

Affidavit – Veterinary Report

I, **Dr Anja Coulthard**, hereby make oath and declare in English as follows:

1.

I am an adult female veterinarian registered with the South African Veterinary Council (SAVC) under registration number CS25/18419. I hold a Bachelor of Veterinary Science degree. I am currently employed by the Department of Agriculture. I am competent to provide veterinary services and experienced in identifying clinical signs of neglect and cruelty in animals.

2.

The facts contained in this affidavit fall within my personal knowledge unless indicated otherwise or unless it appears so from the context. The facts are also, to the best of my knowledge and belief, both true and correct.

3.

On 11 October 2025, a female, intact, adult black and white Pitbull was admitted to the Cape of Good Hope SPCA after being removed by Inspector Jeffrey Mfini from the premises situated at 41 Dores Crescent, Happy Valley (INSP221976). The dog was presented in a severely emaciated condition and underwent a full clinical examination upon admission to the SPCA Animal Hospital on the same day.

4.

PATIENT INFORMATION:

- **Admission Number:** A71685
- **Species:** Canine
- **Breed:** Pitbull
- **Sex and Reproductive Status:** Female (intact)
- **Estimated Age:** Adult
- **Colour and Markings:** Black and white

5.

CLINICAL EXAMINATION FINDINGS:

The following findings were recorded upon examination:

- **Body Condition Score:** 1/5 — Severely emaciated.
- **Weight:** 10.86 kg
- **Behaviour:** Bright, alert, and responsive.
- **Parasites:** Moderate tick burden observed.
- **Peripheral Blood Smear:** Presence of Ehrlichia morulae with monocytosis and subjective thrombocytopenia.
- **Mucous Membranes:** Pale pink in colour, indicating mild anaemia.
- **Dentition and Nails:** Within normal limits.
- **Dermatological Findings:**
 - Multiple areas of smooth black alopecic (hairless) skin noted on the margins of both ears and distal limbs.
 - Approximately four circular areas of alopecia with darkened skin on the right thorax, caudal to the elbow.
 - Alopecia on the dorsal distal tail.
 - A small open wound (~2 cm) over the right elbow with granulation tissue formation.
 - Large open wounds present bilaterally over the tuber ischii (hip bones) with exposed deeper tissue and extensive granulation tissue along wound edges.
 - Surrounding skin alopecic, with mild contracture indicative of chronic healing.

I, **Dr Anja Coulthard**, hereby further make oath and declare in English as follows:

6.

VETERINARY OPINION:

Based on my clinical findings, the dog presented with multiple medical concerns indicative of prolonged and severe neglect. She was diagnosed with ehrlichiosis, likely contracted due to a moderate tick burden, which indicates an absence of routine parasite control. A small open wound over the right elbow was consistent with a pressure sore, typically caused by prolonged lying on hard surfaces. Additionally, the dog exhibited multifocal areas of scabbing and alopecia on the ear margins, along with multiple scars on the distal limbs and lateral thorax. The scarring to the ears was consistent with healed fly strike wounds, and the thoracic lesions resembled those typically seen in cases of healed burn injuries. Most concerning were the large, granulating wounds over the bony prominences of the hips (tuber ischii), which had progressed into deep tissue layers, likely from chronic pressure sore development. These types of wounds are often exacerbated by severe emaciation due to the lack of protective muscle and fat. In my professional opinion, the extent of the emaciation is indicative of a sustained period of severe malnutrition or starvation. The overall clinical presentation reflects a prolonged duration of suffering, compounded by a failure to meet the animal's most basic veterinary and husbandry needs.

7.

CONCLUSION:

In my professional opinion, this dog suffered unnecessarily due to gross neglect and the failure to meet her most basic welfare needs, including adequate nutrition, veterinary attention, and parasite control. The chronic wounds and degree of emaciation indicate prolonged suffering that could have been entirely prevented had the animal received even minimal care. Humane euthanasia was therefore considered both medically justified and ethically necessary to alleviate further pain and distress.

8.

I know and understand the content of this declaration.

I have no objection to taking the prescribed oath.

I consider the prescribed oath to be binding on my conscience.



DEPONENT

The deponent has acknowledged that she knows and understands the contents of this affidavit/declaration, which was signed and sworn to before me at Grassy Park on this the 17 day of October 2025 the regulations contained in Government Notice No R1258 of 21 July 1972, as amended, and Government Notice No R1648 of 19 August 1977, as amended, having been complied with.



COMMISSIONER OF OATHS



JUSTIN DE VOS

COMMISSIONER OF OATHS
Peace Officer - Law Enforcement

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