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STATE OF WISCONSIN BEFORE THE VETERINARY EXAMINING BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF THE DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

MARY A. BALDWIN, D.V.M. RESPONDENT. FINAL DECISION AND ORDER LS0610251VET

(DOE 03 VET 005)

The parties to this action for the purposes of sec. 227.53, Wis. Stats., are:

Mary A. Baldwin DVM 436 S. Randall Ave. Janesville, WI 53545

Veterinary Examining Board 1400 E. Washington Avenue P.O. Box 8935 Madison, WI 53708 8935

Department of Regulation and Licensing Division of Enforcement 1400 E. Washington Avenue P.O. Box 8935 Madison, WI 53708 8935

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The parties in this matter, Mary A. Baldwin, D.V.M., Respondent herein, 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 the attached Stipulation and considers it acceptable.

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

FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. Mary A. Baldwin D.V.M., Respondent herein, (DOB 7/31/61) is duly licensed to practice veterinary medicine in the State of Wisconsin under license number 3170 which was first granted on August 11, 1988.
- 2. Respondent's most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Veterinary Examining Board (Board) is 436 South Randall Ave., Janesville, WI 53545.
 - 3. At all times relevant to this action, Respondent practiced as a veterinarian in Janesville, Wisconsin.
- 4. On March 20, 2003, a four year old male cat owned by Susan Altbuch was presented to respondent for evaluation of a possible urinary tract obstruction.
- 5. Respondent advised the owner's daughter by telephone that the cat did not require a surgical procedure for a urinary tract obstruction at that time but would have an evaluation and exploratory surgery performed the following morning by William Hicks, D.V.M.
 - 6. Respondent did not examine the cat prior to the conversation with the owner nor at any other time on March 20th.
- 7. On March 21st, Dr. Hicks performed a laparotomy procedure which revealed a significant obstruction through which he was unable to pass a catheter.
 - 8. The Altbuch cat died of cardiac arrest during the surgical procedure.
- 9. Respondent's conduct in failing to properly evaluate the cat's condition upon presentation, including the failure to perform a physical examination of the cat, evidenced a lack of knowledge or ability to apply professional principles and skills.
 - 10. The Respondent has cooperated in the investigation and has voluntarily agreed to the Order contained herein.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 1. The Wisconsin Veterinary Examining Board has jurisdiction in this proceeding pursuant to Wis. Stats. § 453.04.
- 2. The Wisconsin Veterinary Examining Board has the authority to resolve this matter by stipulation without an evidentiary hearing pursuant to Wis. Stats. § 227.44(5).
- 3. Respondent's conduct in failing to properly evaluate the cat's condition upon presentation, including the failure to perform a physical examination of the cat, evidenced a lack of knowledge or ability to apply professional principles and skills and is therefore in violation of Wis. Admin. Code § VE 7.06 (1).

ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the Stipulation of the parties, as attached hereto, is accepted.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that MARY A. BALDWIN, D.V.M., is hereby REPRIMANDED.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that the license of MARY A. BALDWIN, D.V.M. to practice veterinary medicine in the State of Wisconsin shall be LIMITED on the following terms and conditions:

- 1. Within nine months of the effective date of this Order, Respondent shall participate in and successfully complete the following continuing education:
 - a. 3 hours of education in feline urinary disease with an emphasis on obstructions.
 - b. 3 hours of education in the diagnosis and treatment of kidney disease.

Respondent has completed education in "Acute Renal Failure"; "Chronic Renal Failure"; "Proteinuria"; and "A Simplified Approach to Incontinence and Urine Retention" provided through the American Veterinary Medical Association which the Board accepts as satisfying this requirement.

c. 3 hours of education in the evaluation of critical care patients.

Respondent will be responsible for locating courses satisfactory to the Wisconsin Veterinary Examining Board or its designee, for providing adequate course descriptions to the Department Monitor and for obtaining the required preapproval of the courses from the Wisconsin Veterinary Examining Board prior to commencement of the program. Courses conducted via the internet or by other electronic means of communication or courses conducted by correspondence or through a home study program are acceptable if they contain sufficient instruction and are preapproved. The Board may reject in whole or in part any educational opportunity which is nominated by Respondent 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 Respondent offers it.

- 2. Within 30 days after the courses identified in paragraphs one and two above are concluded, Respondent shall file with the Wisconsin Veterinary Examining Board certifications from the sponsoring organization of her attendance at the required courses.
 - 3. All costs of the educational courses shall be the responsibility of the Respondent.
- 4. All 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.

5. Upon satisfaction of all the terms of this Final Decision and Order, Respondent will receive a full and unrestricted license.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Respondent shall pay costs in the amount of seven hundred sixty six dollars (\$766.00) payable to the Department of Regulation and Licensing, 1400 East Washington Avenue, P.O. Box 8935, Madison, Wisconsin 53708 within ninety days of the effective date of this Order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that violation of any of the terms of this Order may be construed as conduct imperiling public health, safety and welfare and may result in a summary suspension of Respondent's license. The Board in its discretion may in the alternative impose additional conditions and limitations or other additional discipline for a violation of any of the terms of this Order. In the event Respondent fails to pay costs as ordered, the Respondent's license (# 3170) SHALL BE SUSPENDED, without further notice or hearing, until Respondent has complied with the terms of this Order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Order is effective upon signing.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that investigative file 03 Vet 005 as it pertains to MARY A. BALDWIN, D.V.M. is hereby closed.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, this 25th day of October, 2006.

WISCONSIN VETERINARY EXAMINING BOARD

Robert Spencer A Member of the Board