

# Affidavit – Veterinary Report

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I, **Dr. Willem Christiaan Basson**, hereby make oath and declare in English as follows:

**1.**

I am an adult male veterinarian registered with the South African Veterinary Council (SAVC). I hold a Bachelor of Veterinary Science degree (BVSc). I am currently employed by the Panorama Veterinary Clinic & Specialist Centre. 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 13 June 2026, a canine was admitted into the care of the Cape of Good Hope SPCA and subsequently presented to Panorama Veterinary Clinic & Specialist Centre for emergency veterinary treatment after having sustained apparent gunshot injuries. The animal originated from a property situated at 10 Princess Margaret Street, Ruyterwacht, Cape Town.

**3.1**

The Cape of Good Hope SPCA appointed Inspector Rowan Davids to investigate the matter under SPCA Case Number INSP233491.

**3.2**

The animal was accompanied by members of the SPCA and Law Enforcement. According to information provided by the owner, the animal had allegedly been shot by police officers for no apparent reason. The owner reported that a shotgun had been used.

### 3.3 ANIMAL INFORMATION:

The details of the animal are as follows:

- **Admission Number:** 282614
- **Species:** Canine
- **Breed:** Cross Breed
- **Sex and Reproductive Status:** Female, intact
- **Colour and Markings:** Black and White
- **Microchip:** Unknown
- **Name:** Bella

### 3.4 CLINICAL EXAMINATION FINDINGS:

I conducted a full clinical examination of the animal in question. The following findings were recorded:

- **Body Condition Score:** 4/9 (acceptable)
- **Temperature:** 38°C (within normal limits)
- **Behaviour:** Bright, Alert and Responsive (BAR)
- **External Parasites:** None detected on examination
- **Dentition and Nails:** Within normal limits
- **Eyes:** No abnormalities detected

I, **Dr. Willem Christiaan Basson**, hereby further make oath and declare in English as follows:

- **Respiration:** Panting with normal respiratory effort; increased respiratory rate consistent with pain, stress, and shock
- **Mucus membrane:** Pink and moist
- **Thoracic auscultation:** No abnormalities detected
- **Musculoskeletal:** Weight-bearing lameness of the right forelimb
- **Wounds:** Multiple penetrating wounds consistent with gunshot-related trauma present on the thoracic region and right forelimb

4.

**VETERINARY OPINION:**

Upon presentation, Bella was bright, alert, and responsive but was actively bleeding from multiple wounds affecting the chest and right forelimb.

Due to the nature of the injuries, diagnostic radiographs were obtained immediately to assess the extent of internal trauma and to identify any retained foreign material.

Radiographic examination revealed no evidence of penetration into the thoracic or abdominal cavities. However, multiple radiolucent fragments consistent with shrapnel or shotgun pellet fragmentation were identified within the subcutaneous tissues surrounding the ventral thoracic region.

Radiographs of the right forelimb revealed no fractures. However, significant soft tissue damage was noted in the distal radio-ulnar region.

The animal was sedated to facilitate treatment. Multiple shrapnel wounds were thoroughly cleaned, flushed, and debrided. Several small fragments were embedded within the soft tissues and could not be safely retrieved due to their size and location.

These wounds were intentionally left unsutured to permit adequate drainage and to reduce the risk of trapping infection, fluid accumulation, or abscess formation beneath the skin.

A penetrating wound measuring approximately 4 mm x 2 mm was identified on the right forelimb. The wound appeared consistent with projectile entry from the distal caudal aspect of the limb. The wound tract was thoroughly flushed and cleaned before both the entry and exit wounds were surgically sutured.

The injuries observed were consistent with projectile-related trauma and resulted in significant soft tissue injury, pain, and distress.

5.

**PROGNOSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The prognosis for Bella is considered fair.

Due to financial constraints associated with the case, the recommended treatment plan included admission for wound management, repeated wound flushing, bandage application, and further suturing where clinically indicated.

Pain medication and antibiotic therapy were prescribed to manage pain, reduce inflammation, and minimise the risk of infection.

