetised)

Clinical examination

- The cat was five per cent dehydrated.
- The cat had pale pink mucous membranes.
- The packed cell volume of the cat on admission was 24 with the normal value being 37 to 55.
- The cat showed signs of pain.
- Perineal area was partially shaved with a two-centimetre border around the scrotum. Sparse hair was also visible on the scrotum.
- Skin and hair were stained with a red substance in the above-mentioned area.
- Bruising present in the perineal area and caudal thighs.
- Both testes had 1 cm cuts horizontally over the scrotum. The borders were not sharp.
- The right pampiniform (venous) plexus and ductus (vas) deference were tied to each other more than five times.
- The left scrotum had a blood clot in the incision. When the clot was removed, there was haemorrhage seen.
- Hair and more blood clots were removed from the incision.
- The left pampiniform (venous) plexus and ductus (vas) deference were not tied to each other at time of examination.
- I ligated both the pampiniform (venous) plexus and ductus (vas) deference using 3/0 catgut.

6.

Comments and expert opinion

The procedure of a feline scrotal castration requires the spermatic vessels and the ductus deference to be tied to each other with two to three square knots or five to six throws (Fossum, 2013). It was clear that the left side was not ligated at all and that there was no inspection for haemorrhage. Uncontrolled haemorrhage can lead to haemorrhagic shock, which can be potentially fatal. The bruising on the skin in the surgical area can also be due to the uncontrolled haemorrhage.

6.1.

The surgical site was inadequately clipped for surgery, and hair removed from the incision was a result of that.

6.2.

The "Day One Competences" is the skills and knowledge that is required of veterinary students when they graduate. This ensures them to practise independently (RVCS, 2023). The above-mentioned day one competencies were not met.

6.3.

This cat had clearly experienced a very poor standard of surgery that could have led to the death of the animal. In my professional opinion, the animal had endured unnecessary suffering and pain.

7.

References

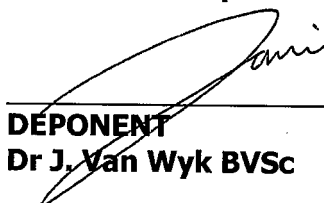
Anon., 2022. Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. [Online]
Available at: <https://www.rcvs.org.uk/news-and-views/publications/rcvs-day-one-competences-feb-2022/?type=rfst&set=t>
Fossum, T. W., 2013. Small Animal Surgery. 4 ed. Missouri: Elsevier.

8.

I know and understand the content of this declaration.

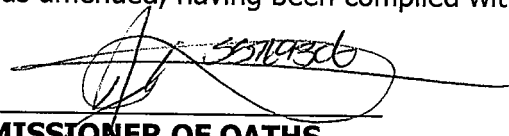
I have no objection to taking the prescribed oath.

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


DEPONENT

Dr J. Van Wyk 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 DE WOLFE on this the 21 day of JULY 2023, 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.


COMMISSIONER OF OATHS

Full names: J. AIBERTUS

Designation: CST

Business address: CORNER of TAIL SMUTS & KLIPFONTEIN

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