

2 December 2024

Dear Society of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals,

I, Dr Angelique Smit, BVSc, SAVC Registration number D02/4433, hereby like to confirm that I examined a litter of kittens, called the "Fish Litter" on a few occasions. They were brought in by Mrs Juli Swanepoel on behalf of HART (Helderberg Animal Rescue Team).

I first saw the litter (Kittens named Sushi, Tuna, Sharkie, Flounder and Guppy) on 22 October 2024. They all had severe diarrhoea. The following tests were done on the faecal sample: Rapid Giardia Test (negative). A faecal flotation was also done and there was a high coccidia oocyst burden indicating severe coccidiosis. The one kitten, Sharkie, had such severe diarrhoea, that it was just running out (almost as if he was faecally incontinent). On 22 October, Guppy also has an abscess at the base of his tail that had ruptured – most likely a cat bite abscess. I debrided the wound edges and sutured the wound under sedation. The kittens were all treated with *Toltrazuril* at 30mg/kg to treat the coccidia infection.

On 28 October 2024, my colleague, Dr Mia Farr, saw Sharkie again. He had developed severe moist dermatitis with necrosis of the skin on the lateral and medial aspects of his left hindleg. This was secondary to the severe diarrhoea that he had. He was sedated to examine the skin but given the severity and the extent of the skin lesions, a decision was made to put him to sleep. Dr Mia also noted that he had very swollen hocks (left and right) which could indicate septic arthritis.

On 29 October 2024, Juli let me know that some of the kittens still had severe diarrhoea. I gave her a prescription for Amoxicillin 125mg/5ml suspension. Given the high coccidia burden, I suspected that they would also have a bacterial dysbiosis.

On 11 November 2024 the litter came in again for their first vaccination (Nobivac HCP) and micro-chipping. They still had mild diarrhoea. I did a faecal flotation: There were still some coccidia oocysts, but not as high a burden as on 22 October. A second dose of *Toltrazuril* was given per os @ 30mg/kg.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Antzi Smit".

Dr Angelique Smit
BVSc, D02/4433