



VETERINARY REPORT

On the 11th of July 2024,

I, Dr Helen Aldrich, was requested to perform a veterinary report on a cat presented to me by Inspector Jeffrey Mfini after collecting the cat from 7 Susan Street in Tafelsig at 14:30 the same day. The cat was surrendered to the SPCA following failure to comply with instructions to seek veterinary care for their animal.

ANIMAL DETAILS

Species: Cat
Breed: Domestic shorthair
Sex: Male, intact
Age: +- 16 years old
Name: Cat
Description: Ginger

EXAMINATION FINDINGS

- **Description** of the condition: Please find image of the cat's oral condition attached below.
Severe chronic ulcerative necrosis of the upper lips, philtrum, nose and nasal turbinates
Severe chronic gingivitis (inflammation of the gums)
Severe chronic complete erosion of the maxillary incisors
Severe chronic emaciation with a body condition score of 2/9 according to the Nestle Purina Body Condition Score System.
Moderate to severe systemic dehydration.
Moderate parasite burden, namely flea infestation.

- **Duration** of the condition
Chronic.

- **Cause** of the condition
The severe ulcerative necrosis of the upper lip region is likely due to one of the following: chronic untreated squamous cell carcinoma (skin cancer) or an infected untreated destructive wound to the area.

Both conditions would result in the severe ulcerative necrosis seen and would not only cause the animal severe pain and discomfort, but also prevent normal chewing and eating which is very likely the cause of the cat's emaciated and dehydrated state. The severe erosion of the incisors of the upper jaw are likely from attempts of the cat to eat combined with chronic exposure to air and infection as there is no normal lip-to-lip / gum-to-tooth apposition protecting the oral biome.

Overall, the severity of the cat's condition at presentation could have been prevented by seeking veterinary care. The chronic emaciation, dehydration and flea infestation are also common symptoms of chronic severe neglect.

- **Prognosis – Poor**

With such severe necrosis in the oral region, the infected and/or cancerous tissue cannot be excised as this would further disturb the anatomy essential for normal eating and drinking. Nor can it be left as it due to the extreme pain it causes and how it is preventing normal eating and drinking,

If confirmed as neoplasia, the possibility of metastasis would further decrease the prognosis of this animal.

- **Recommendation –**

This animal has been physically neglected and I do not recommend that she be returned to his owners. He has suffered unnecessarily over long periods of time in his condition that was left untreated, as he is unable to eat or drink normally. I therefore recommend immediate euthanasia as the best and kindest course of action for this animal.

Yours sincerely

Dr H Aldrich (BVSc)
Veterinarian

Date compiled: 11 July 2024

