

Anonymous Complaint Letter

To: The SPCA, Western Cape

Subject: Request for Investigation – Equidae Stables, Stellenbosch

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are writing anonymously to bring to your urgent attention serious concerns regarding the welfare of horses at **Equidae Stables**, located on Vlaeberg Road, Lyndoch, Stellenbosch.

Over the past several years, there has been an unusually high incidence of colic among horses kept at this yard. Statistically, for a stable caring for approximately 20 horses, one would expect perhaps a single case of colic in a five-year period. In stark contrast, Equidae Stables has **24 cases documented since 2018**, including **seven deaths or euthanizations**, and **one horse requiring a major surgical intervention**.

Specific examples include:

- One of the authors own horse suffered colic **twice within two months** while stabled there.
- Another horse owner reported one horse colicking **twice annually for four consecutive years**, and a second horse also suffering colic.
- Importantly, none of these horses had experienced colic prior to moving to Equidae, and none have colicked since leaving the yard approximately two and a half years ago.

The most recent tragedy occurred on **Friday, 14 November 2025**, when a horse suffered a stomach rupture and had to be euthanized. This case was allegedly rapid and severe, possibly linked to impaction colic.

On behalf of these wondrous creatures, we respectfully request that the SPCA conduct a thorough investigation into the conditions at Equidae Stables. We believe that **multiple common causes of colic—perhaps five or six—may be present or have been present at this yard**, and that urgent intervention is necessary to prevent further suffering and loss of life. Preventative measures could be implemented.

We must also stress the need for strict confidentiality in handling this complaint. One horse owner has already been physically threatened by an individual connected to the yard owner. For the safety of all concerned, we ask that identities of complainants remain protected.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We trust that the SPCA will act swiftly to safeguard the welfare of the horses entrusted to Equidae Stables.

Concerned Horse Owners (Anonymous)

Specific facts:

Royal Corps – passed 14 November 2025

Yoda – passed 20 October 2020

Gypsey – passed 20 November 2019

Beauty – passed 2018

Hero – passed – date?

Timmy – serious surgical operation