

# OLD CHAPEL VETERINARY CLINIC

Reg: FCL04/6527

## Dr Peter Caldwell

BSc agric(anim sci) BVSc

SAVC Reg: D99/4246

SAVA Reg: R0156

RCVS reg: 6193184

PO BOX 32439  
TOTIUSDAL  
PRETORIA  
0134

CELL: 082 2255837  
TEL: 012 331 8279  
FAX: 086 637 6068  
email:peter@oldchapelvet.co.za

---

### Veterinary Report

26/03/2018

Patient : Joseph

Species : Panthera leo (Lion)

Age : 16 years

Gender : Male

Body weight : 150 kg

Owner : Animal Defenders International

PO Box address : P O Box 1441, Lepalale, 0555

Cell : 083 313 2254 (Minunette Heuser), 060 420 9574 (Savannah Heuser)

E-mail : [missheuser@gmail.com](mailto:missheuser@gmail.com); [minunette@emoya.co.za](mailto:minunette@emoya.co.za)

[JanCreamer@ad-international.org](mailto:JanCreamer@ad-international.org); [TimPhillips@ad-international.org](mailto:TimPhillips@ad-international.org)

### Diagnosis:

- Age related senile atrophy (age related chronic disease), degenerative joint disease, bilateral cataracts with mild bilateral glaucoma.

### Discussion:

- Joseph is lethargic and reluctant to move in the mornings. Emoya has been in contact with me about this regularly.
- He was lying very still, being non responsive this morning. They were concerned that he is ill.
- It has been raining a lot and the ambient temperature has been very cold recently.
- I recommend that he get monitored closely and evaluated once the temperature starts warming up. It would not be ideal to sedate him at this stage.
- His eyes are occasionally painful and the spray is given regularly to keep glaucoma and secondary infection under control.
- His joints are all painful and age related muscular atrophy and degenerative joint disease is present.
- He is exposed to a chronic low grade inflammation.
- I am hesitant to use NSAIDs in him because this would negatively affect his kidney and liver function and also lead to gastric ulceration in him.
- We are currently treating him with Rejoint, a natural anti-inflammatory and chondroprotectant and symmetrel (amantadine) an analgesic agent for chronic low grade pain. It may be that the amantadine is making him a little drowsy.

- I am going to put him on an antibiotic course to prevent a secondary lung infection, especially after the rain and cold weather. See below
- Joseph's quality of life needs to be closely monitored. One has to make sure that he is not suffering and that he has a suitable quality of life.
- His lethargy in the morning may be related to the cold and rainy weather the last few days causing stiffness and pain.
- It may also be related to chronic age related cardiomyopathy (mild failure of heart muscle). This leads to low blood pressure and reduced oxygenation to the brain, leading to sleepiness and lethargy and inappatence.
- I think sedating him at this stage will cause more harm than good.
- A full medical work up like blood work, Doppler ultrasound of chest and abdomen, heart Doppler ultrasound and x-rays may be necessary but this will just prove what we already know about age related chronic disease and may just be an academic exercise.
- Hospitalisation could be useful to treat him symptomatically and keep him comfortable but will not be realistic as to the fact that we get him used to a controlled environment and then send him back to an environment with harsher elements.
- It would be ideal to give him a camp with a lot of protection against the elements and lots of cover from heat and cold. A lot of grass bedding would be ideal and also a smaller camp so one could monitor him closer and feed him.
- Feed him smaller chewable softer tasty meat pieces.
- One has to consider Euthanasia as a last resort if medication and symptomatic treatment does not work and his quality of life is deteriorating.

#### **Procedures:**

- Vaccinated with Felocell 4 & Rabies by means of darting with drop out darts on 16/03/2018.

#### **Medication:**

- Symmetrel 100mg capsules: Give 2 capsules every 2<sup>nd</sup> day for 10 times.
- Trusopt/Exocin/Gentamycin eye spray mixture: Spray in both eye twice daily.
- Rejoint: Give 1 capsule daily.
- Clavumox 1gram (2 tablets 2x/day for 7 days)

#### **Feeding:**

- Smaller softer pieces of meat

#### **Supplements:**

- Old Chapel Lion Supplement: Give 30g of the powder per 4kg of meat (excluding bone and intestines). Cut slits into the meat and place the powder in the slits. Powder must be in contact with meat for 20 minutes before feeding. Leave meat to warm to room temperature before feeding.

#### **Instructions:**

- Monitor water intake, urination and faeces.
- Deworm 3x/year
- Vaccinate 1x/year

Please do not hesitate to contact Old Chapel Veterinary Clinic for further information.

Dr Peter Caldwell

