



24 December 2024

ATT: Nurah Grosch

RE: EAR CROPPING IN DOGS

This letter serves to address a serious matter regarding a grey and white Bully dog named Star, which was previously in your care and which was transferred to Aneeq Smith.

Upon an inspection conducted at 33 Gosport Road, Wynberg, it was observed that the grey and white Bully dog named Star has cropped ears, a practice that is in direct violation of South African animal protection and veterinary laws.

As per Section 2(1)(a) of the Animals Protection Act 71 of 1962, it is illegal to maim any animal. Cropping a dog's ears constitutes maiming, as it involves the removal of a vital part of the animal's body. This procedure is not only harmful but also unnecessary and unlawful unless done for medical reasons, which is not the case regarding this matter.

In addition, the Veterinary and Para-Veterinary Professions Act 19 of 1982, specifically Sections 23(1) and 23(2), outline the legal framework regarding the practice of veterinary procedures and stipulate that no person may practice veterinary or para-veterinary procedures unless they are registered to do so.

The cropping of a dog's ears is considered a surgical procedure and, therefore, may only be performed by a registered veterinarian. Even then, it must be performed only when there is a medical need and not for cosmetic purposes. It is important to understand that the cropping of ears for purely aesthetic reasons is not only cruel but also illegal, and any person involved in the process may face legal consequences.

We trust this information clarifies the legal situation regarding the cropping of ears.

We require the full details of the personnel involved in the cropping of the above-mentioned dog's ears as all parties involved must be educated in writing.

The details must be forwarded to insp4@spca-ct.co.za by no later than **10:00** on **Monday, 30 December 2024**.

Kind regards,

Nicole Venter
Inspector
Cape of Good Hope SPCA