



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 16 February 2026, I conducted a full clinical examination on two (2) dogs admitted into the care of the Cape of Good Hope SPCA after sustaining gunshot wounds. The animal had been brought from a property situated at 98 Simon Street, Valhalla Park, by Inspector Rowan Davids.

3.1. ANIMAL INFORMATION:

The details of the animal are as follows:

ANIMAL 1:

- **Admission Number:** G42128
- **Species:** Canine
- **Breed:** Pitbull Type
- **Sex and Reproductive Status:** Male, intact
- **Estimated Age:** Adult, approximately 2 years
- **Colour and Markings:** Black and white.
- **Microchip:** Unknown
- **Name:** Max

ANIMAL 2:

- **Admission Number:** G46469
- **Species:** Canine
- **Breed:** Pitbull Type
- **Sex and Reproductive Status:** Female, intact
- **Estimated Age:** Adult, approximately 1 year
- **Colour and Markings:** Black and white.
- **Microchip:** Unknown
- **Name:** Mia

 J.D.V.
1

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

3.2. CLINICAL EXAMINATION FINDINGS:

Upon clinical examination, the following findings were recorded:

ANIMAL 1:

- **Body Condition Score:** 5/9 (acceptable)
- **Weight:** 25 kg
- **Behaviour:** Bright and responsive
- **Presence of parasites:** None noted
- **Dentition and nails:** Within normal limits

Additional significant clinical findings included the following:

A full examination under general anaesthesia revealed a small circular wound ventral to the left eye. No crepitus of the orbit was detected. Soft tissue bruising and swelling were noted at the angle of the left caudal oral cavity. The left eye exhibited uveitis and blepharospasm, with corneal oedema and ulceration.

Radiographic examination revealed no obvious fractures. Small shrapnel fragments were visible extending from the pharyngeal region through to the cranial oesophageal area, with the bullet presumed to have travelled toward the prescapular region. Marked air was present within the oesophagus, raising concern for oesophageal trauma.

ANIMAL 2:

- **Body Condition Score:** 4/9 (acceptable but tending towards underweight)
- **Weight:** 31.4 kg
- **Behaviour:** Bright and responsive
- **Presence of parasites:** None noted
- **Dentition and nails:** Within normal limits

Additional significant clinical findings included the following:

The animal was confirmed to be pregnant. A suspected entry and exit wound consistent with a gunshot tract was identified involving the soft tissue around the cranial medial and cranial lateral aspects of the elbow.

Radiographic examination revealed no bullet or fragments.

4.

VETERINARY OPINION:

ANIMAL 1:

The primary medical concern is a high-energy gunshot wound to the face, with the bullet trajectory passing through the orbital region into the pharyngeal soft tissues and travelling along the neck to the prescapular area. Post-operative vomiting of digested blood was observed, which raises concern for possible oesophageal trauma.

The prognosis for the left eye remains unclear due to trauma and uveitis.

On re-examination on 20 February 2026, The wound ventral to the left eye had marked bloody discharged. Scar tissue was developing.

Cause of injury: High-energy gunshot wound

 J.R.V

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

Duration of suffering: Acute

ANIMAL 2:

The injury is consistent with a single bullet tract passing through soft tissue.

Cause of injury: Gunshot wound

Duration of suffering: Acute

5.

PROGNOSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

ANIMAL 1

The prognosis is good provided no complications arise from the suspected oesophageal trauma. The prognosis for trauma to the cornea and intra-ocular structures remains guarded. The recommended course of action is continued symptomatic and supportive care, with close monitoring.

ANIMAL 2

The prognosis is good. The recommended course of action is symptomatic and supportive care.

6.

CONCLUSION

Both animals examined sustained injuries consistent with gunshot wounds. The nature, location, and clinical presentation of the wounds in each animal are indicative of trauma caused by a high-energy projectile. In Animal 1, the bullet trajectory resulted in significant ocular, pharyngeal, and suspected oesophageal trauma, requiring extensive veterinary intervention and ongoing monitoring. In Animal 2, the injuries are consistent with a single bullet tract passing through soft tissue.

At the time of examination and subsequent follow-up, both animals were doing well and showed positive clinical progress. Despite this, both animals experienced acute pain and suffering as a direct result of their injuries. The injuries observed were consistent with the intentional discharge of a firearm.

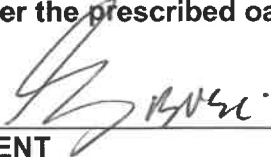
Based on my clinical findings, radiographic evidence, and professional veterinary opinion, the injuries sustained by both animals were caused by gunshot wounds and resulted in unnecessary pain and suffering. These findings are consistent with non-accidental injury.

7.

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 he knows and understands the contents of this affidavit/declaration, which was signed and sworn to before me at CRASSY PARK

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

on this the 19 day of MARCH 2016, 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: _____



JUSTIN DE VOS

Designation: _____

COMMISSIONER OF OATHS

Peace Officer - Law Enforcement

City of Cape Town Staff No. 40004230

Business address: _____

101 Old Strandfontein Rd, Ottery, Cape Town, 7908