



## **VETERINARY REPORT**

On the 9<sup>th</sup> of August 2024,

I, Dr Helen Aldrich, was requested to perform a veterinary report on a cat presented to me by the SPCA Inspectorate after receiving reports of the cat being beaten. What follows is my full clinical assessment of the cat's injuries.

### **ANIMAL DETAILS**

**Species:** Cat  
**Breed:** DSH  
**Sex:** Male, intact  
**Age:** Adult  
**Name:** Valles  
**Description:** Tabby

### **EXAMINATION FINDINGS**

- **Description** of the condition

Valles presented to the SPCA alert and responsive, but unable to walk. He was dragging his hindlimbs and unable to bear any weight on his hindlegs. He was mildly dehydrated. Valles seemed to be hypersensitive to touch and very painful. Deep and superficial pain were intact on both hindlimbs, but motor function was impaired. It was also noted that Valles was unable to control urination or defecation.

Radiographs were performed soon after admission. The exposures showed an incomplete middle caudoventral sagittal fracture of T12. It is highly likely that a fracture in this location could result in impingement of the spinal cord in that region and thus result in hindlimb paralysis.

- **Duration** of the condition

This condition is acute, as evidenced by the lack of fracture remodelling on radiographs.

- **Cause** of the condition

Considering the history of this animal, the fracture is most likely due to blunt force trauma.

- **Prognosis** – Very poor

- **Recommendation**

In my experience, Valles suffered completely unnecessarily as his injuries would have caused immense pain and discomfort. His spinal fracture resulted in paralysis of both his hindlimbs, resulting in not only pain but also an inability to run away or escape any attack and loss of control of defecation and urination. Given the above condition Valles was in, the decision was made to humanely euthanise him to limit any further unnecessary suffering.

Yours sincerely

**Dr H Aldrich (BVSc)**  
**Veterinarian**

Date compiled: 13 August 2024