



VETERINARY REPORT

I, Dr Helen Aldrich, was requested to perform a veterinary examination and report on a chicken surrendered to the SPCA on the 7th of February 2025. The chicken was collected by inspectorate for the primary reason that "a group of children allegedly played rugby with the chicken, throwing it to one other, kicking and hitting it".

ANIMAL DETAILS

Species: Avian (chicken)
Age: Adult
Colours and markings: Red and black
Admission number: A50081
INSP case number: 212571

EXAMINATION FINDINGS

- **Description** of the condition

Severely underweight, with a body condition score of 1 out of 5 as evidenced by a prominent keel with atrophied breast muscle

Unable to walk

Multiple areas of broken blood feathers

Complete closed transverse nondisplaced fracture of the left metatarsus and dislocation of metatarsophalangeal joints of digit 2-4 with dislocation of proximal interphalangeal joint of digit 3

- **Duration and cause** of the condition

Underweight condition as a result of chronic nutritional neglect All other conditions are as a result of a traumatic event. Lack of remodelling of fractures indicate acute nature.

- **Prognosis** – Poor

- **Recommendation**

This animal suffered unnecessarily both in the short and long term. Chronic nutritional neglect violates the animal freedom of "Freedom from hunger", whereas the traumatic injuries received at the hands of the children who interacted with the chicken caused severe acute pain and distress thus violating the animal freedom of "Freedom from pain, disease or injury".

This animal was humanely euthanised with consent from the owner due to the severity of this injury.

Yours sincerely

Dr H Aldrich (BVSc)
Veterinarian

Date compiled: 4 February 2025