



VETERINARY REPORT

To whom it may concern

On the 21st of February 2025, I was presented with a dog confiscated from 1 Daffodil Circle, Ocean View. The dog was confiscated by SPCA Inspector R. Davids.

ANIMAL DETAILS

Case number: 210511

Admission number: A55434

Name: Sky

Species: Canine

Breed: Pitbull cross

Sex: Female sterilised

Age: Adult

Tattoo/Microchip/Other: None

Description: White and tan coat

EXAMINATION FINDINGS

Animal evaluated on 21/02/25, radiographs examined on 27/02/25 and 28/02/25.

- **Description** of the condition:

Bright alert and responsive.

Mucous membranes: Pink and moist

Heart and chest auscultation: NAD

Temperature: 39.3C

Hydration: NAD

Body condition score: 4 out of 9 on the Nestle Purina Body System score.

On examination seven skin sutures on the left side of the neck were noted. The skin underneath the sutures was intact. There was a healed abdominal incision with one skin suture remaining. Sky also had the tip of her left ear pinna cut off, this appeared completely healed. She presented with a moderate flea burden and a small skin abrasion over her right hip.

Her left hind stifle was severely swollen and thickened on examination. She showed a slight limp when walking. It was not warmer on palpation than the other stifle. Radiographs were taken and the joint was examined under sedation. Due to the extent of the thickening of the structures surrounding the joint it was not possible to evaluate the patella for luxation or to perform a cranial thrust test. On radiographs there was evidence of severe osteoarthritis in the left stifle joint. On measurements the left femur also appeared marginally shorter than the right which may be the result of an old injury or fracture.

- **Cause:**

I suspect a chronic untreated cranial cruciate ligament tear to the left hindlimb given the unilateral presentation of the osteoarthritis and the fibrosis surrounding the joint. It is likely the small wound to the skin on the right hip is a pressure wound linked to the chronic problem with the left stifle.

The flea burden likely occurred due to lack of regular external parasite control.

- **Duration** of the condition: Chronic, due to the nature of the lesions seen it is evident that this animal has had an untreated injury to the left stifle for a prolonged period of time. This is evident due to the extensive bone changes seen on radiographs.
- **Prognosis** – Guarded
- **Recommendation** – **Referral to a surgical specialist or humane euthanasia due to lifelong pain if left untreated.**

COMMENTS

This animal has suffered unnecessarily for a prolonged period, due to lack of appropriate veterinary treatment for the inciting cause of the issues with the left stifle and lack of appropriate external parasite control. Sky also appears to not have received follow up care for the old incision or injury to the skin over her neck as the sutures could have been removed a long time ago.

Additionally, due to the chronic changes that have now occurred in the stifle, it may be difficult or even not recommended for the joint to be surgically treated. This would need to be determined by a specialist. The injury may have been a surgical treatment candidate if Sky had been presented for veterinary care earlier.

Yours sincerely

Dr A Coulthard (BVSc)
Veterinarian

Date compiled: 03 March 2025