



NPO 051-348 PBO930057641

HELPING PEOPLE TO HELP ANIMALS

Veterinary Welfare Report

Date of Intake: 21 May 2026
FAW Volunteer: Belinda van Tonder
Owner Name & Surname: Bianca Terblanche
Address: 2 Boy Briers Street, Fisantekraal
Animal Name: Cody
Species: Canine
Breed: Pit Bull
Sex & Sterilization Status: Intact Male
Age: Unknown
Colour: Brown and White
Vaccination Status: Unknown

Background History

On 21 May 2026, the Fisantekraal Animal Welfare (FAW) attended the property after being contacted that a dog should be collected due to aggression. Upon arrival at the premises, the dog was found restrained to a tree by means of a chain.

At the time of inspection, no accessible food or water was observed within the dog's immediate reach. Some form of shelter was present on the property. The owner stated that they had acquired the dog approximately one month prior. When questioned as to why veterinary assistance or welfare intervention had not been sought earlier, despite the severe condition of the dog's neck, the owner did not provide a clear response.

The owner further stated that the dog had been tied to the tree, because they considered it aggressive and were fearful of it. It was also reported that, due to the dog's aggression, a bathtub had at some stage been placed over the dog.

The owner did not express any intention or willingness to seek veterinary treatment for the animal and indicated that they no longer wanted to keep the dog. The dog was subsequently surrendered into the care of FAW.

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Reason for Surrender

The owner stated on the surrendered form that the dog, Cody, is surrendered to FAW due to aggression and because the dog had a chain embedded in its neck. The owner signed a surrender form confirming that she no longer wanted ownership of the animal and voluntarily handed the dog over to FAW.

Initial Assessment

No formal physical examination was performed by the veterinarians handling the case due to the animal's poor condition, evident severe pain and the immediate decision to proceed with humane euthanasia in order to prevent further unnecessary suffering.

On presentation, Cody had a poor body condition score (1 out of 5) and emitted a strong foul odour. The dog had a chain embedded into the neck area, which had caused severe injury to the surrounding tissue. The chain appeared to have been too tight for an extended period of time, resulting in chronic tissue damage and significant suffering. Although the owner described the dog as aggressive, Cody did not display extreme aggression during handling. A muzzle was placed as part of standard safety protocol during euthanasia procedures.

The severity of the wound, the odour and the overall condition of the animal indicated that this injury and neglect did not occur recently or overnight. The condition appeared consistent with chronic neglect and prolonged failure to provide appropriate care and monitoring of the animal's welfare. The smell and visible condition of the wound would reasonably have alerted any caretaker that the dog required urgent veterinary attention.

Description of neck lesions

The neck lesion consisted of a severe circumferential (360° degree) soft tissue wound associated with prolonged application of a metal chain restraint. The wound extended circumferentially around the cervical region and was characterised by extensive tissue destruction, marked inflammation, visible exudate and a strong foul odour consistent with chronic infection and necrotic tissue damage.

The lesion was estimated to be approximately 1 to 2.5 cm in depth, with separation and retraction of the skin margins creating an approximate 3 to 5 cm open wound gap circumferentially around the neck. In multiple areas, the wound appeared full-thickness, with exposure of underlying subcutaneous and deeper soft tissue structures. Granulation tissue was present throughout the lesion, indicating ongoing attempts at healing; however, persistent mechanical trauma and friction caused by the embedded chain appeared to have continuously disrupted the healing process and prevented proper tissue recovery.

No significant fibrotic tissue formation was noted. Areas of fresh haemorrhage, raw tissue and active abrasion were present within the wound margins, suggesting repeated and ongoing trauma caused by movement and continued pressure of the chain against the neck. Areas of devitalised and necrotic tissue were also noted within portions of the lesion margins. Surrounding fur was matted and contaminated with wound exudate and blood.

The extent and severity of the injury were consistent with prolonged application of an excessively tight chain restraint, resulting in chronic constriction, pressure necrosis and severe compromise of the surrounding cervical tissues. The lesion demonstrated both chronic and acute characteristics, evidenced by the presence of granulation tissue alongside active bleeding and ongoing tissue damage.

The overall presentation of the wound was indicative of prolonged suffering, chronic untreated injury, ongoing mechanical trauma and significant compromise to the animal's welfare and quality of life.

Outcome

Due to the severity of the injuries, poor condition of the animal and evident pain and suffering, humane euthanasia was performed by Dr. Anne Bishop and Dr. Kreshalia Ephraim to prevent further unnecessary suffering. Following euthanasia, the lesions were further assessed but no formal necropsy or comprehensive post-mortem examination was performed.

Welfare Concerns

This case raises serious animal welfare concerns relating to prolonged neglect, failure to provide adequate care and failure to seek veterinary treatment for a severe and chronic injury.

Report written on 28/05/2026 by:



Dr. Anne Bishop

&



Dr. Kreshalia Ephraim