

Statement Regarding Cody and Boss – Submitted to SPCA

I, Sharon McComb, submit this statement regarding the welfare concerns of two dogs, Cody, currently under the care of Kylie Forsyth of 100 Glenoak Road, Welcome Glen, Cape Town and Boss, Deceased.

Background on Cody

Cody, a golden labrador, was abandoned by his previous owners in Da Gama Park and formed an attachment to a local resident, Phillip (First Avenue, Da Gama Park), who allowed Cody to live on the property and roam freely. From February 2024, I began assisting with food and medical support, including his sterilisation and microchipping (with my details) on 3 May 2024 via TEARS. I continued to monitor Cody's well being regularly.

In October 2024, Phillip informed me he would be relocating to Pretoria at some point, and asked me to rehome Cody as he is a senior dog, would be needing medical attention in the future, and he didn't want to leave him to roam the streets. Kylie Forsyth had shown interest in adopting Cody. After conducting a home check and a successful meet and greet with her dogs, Boss (crossbreed) and a Pekingese cross, I rehomed Cody with Kylie believing that she would take care of him.

Incident Timeline

- **2 March 2025:** Kylie informed me of a fight between Cody and Boss, who is also a senior dog of approximately 10 years old. Her partner was bitten (accidentally) while breaking it up. Cody was reportedly uninjured, while Boss was limping and bleeding. Kylie stated she was considering euthanising Boss due to the presence of a visiting child and safety concerns.
- **24 March 2025 (20:59):** Kylie messaged me about a second fight. She stated both dogs were injured and mentioned possibly euthanising both. I had planned to assist with the resource guarding the following week at her request as I am a qualified dog trainer. Kylie said the dogs had been sleeping and eating separately. She expressed fear of both dogs and said she was overwhelmed. Totally unfounded as Cody is a gentle old soul and Boss had never shown any signs of aggression towards me or others that I am aware of.
- **25 March 2025 (Morning):** Kylie said in a message that she intended to euthanise Boss and possibly Cody. She indicated that she had spoken to an animal communicator and Boss had told this individual that he wanted to die. I asked about vet care, and she admitted neither dog had been treated or given pain medication. I arranged to fetch Cody and suggested she transport Boss in her own vehicle for veterinary assessment at TEARS.

Condition on Collection

Upon arrival at her residence, I was shocked by both dogs' condition and struggling to understand how the injuries could have been caused by a dog fight. Nothing about the scene at her house made sense.

- **Boss** was lying on concrete in visible pain and shock with extensive swelling. There was no bedding nearby and no support. I was told by Kylie not to go near him but I ignored her and sat down next to Boss to offer him comfort. He tried to crawl into my lap but he was unable to as his injuries were so severe. At this stage I was very emotional and just sat and held and stroked him for a while.
- **Cody** was in the unsheltered courtyard, soaked, as it had been raining the whole night. He was visibly injured, struggling to walk and clearly also in shock.
- I improvised a stretcher for Boss with an old geyser tray as he couldn't walk, and we placed him in Kylie's vehicle. Cody was light enough for me to carry. Concerning, as he is a large labrador and had lost substantial weight since I last saw him.

At TEARS, Cody was admitted to the hospital. Kylie refused any examination for Boss and insisted on euthanasia in the vehicle, despite appeals from both myself and staff to allow a vet consultation. Boss was euthanised per Kylie's demand, and his body sent for cremation.

At 12.15 Kylie sent me a message . I quote - "the stupid bitch next door reported me to the SPCA and they just left." I believe this was Inspector Davids. I had not met Beth, the neighbour at this stage. Inspector Davids did not see Cody as he was at the TEARS Clinic and Boss had been euthanised. Only the pekinese cross was at home. The case was subsequently, and I believe prematurely closed.

Later that day, despite having just euthanised Boss and as Cody's owner responsible for his collection and care, Kylie asked me to collect him from TEARS and keep him in my bathroom while she attended a Goo Goo Dolls concert. I agreed temporarily but expressed concern about his environment. She eventually insisted I return Cody, despite my concerns about his care and safety. A confrontation followed, during which I expressed my disapproval of her neglect of both dogs during their critical state. I also noted Cody's significant weight loss.

Follow-Up

Over the following days, Kylie intermittently sent updates and photos of Cody in an effort to prove he was being looked after.

On 1 April 2025, 5 days later, she messaged that she had been upset by our conversation and dismissed my concerns as “moaning,” refusing further communication and blocking me.

Eyewitness Account of Abuse

I continued to be very concerned about Cody’s wellbeing, especially as I no longer had access to him. On 23 April 2025, I spoke to her neighbour Beth and her son, Daniel, to find out if they had laid the charges and find out why. I asked if this was the first time they were concerned or if there had been other incidents. They revealed they had witnessed the incident on 24 March. Beth had instructed her son to report the abuse to the SPCA as she was severely traumatised and unable to make the call. According to them, Kylie beat both motionless dogs with a thick stick (fencing pole) repeatedly and in a frenzy while screaming at them, despite both dogs lying unmoving, not fighting and clearly not a threat to each other or anyone around them, only stopping when another neighbour started across the road with a hosepipe. She then flung the pole aside and went indoors leaving both dogs lying motionless, injured and in shock. This explains the severity of the dogs' injuries far beyond what could be expected from a typical dog fight, especially Boss who was closer to her and seemed to bear the brunt of the beating.

Further Action

I contacted the SPCA on 24 April and spoke to Peace requesting the case be reopened. I relayed the witness account and asked for urgent follow-up. I was informed the old case cannot be reopened but a supervisor would be notified of my complaint.

I made a follow up call to the SPCA on Saturday 26 April after speaking to Mandy at TEARS and voicing my ongoing concerns. I found out at that stage after giving Beth's account of what happened that Cody had sustained broken ribs. I advised Peace that TEARS had agreed to send Cody’s vet report and x-rays to the SPCA. As of 30 April, these documents were due for submission.

My last call to the SPCA was 29 April. I spoke to Peace who told me they were still awaiting the documents from TEARS and I agreed to provide a statement. Beth who laid the original complaint with ref number Insp214557 also agreed to provide a statement.

Final Concerns

I believe Kylie Forsyth is unfit to care for Cody. Her neglect, irrational behaviour, and history of euthanising dogs she struggles to manage are deeply concerning. Both neighbouring households report that Cody is rarely seen outside and is locked inside for extended periods, even when Kylie is not home. Alternatively he is locked out in the small courtyard hidden from street view. He is not allowed to bark and receives minimal interaction.

Based on my direct experience, the condition of the dogs, and the eyewitness account, I request that the SPCA act urgently in investigating this matter further to ensure Cody's safety and prevent future harm.