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STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE VETERINARY EXAMINING BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF THE DISCIPLINARY
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

MARY K. URHAUSEN, D.V.M.,
RESPONDENT.

:
:
:
:
:

FINAL DECISION AND ORDER

LS0403246VET

Division of Enforcement

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

Mary K. Urhausen, D.V.M.
42 Three Mile Road
Racine, WI 53402

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, Mary K. Urhausen, D.V.M., Respondent, her attorney Richard W. Torhorst, 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

1. That Mary K. Urhausen, D.V.M., Respondent herein, of 42 Three Mile Road, Racine, Wisconsin 53402, whose date of birth is September 24, 1948, is licensed and currently registered to practice veterinary medicine in the State of Wisconsin under license # 1337 which was granted on January 1, 1973.

2. A formal investigation, entitled 99 VET 45, is pending before the Wisconsin Veterinary Examining Board.

3. Respondent's veterinary practice consists of performing ovariohysterectomies and neuters of felines. Respondent also provides vaccinations to patients at the time of surgery.

4. Respondent's veterinary clinic is located in her home. All surgeries are performed in a spare bedroom that has been converted into an operatory.

5. On November 18, 1999, Sue Fehlhaber presented her cat at Respondent's clinic to be spayed. Respondent performed an ovariohysterectomy on the Fehlhaber cat, informed the owner that everything was fine, and discharged the cat home with the owner later that same day.

6. On November 19, 1999, Ms. Fehlhaber found blood in the cat's litter box.

7. On November 20, 1999, the Fehlhaber cat was taken to the Animal Emergency Center, given a complete examination, and given IV fluids. Two ultrasounds were done that showed the cat's bladder as being abnormal and she was admitted for monitoring.

8. On November 22, 1999, The Fehlhaber cat was transferred to the Community Veterinary Clinic for exploratory surgery. During the exploratory surgery Dr. T. found an obstruction of the bladder. Dr. T. found that the entire uterus had not been removed during the prior ovariohysterectomy. The remaining uterine tissue had been left inside the abdominal cavity and a portion of the uterine horn stump had been wrapped around the proximal urethra/neck of the bladder with a catgut suture. This caused a blood clot to develop inside the bladder.

9. Dr. T. cut and removed the restricting band of tissue, performed a cystomy on the urinary bladder, and removed a

large, well-organized blood clot the size of a small plum.

10. The Fehlhaber cat recovered without any complications and was discharged on November 23, 1999.

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 failing to properly perform an ovariohysterectomy on a feline constituted a violation of Wis. Adm. Code Sec. VE 7.06(1).
4. Respondent's patient records did not meet the requirements of Wis. Adm. Code Sec. VE 7.03. Respondent did not keep a separate patient record for every patient. Vaccination information was only recorded in the surgery log. Respondent did not keep a record of each patient's vaccination history on each patient's patient record. Respondent's patient records did not contain the owner's address and phone number.

ORDER

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

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Dr. Urhausen's license to practice veterinary medicine be LIMITED in the following respects:

1. Within 30 days of the date of this Order, Dr. Urhausen will arrange to have a veterinarian selected by the Board observe her performing a minimum of three (3) ovariohysterectomies on felines at her veterinary facilities in her home. This supervising veterinarian will also inspect Dr. Urhausen's veterinary facilities in her home to make certain that they are in compliance with all sanitation and infectious disease control standards and that the changes to Dr. Urhausen's veterinary practice have in fact been made. All the costs of the observation and inspection shall be the responsibility of Dr. Urhausen.
 - a). The supervising veterinarian will notify the Board as to whether or not the ovariohysterectomies were performed appropriately, whether or not the facility is in compliance with all sanitation and infectious disease control standards, and whether or not the changes to Dr. Urhausen's veterinary practice have been made.
 - b). In the event the supervising veterinarian observing Dr. Urhausen's ovariohysterectomy technique finds that Dr. Urhausen is using an inappropriate surgical technique or not properly performing an accepted surgical technique, Dr. Urhausen will be required to immediately cease all ovariohysterectomies until she completes a continuing veterinary education program in the proper performance of ovariohysterectomies in felines. The course is to be provided through the University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine. The course shall include home study, clinical, and surgical components including a hands-on surgical lab or one-on-one training taught by a veterinarian that has been approved by the Board or its designee. Dr. Urhausen will perform a minimum of six (6) ovariohysterectomies under the direct supervision of the veterinarian teaching the course. A description of the course content and parameters shall be submitted to the Board, or its designee, for its approval prior to the commencement of the program. All the costs of the program shall be the responsibility of Dr. Urhausen.
 - c). In the event the inspection reveals non-compliance with the required corrections at her facility, Dr. Urhausen will immediately make those corrections within 30 days of notice of the problems. Dr. Urhausen will notify the Board when she has made the corrections and an audit of her facilities by a Board designee shall occur within ten days of such notice.
2. Within 30 days of the date of this Order Dr. Urhausen shall make the following changes to her veterinary practice.
 - a). Dr. Urhausen shall use autoclave tape on both the inside and the outside of her surgical instrument packs when sterilizing them to ensure that they are completely sterilized.
 - b). Dr. Urhausen shall use a non-porous surgical table made out of a material that can be disinfected between patients to prevent one patient from possibly infecting another patient with a blood borne disease.
 - c). Dr. Urhausen shall use a blanket or another comparable device to regulate the patient's temperature after surgery.
 - d). Dr. Urhausen shall use a consent form for the ovariohysterectomy that lists possible complications, and contains the name, address, and phone number of a veterinary clinic to contact about any complications of the ovariohysterectomy if Dr. Urhausen is unavailable. Dr. Urhausen shall insure that the clinic is willing to provide this service. This consent form shall be approved by the Board or its designee prior to use.

e). Dr. Urhausen shall use a voice mail greeting for her clinic's telephone that contains the name, address, and phone number of a veterinary clinic to contact about any complications of the ovariohysterectomy if Dr. Urhausen is unavailable.

3. Within six months from the date of this order, Dr. Urhausen shall participate in and satisfactorily complete a course in the maintenance of appropriate medical records which meet the requirements of Wis. Adm. Code sec. VE 7.03. The course shall consist of the program currently being offered through the University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine or a similar records keeping course preapproved by the Board. A description of the course content and parameters shall be submitted to the Veterinary Examining Board, or its designee, for approval prior to commencement of the program. All costs of the program shall be the responsibility of Dr. Urhausen.

4. Dr. Urhausen shall permit a random inspection of her clinic's patient medical records, including consent forms, within six months after her completion of the maintenance of appropriate medical records course by the Veterinary Examining Board or its designee, to ensure compliance at the time of inspection with the requirements of Wis. Adm. Code. Sec. VE 7.03.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Dr. Urhausen shall permit the person/s conducting the educational programs to provide written evaluation of her participation in and successful completion of the educational programs.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, within 60 days after the courses are concluded, Dr. Urhausen 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. Urhausen 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 upon satisfaction of all the terms of this Final Decision and Order, Dr. Urhausen will receive a full and unrestricted license.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Dr. Urhausen shall pay COSTS in the amount of EIGHT HUNDRED dollars (\$800.00). The 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 investigation 99 VET 45 is 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 24th day of March, 2004.

WISCONSIN VETERINARY EXAMINING BOARD

Diane Scott
A Member of the Board