

## Outline: Forensic Case Report Summary

**Demographics:** Indicate the date you were presented with the case, the date you first examined the animal, and the date of this report. Indicate the address where you examined the animal/s. Give your name, title, and agency for which you are employed. If your medical examination of the animal/s was delayed, state why you were prevented from examining the animal at the time of impoundment. **(Any unjustified delays between intake, examination, and medical testing will raise serious doubts about your medical interpretations.)**

**History:** Begin with a paragraph that presents the history of the case as it was given to you. Be brief.

**Signalment:** Give the identifying information about the animal or animals. If there were multiple animals involved, list the exact number, their ages, sexes, species, etc.

**Subjective Findings:** If you went to the site where the animals were seized, describe the scene as you witnessed it. Be sure to describe any odors or obvious welfare problems you noticed: such as lack of food, water, litter pans, or inadequate housing space. If you were only involved with examining impounded animals, describe your subjective findings about their general condition and behavior. Be sure to summarize information about the number of animals with poor body condition scores, or intact animals mixed together and allowed to mate, inter-animal fighting, etc. If you took photos, make sure they are logged as supporting evidence for your findings.

**Objective Findings:** Summarize your physical exam findings here. Be sure to mention every physical system. **If you don't mention it, it was not examined.** Findings should be reported as either NSF (no significant findings) or ABN (abnormal findings). Briefly describe what is abnormal. If a problem is likely painful, indicate a pain score for the problem. Provide appropriate pain relief and repeat your pain score after the intervention. If the problem will be followed to resolution over time, set up a plan and a chart for recording serial weights, serial blood work, serial photos of wound resolution, etc.

**Laboratory Findings Performed In-House:** Summarize any testing you did, such as PCV/TP, feline retrovirus SNAP tests, canine heartworm antigen tests, fecal floats, giardia SNAP tests, etc. Report results as positive, negative, inconclusive, or not-seen. **If you didn't do basic testing, be sure to indicate why.** (Perhaps the animal was deceased and such results are not indicated?)

**Outside Laboratory Testing/Pathology Results/Consultations:** Summarize any confirmatory tests or consultations. Attach copies of results. If you consult with a specialist, document their name, title, date, and any recommendations they gave.

**Interpretation:** Make your diagnosis and state on what basis you made this determination. Be sure to indicate whether a layman should have been able to tell there was a problem or not, whether this is an acute or chronic problem, whether the problem was preventable, and whether the animal was likely painful or suffering secondary to the problem. Give your opinion about whether community standards of care were met for the animal/s in question. **If you don't know, say why you don't know. Don't guess!** If you can show with your serial records that with just basic care (adequate food, water, shelter, and simple medications) that the problem resolved and the animal gained a normal body condition score, you have made your point that the animal was deprived of basic care.

**Attachments:** Include dated copies of all medical notes, lab reports, photographs, and records of medical care and response to treatment. Include a listing/log of all evidence you submitted as part of your forensic medical examination.

**Signature and Date Report Submitted:** Sign the original report and make copies for your records. Give the original to the investigator in charge of the case.