



Dr. Kate Meiring B.V.S.c
Dr Lauren Brewis B.V.S.c
Dr Lee Baragwanath B.V.S.c Hons
Sr Philippa Martyn

Cape Veterinary Equine Practice
13 Howard Drive, Meadowridge Shopping
Centre, 7945
capevet@telkomsa.net
www.capevet.net
Tel 021 7122290
Company Reg: 2013/155992/07

To whom it may concern

Re: SPCA Notice Number: 10872, Owner: Albertus Louw

This letter serves to confirm that I, Dr Lauren Brewis (Registration Number D08/6177), have been the attending vet to Mr Albertus Louw's horse, Aragorn, for the past 2.5 years. I first saw Aragorn for a wound on the medial aspect of the right hock in January 2021. After the wound failed to heal with antibiotics, flushing and debridement; histopathology determined that there was a fungal infection of the area, referred to as a mycetoma.

There is little literature regarding the occurrence and successful treatment of fungal mycetomas. The literature that I did come across reports that fungal mycetomas are seldom cured with either systemic or topical antifungals and that surgical debridement is the treatment of choice.

By the time the diagnosis was confirmed, surgical debridement had become complicated and expensive. Surgical debridement was attempted in May 2022, under general anaesthesia and I was hopeful that there would be a favourable outcome. While this did indeed prove to be beneficial to the horse for the next 6 months, the infection returned in January 2023.

At this stage, resolution was deemed impossible and humane euthanasia was discussed. It was a hard case to motivate for at the time, as the horse was otherwise, clinically healthy, sound and had good quality of life. Oral antifungal agents have kept the infection dormant for the most part, although are not curative, and the horse has been living a comfortable, happy life with his owner.

I last saw Aragorn on in January 2023, since then, I have been keeping in touch with Mr Louw. He regularly fills me in on the horse's health, wellbeing, and quality of life. Throughout the duration of Aragorn's infection, Mr Louw has taken impeccable care of Aragorn's needs and nursing. He changes bandages fastidiously and sees the horse every day to give him medication.

I understand that Aragorn's leg is unsightly and may appear like he is in pain, but this is not a case of neglect.

As I said above, I have not seen Aragorn in some time, however video footage shows that he is not in severe discomfort nor in poor health and maintains a good quality of life. I do not now what treatment he is currently receiving.

I believe that at some stage, Mr Louw will have to admit that resolution is impossible, and that he needs to do the best thing for Aragorn. I am keeping up to date with the situation and believe that when this time comes, Mr Louw will indeed put the horse first and call on my services.

If there are any further queries or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me directly.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Dr Lauren Brewis', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Dr Lauren Brewis BVSc
CAPE VET EQUINE PRACTICE
0718609511

Date: 14 August 2023