



Affidavit – Veterinary Report

I, **Dr Deepali Narotam**, 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 **D4/19130**. I hold a BVSc degree and have been practising for 2.5 years as of the date of this report. I am currently employed by the Cape of Good Hope SPCA.

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.

BACKGROUND

This affidavit pertains to a cruelty investigation under INSP Case Number: INSP219315, led by Inspector Jeffrey Mfini of the Cape of Good Hope SPCA. On 1 August 2025, a dog was removed from 64A Beaufighter Street in Rocklands and admitted into the care of the SPCA. The owner of the dog is identified as Mr Lesley Godfrey. I conducted a full veterinary examination of the dog on the day of admission.

4.

ANIMAL INFORMATION

- **Admission Number:** A70051
- **Species:** Canine
- **Breed:** Mixed medium-breed
- **Sex and reproductive status:** Male, intact
- **Estimated Age:** Adult
- **Colour and Markings:** White and brown
- **Name (if known):** Bruno
- **Date of Admission and Examination:** 1 August 2025
- **Weight:** Not recorded due to patient condition

5.

CLINICAL EXAMINATION FINDINGS

On physical examination, I noted the following significant clinical findings:

5.1 General Condition

- **Body Condition Score (BCS):** 3/9 – underweight.
- **Behaviour:** Weak, lethargic, and depressed overall appearance.
- **Mucous Membranes:** Pale pink, suggestive of anaemia or chronic disease.
- **Temperature:** 39.1°C (mild elevation).

I, **Dr Deepali Narotam**, hereby further make oath and declare in English as follows:

5.2 External Parasites

- The animal was heavily infested with ticks and fleas, indicating an absence of routine external parasite control and likely unhygienic living conditions.

5.3 Dental Health

- Moderate plaque and tartar accumulation were present on the teeth.

5.4 Skin and Coat

- Generalised alopecia (hair loss) over the ventral abdomen and dorsal lumbar area.
- The skin was dry, erythematous, inflamed, and lichenified, suggestive of chronic skin irritation.
- The condition is consistent with longstanding external parasite-induced pruritus (itching), with self-trauma from scratching and biting.

5.5 Lymph Nodes

- Significantly enlarged bilateral pre-scapular and submandibular lymph nodes were palpated, indicating systemic immune response, likely to infection or cancer.

5.6 Tumours and External Lesions

- **Ventral right mandible:** Large, pendulous, irregular tumour.
- **Ventral left mandible:** Similar large mass present.
- **Left and right lateral cheeks:** Large, ulcerated, infected tumours with deep gaping wounds.
- **Left eyelid and eye:** Involvement of tumour border.
- **Left eye:** Presence of a desmetocele (deep corneal ulcer exposing Descemet's membrane) with active infection and purulent discharge.

5.7 Diagnostic Tests

- **Skin scrape:** Negative for mange mites.
- **Blood smear:** Adequate platelet count; moderate neutrophilia (elevated white blood cells consistent with infection or inflammation).
- **Fine Needle Aspirate (FNA):** Cytology indicated malignant features in tumour cells, consistent with a diagnosis of malignant neoplasia.

6.

POST-MORTEM FINDINGS

Following humane euthanasia on welfare grounds, a **post-mortem examination** revealed:

- Two large tumours on the spleen, one of which had ruptured, resulting in internal abdominal bleeding.
- This internal haemorrhage would have contributed to systemic weakness and a deterioration in condition.

7.

VETERINARY OPINION

The animal presented with multiple advanced medical conditions, including:

- Untreated, ulcerated malignant tumours on the face and jaw,
- Ocular damage and infection,
- Systemic lymphadenopathy,
- Chronic tick and flea infestation,
- Skin disease, and
- Internal neoplasia with haemorrhage.

I, **Dr Deepali Narotam**, hereby further make oath and declare in English as follows:

These conditions are **chronic**, and in my expert opinion, would have developed and deteriorated over a period exceeding several weeks to months. The level of systemic compromise, widespread tumours, and the presence of internal bleeding indicate advanced disease that went untreated.

The failure to seek veterinary care and provide basic parasite control or medical intervention has led to prolonged and unnecessary suffering. In my opinion, the prognosis was grave, and the only humane option was euthanasia to prevent further suffering, which was carried out shortly after admission.

In my professional opinion, this animal was left to suffer without timely or appropriate veterinary intervention, which amounts to animal cruelty.

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 _____ on this the _____ day of _____ 20____, 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

Full names: _____

Designation: _____

Business address: _____