The owner was advised to closely monitor the animal for any signs of:

- Excessive bleeding

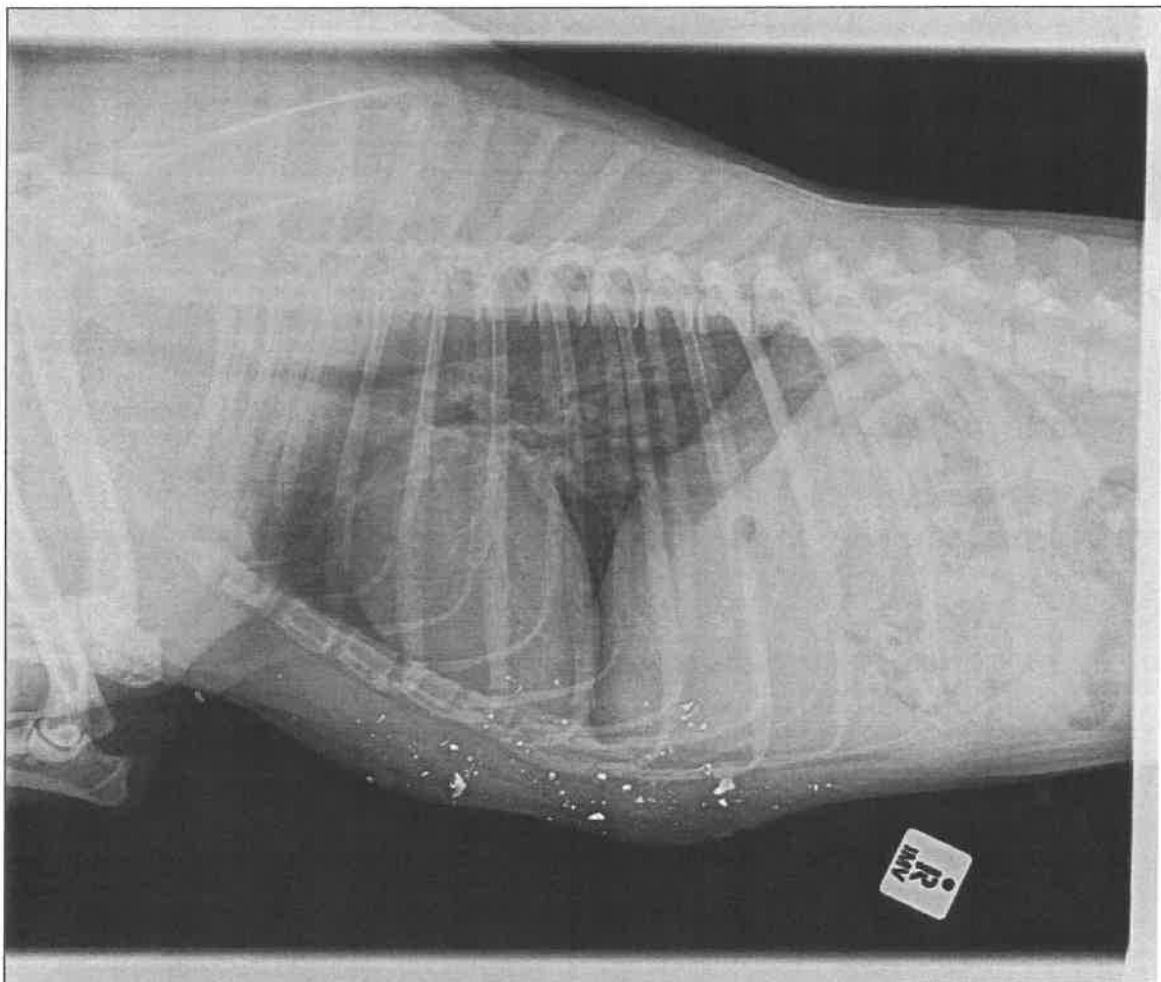
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- Wound discharge
- Swelling
- Abscess formation
- Weakness
- Reduced appetite
- Difficulty breathing
- Any deterioration in general condition

Follow-up veterinary examinations were recommended to monitor healing and assess for complications associated with retained foreign material.

6.

