



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 D065077. I hold a Bachelor of Veterinary Science (BVSc) degree and have been practising for 16 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.

CASE BACKGROUND:

This affidavit pertains to SPCA case INSP218603, investigated by Inspector Lee Prins. The animal referenced in this affidavit was removed from the premises at 148 Kipling Street in Kraaifontein, and admitted to the SPCA facility on 18 July 2025. The animal was presented to me for clinical evaluation shortly after admission and was examined under standard clinical conditions.

4.

PATIENT INFORMATION:

Admission number: A57966
Name (if known): Smudge
Species: Canine
Breed: Pitbull
Sex and reproductive status: Male, intact
Estimated age: Approximately 5 years
Colour and markings: White and tan
Microchip number: Not applicable / Not detected

5.

CLINICAL EXAMINATION FINDINGS:

On clinical examination, I observed and recorded the following findings:

- 5.1. Body Condition Score (BCS): 4/9 – considered acceptable but on the borderline of underweight.
- 5.2. Weight: 28 kg
- 5.3. Behaviour: Fair
- 5.4. External Parasites: None observed at the time of examination.
- 5.5. Dentition: Within normal limits (WNL).
- 5.6. Nails: Within normal limits (WNL).
- 5.7. Other Clinical Findings:

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

- Multiple dermal masses noted on non-pigmented areas of the ventral abdomen.
- A severely ulcerated mass located on the ventral scrotum.
- Perinasal depigmentation and right-sided conjunctivitis, raising concern for solar-induced dermatitis.
- Low-grade dermatitis observed on both ears, bilaterally, also consistent with solar dermatitis.
- Orthopaedic conformation revealed bilaterally straight hocks, a structural abnormality which predisposes the animal to osteoarthritis (OA) in multiple joints and may be indicative of cranial cruciate ligament disease development in future.

6.

DIAGNOSIS AND OPINION:

6.1. Medical Conditions Identified:

- Lesions clinically suspicious for neoplastic pathology, consistent with squamous cell carcinoma (SCC).
- Multiple solar dermatitis sites, exacerbated by poor skin pigmentation and chronic UV exposure.
- Orthopaedic predisposition to osteoarthritic changes, due to abnormal conformation.

6.2. Cause and Nature of Conditions:

- The lack of pigmentation in the affected skin areas has made the animal highly susceptible to solar dermatitis and neoplastic transformation.
- The size and severity of the ulcerated lesions, particularly on the scrotum, suggest that the animal has been subjected to prolonged sun exposure and that no preventative or veterinary intervention was implemented.
- The musculoskeletal issues are conformational in origin and not the result of action by the owner, but they require monitoring and management.

6.3. Duration of Suffering:

The nature and progression of the dermal masses and solar damage indicate chronic low-grade inflammation and discomfort. These lesions would have developed over months, if not longer.

6.4. Prognosis:

- Fair, provided there is timely surgical intervention to remove neoplastic growths and implement lifelong sun exposure management (e.g. sunscreen, shade access).
- Neoplastic conditions such as SCC are not curable in advanced stages, but they are manageable with surgical excision and environmental control.
- Orthopaedic risks will require symptomatic management if and when clinical signs of pain or mobility issues manifest.

7.

RECOMMENDED COURSE OF ACTION:

7.1. Under more ideal circumstances (e.g. committed and informed ownership), I would recommend:

- Surgical excision of the neoplastic masses.
- Lifelong management to reduce sun exposure, including the use of pet-safe sunscreen and shade access.

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

- Regular monitoring for the development of osteoarthritic symptoms, with early intervention when necessary.

7.2. However, in the absence of prior veterinary care - particularly given the size and ulceration of lesions - these medical conditions have gone unmanaged for an extended period, indicating neglect of veterinary needs and failure to mitigate known environmental risks.

8.

CONCLUSION:

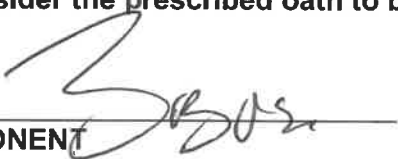
In my professional opinion, the presence of multiple solar-induced neoplastic lesions, particularly the severely ulcerated scrotal mass, points to a lack of basic veterinary care and failure to act in the animal's best interest. These findings are inconsistent with responsible pet ownership and point to prolonged neglect. The conditions present would have caused chronic pain and discomfort. Early intervention was both possible and necessary, but was not provided.

9.

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 GRASSY PARK on this the 26 day of MARCH 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.

 **J De Vos**
40004230
COMMISSIONER OF OATHS

Full names: _____



JUSTIN DE VOS

Designation: _____

COMMISSIONER OF OATHS
Peace Officer - Law Enforcement
City of Cape Town Sta #No. 40004230

Business address: _____

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