



Affidavit – Veterinary Report

I, **Dr. George Birch**, hereby make oath and declare in English as follows:

1.

I am an adult male veterinarian registered with the South African Veterinary Council (SAVC) under registration number D06/5077. I hold a Bachelor of Veterinary Science degree (BVSc), with 16 years of experience. I am currently employed by the Cape of Good Hope SPCA. I am competent to provide veterinary services and experienced in identifying clinical signs of neglect and cruelty in animals.

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.

On 08 December 2025, I conducted an emergent clinical examination on a dog that was admitted into the care of the Cape of Good Hope SPCA. The animal was presented by its owner, Mr Jonathan Nel, residing at 47 Chard Road, Kirstenhof. The dog was brought in after having been stabbed in the face, with the knife still lodged in situ at the time of presentation.

3.1. ANIMAL INFORMATION:

The details of the animal are as follows:

- **Admission Number:** H131812
- **Species:** Canine
- **Breed:** Cross Breed
- **Sex and Reproductive Status:** Female, sterilized
- **Estimated Age:** Adult
- **Colour and Markings:** Brindle
- **Microchip:** Unknown
- **Name:** Zia

3.2. CLINICAL EXAMINATION FINDINGS:

Upon clinical examination, the following findings were recorded:

- **Body Condition Score:** 5/9 (Acceptable)
- **Weight:** 19.3 kg
- **Behaviour:** Good
- **Coat Condition:** Within normal limits.
- **External Parasites:** None observed
- **Dentition and Nails:** Within normal limits.

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I, **Dr. George Birch**, hereby further make oath and declare in English as follows:

Additional clinical findings included the following:

- A large knife embedded into the cranial nasal cavity to the right of the median line
- Radiographic imaging revealed that the knife had penetrated deeply and was positioned close to the cribriform plate

4.

VETERINARY OPINION:

No neurological signs were noted at the time of examination. Once the knife was removed under controlled surgical conditions and appropriate haemostasis and pain control were instituted, the patient was monitored. Ongoing monitoring is required for potential long-term abnormalities of the nasal passages and sinuses.

The duration of the suffering is assessed as acute and short in nature.

5.

PROGNOSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

The prognosis is excellent. The knife was successfully removed under surgical conditions. Adequate pain management was administered, and the wound was thoroughly cleaned and closed using sutures.

In addition, the patient will require follow-up veterinary examinations to monitor healing, assess nasal airflow, and evaluate for any delayed complications, including infection, scarring, or chronic sinus or nasal passage abnormalities. Ongoing pain management and appropriate post-operative care are essential to ensure full recovery and to minimise the risk of long-term impairment.

7.

CONCLUSION

The injuries observed are consistent with deliberate penetrating trauma inflicted by a sharp object. Such an injury would have caused immediate pain and distress to the animal and posed a significant risk to vital anatomical structures. In my professional veterinary opinion, the nature and severity of the injury are not accidental and constitute serious trauma with the potential for life-threatening complications had urgent veterinary intervention not been provided.

The injury sustained resulted in unnecessary pain, distress, and suffering to the animal. This suffering was avoidable and persisted until appropriate veterinary intervention was provided.

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 GRASSY PARK on this the 6 day of JAN 2026 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.

I, **Dr. George Birch**, hereby further make oath and declare in English as follows:

 **J De Vos**
40004230
COMMISSIONER OF OATHS

Full names: _____



JUSTIN DE VOS

Designation: _____

COMMISSIONER OF OATHS
Peace Officer - Law Enforcement

City of Cape Town Staff No. 40004230

101 Old Strandfontein Rd, Ottery, Cape Town, 7808

Business address: _____