## **RADIOGRAPHS**



*Photo 1 - Right Lateral Abdominal radiograph*

7.

## **CONCLUSION**

Based on my clinical examination, diagnostic imaging, and treatment of Bella, I conclude that the animal sustained multiple gunshot-related injuries resulting in significant soft tissue trauma to the ventral thoracic region and right forelimb.

I, **Dr. Willem Christiaan Basson**, hereby further make oath and declare in English as follows:

At the time of presentation, Bella was actively bleeding and required immediate veterinary intervention. The injuries inflicted substantial pain, distress, and suffering. The penetrating wound to the forelimb and the multiple shrapnel wounds to the thoracic region would have caused acute pain, inflammation, and impaired mobility.

Although no fractures or penetration of the thoracic or abdominal cavities were identified, the extent of the soft tissue damage necessitated sedation, wound debridement, flushing, suturing, pain management, and antibiotic treatment.

In my professional opinion, Bella experienced significant suffering as a direct result of the gunshot injuries sustained. Had veterinary treatment not been provided promptly, the animal would have been at considerable risk of ongoing pain, infection, abscess formation, delayed healing, and further deterioration of her condition.

The treatment administered was necessary to alleviate suffering, prevent complications, and promote recovery. The injuries observed were serious in nature and consistent with projectile trauma.

8.

**I know and understand the content of this declaration.**

**I have no objection to taking the prescribed oath.**

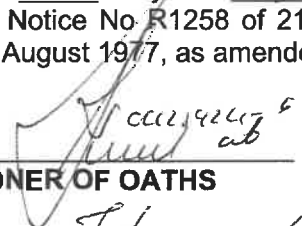
**I consider the prescribed oath to be binding on my conscience.**



**DEPONENT**

**Dr. Dr. Willem Christiaan Basson (BVSc)**

The deponent has acknowledged that he knows and understands the contents of this affidavit/declaration, which was signed and sworn to before me at Bethany on this the 20 day of July 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.



**COMMISSIONER OF OATHS**

**Full names:** Johannes Leen Sencker Winkler

**Designation:** W/O

**Business address:** 44 Steenvorenstr. Bethany



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**3.**

On 13 June 2026, a female crossbreed canine named Bella (Admission Number: 282614) was presented to Panorama Veterinary Clinic & Specialist Centre for emergency veterinary treatment after sustaining apparent gunshot injuries.

**4.**

The animal had been brought to the clinic by members of the Cape of Good Hope SPCA and Law Enforcement following an incident that allegedly occurred at 10 Princess Margaret Street, Ruyterwacht, Cape Town.

**5.**

During my clinical examination and subsequent treatment of the animal, I identified multiple wounds consistent with projectile-related trauma.

**6.**

Diagnostic imaging and wound exploration revealed the presence of foreign metallic fragments embedded within the soft tissues of the animal. During the course of treatment, I was able to recover a number of these fragments from the wounds.

**7.**

The recovered fragments were consistent in appearance with shrapnel or projectile fragments resulting from a gunshot discharge.

**8.**

Upon recovery, the fragments were retained by me and secured pending handover to the investigating SPCA officer.

**9.**

On 20 July 2026, I handed the recovered fragments to Inspector Rowan Davids of the Cape of Good Hope SPCA, who was investigating the matter under SPCA Case Number INSP233491.

**10.**

The fragments were handed over in substantially the same condition as they were recovered from the animal and were provided for evidential purposes in relation to the ongoing investigation.

I, **Dr. Willem Christiaan Basson**, hereby further make oath and declare in English as follows:

11.

I can positively identify the fragments handed over to Inspector Rowan Davids as the same fragments that were recovered by me from the wounds sustained by Bella during veterinary treatment.

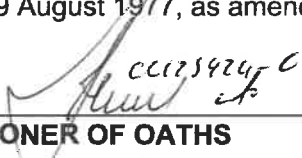
12.

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.

  
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**DEPONENT**

**Dr. Dr. Willem Christiaan Basson (BVSc)**

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**COMMISSIONER OF OATHS**

Full names: Johannes Leon van der Walt

Designation: Mo

Business address: 44 Steynen str Bethany

