

# WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF REGULATION & LICENSING



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STATE OF WISCONSIN  
BEFORE THE VETERINARY EXAMINING BOARD

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IN THE MATTER OF THE DISCIPLINARY	:	
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST	:	
	:	FINAL DECISION AND ORDER
LAURA L. OXLEY, D.V.M.,	:	LS0311121VET
RESPONDENT.	:	

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The parties to this proceeding for purposes of sec. 227.53, Stats., are:

Laura L. Oxley, D.V.M.  
214 N. Owen Drive  
Madison, WI 53705

Wisconsin Veterinary Examining Board  
1400 East Washington Ave.  
P.O. Box 8935  
Madison, WI 53708-8935

Department of Regulation and Licensing  
Division of Enforcement  
1400 East Washington Ave.  
P.O. Box 8935  
Madison, WI 53708-8935

The parties in this matter, Laura L. Oxley, D.V.M., Respondent, and Pamela M. Stach, attorney for the Department of Regulation and Licensing, agree to the terms and conditions of the attached Stipulation as the final disposition of this matter, subject to the approval of the Wisconsin Veterinary Examining Board. The Board has reviewed this Stipulation and considers it acceptable.

Accordingly, the Board in this matter adopts the attached Stipulation and makes the following:

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

I. That Laura L. Oxley, D.V.M., Respondent herein, of 214 N. Owen Drive, Madison, Wisconsin 53705,

whose date of birth is January 11, 1973 is licensed and currently registered to practice veterinary medicine in the State of Wisconsin under license # 4944 which was granted on May 21, 1999.

2. Formal investigations, entitled 00 VET 50 and 03 VET 30 are pending before the Wisconsin Veterinary Examining Board.

#### 00 VET 50

3. On November 16, 2000, an owner contacted Maple Knoll Clinic at approximately 12:30 a.m. at their after hours emergency telephone number. Respondent was the on-call veterinarian. The owner told the Respondent that "Jake", a six-year old St. Bernard, had been exhibiting signs of nausea, pacing, stretching, and barking for over an hour. Respondent said that it was probably nausea and that the owner should give Jake a buffered aspirin.

4. Later that same night, the owner called the Respondent again at approximately 2:00 a.m. The owner reported that Jake was vomiting white foamy liquid, was barking in pain, and was pacing in his outdoor run. Respondent said that pancreatitis was a possible diagnosis. Respondent instructed the owner to remove Jake's food and water. The owner reported that she felt that Jake was having trouble breathing. Respondent believed that Jake was stable enough to wait until morning for treatment. Respondent told the owner to make Jake comfortable, and to bring him in early the next morning for an examination, for blood work, for chest and abdominal x-rays, and for the administration of IV fluids.

5. A cat had bitten the Respondent early that morning and she was experiencing pain in her forearm. Jake was a large dog, so the Respondent thought that it would better to wait until the morning when additional staff at the clinic would be able assist her during the examination, assist her with drawing blood for a blood test, assist her in taking x-rays, and assist her in the administration of IV fluids.

6. Respondent did not provide any treatment to Jake, and did not discuss the option of the owner of taking Jake to a 24-hour veterinary clinic or refer to owner to another veterinarian.

7. The owner called another veterinarian and reported that Jake was vomiting white foamy liquid, was barking in pain, and was pacing in his outdoor run. This veterinarian told the owner that the symptoms the owner had described could be a twisted stomach, that St. Bernards are prone to twisted stomachs, and referred the owner to a 24-hour veterinary clinic.

8. Jake died enroute to the 24-hour veterinary clinic.

#### 03 VET 30

9. On April 3, 2003 an owner brought her cat to Lake Mills Veterinary clinic for a spay. The owner had specifically requested that her cat not be declawed.

10. The notation "not to declaw" was marked on the surgical board.

11. Respondent failed to review the surgical board prior to the surgical procedure and performed a two front paw declaw on the cat, which was contrary to the specific instructions of the owner that the cat was not

to be declawed.

## CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Wisconsin Veterinary Examining Board has jurisdiction in this proceeding pursuant to Wis. Stats. Sec. 453.04.

2. The Wisconsin Veterinary Examining Board has the authority to resolve this proceeding by Stipulation without an evidentiary hearing pursuant to Wis. Stats. Sec. 227.44(5).

3. Respondent's conduct of not immediately examining the patient or referring the owner to a 24-hour emergency veterinary clinic when the owner described symptoms of gastric torsion constituted a violation of Wis. Adm. Code sec. VE 7.06(1).

4. Respondent's conduct of failing to check the surgical board to verify that the patient was to be declawed prior to performing the declaw constituted a violation of Wis. Adm. Code sec. VE 7.06(1).

## ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the Stipulation of the parties is approved.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Laura L. Oxley, D.V.M., is REPRIMANDED.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Dr. Oxley, shall, within six months from the date of this order, participate and satisfactorily complete a minimum of eight (8) hours of continuing veterinary education in the area of gastrointestinal emergencies.

1. Dr. Oxley will be responsible for locating courses satisfactory to the Wisconsin Veterinary Examining Board or its designee and for obtaining the required pre-approval of the courses from the Wisconsin Veterinary Examining Board prior to taking the courses.

**2. Dr. Oxley is responsible for providing a description of the course content to the Department Monitor prior to commencement of the program.**

**3. Further, the Board may reject in whole or in part any educational opportunity which is nominated by Dr. Oxley when, in the Board's judgment, the syllabus or description of the course or other educational opportunity is insufficient to fulfill the purpose for which Dr. Oxley nominates it by reason of the educational opportunity's scope, content, method of instruction, or degree of participation required of students. If the Board approves an educational opportunity in fulfillment of less than the entire purpose for which Dr. Oxley nominates it, Dr. Oxley may either accept the Board's limited approval, or forego the opportunity entirely and select another course.**

**4. Dr. Oxley will be responsible for all of the costs of attending the educational programs.**

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, within 60 days after the courses are concluded, Dr. Oxley will file with the Wisconsin Veterinary Examining Board certifications from the sponsoring organization of her attendance at the required courses and her personal written affidavit that she has attended each course in its entirety.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that certifications, affidavits, reports or other documents required to be filed with the Wisconsin Veterinary Examining Board be filed with:

Department Monitor

Department of Regulation and Licensing

Division of Enforcement

P.O. Box 8935

1400 E. Washington Ave.

Madison, WI 53708

All certifications, affidavits, reports or other documents required to be filed with the Wisconsin Veterinary Examining Board will be deemed filed with the Veterinary Examining Board upon receipt by the Department

Monitor.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Dr. Oxley will appear before the Wisconsin Veterinary Examining Board, if an appearance is requested by the Board, at the conclusion of the education program to establish that she has complied with all of the terms of this Final Decision and Order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Dr. Oxley shall pay COSTS in the amount of SEVEN HUNDRED dollars (\$700.00). Payment shall be submitted within sixty (60) days from the date of this order. Payment shall be made by certified check or money order, payable to the Wisconsin Department of Regulation and Licensing and sent to: Department Monitor, Division of Enforcement, Dept. of Regulation & Licensing, P. O. Box 8935, Madison, WI 53708-8935

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that the pending investigations 00 VET 50 and 03 VET 30 are closed without further proceedings.

The rights of a party aggrieved by this Final Decision and Order to petition the Wisconsin Veterinary Examining Board for rehearing and to petition for judicial review are set forth in the attached "Notice of Appeal Information".

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, this 12<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2003.

WISCONSIN VETERINARY EXAMINING BOARD

Diane Scott

A Member of the Board