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STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE VETERINARY EXAMINING BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF THE DISCIPLINARY	:	
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST	:	
	:	FINAL DECISION AND ORDER
DAVID A. WRIGHT, D.V.M.,	:	LS08080610VET
RESPONDENT.	:	

[Division of Enforcement Case # 04 VET 023]

The parties to this action for the purposes of Wis. Stat. § 227.53 are:

David A. Wright, D.V.M.
W2796 Hwy 67
Campbellsport, WI 53010

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

Veterinary Examining Board
Department of Regulation & Licensing
1400 East Washington Avenue
P.O. Box 8935
Madison, WI 53708-8935

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The parties in this matter agree to the terms and conditions of the attached Stipulation as the final decision 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. David A. Wright, D.V.M., Respondent herein, whose date of birth is June 29, 1944, is duly licensed by the Wisconsin Veterinary Examining Board to practice veterinary medicine in the State of Wisconsin pursuant to license number 1515, which was first granted on June 13, 1975.

2. Respondent's last address reported to the Department of Regulation and Licensing is W2796 Hwy 67, Campbellsport, WI 53010.

3. At all times relevant to this action, Respondent practiced veterinary medicine at Wright Veterinary Clinic in Campbellsport, Wisconsin.

4. At approximately 8:15 a.m. on March 26, 2004, Titan, a then 7½ -month old English Bulldog owned by Kayla Lackas and Kevin Waldschmidt, was presented to Respondent for a cryptorchid neuter.

5. Respondent completed the surgery shortly before noon and called the owners to report that the surgery was a difficult one but that it went well. Respondent told them that Titan was still sedated and was on pain medication and, although

Titan would still be groggy, they would be able to pick him up around 4:00 p.m.

6. At 4:00 p.m., the owners arrived to pick up Titan and received aftercare instructions which included:
 - Exercise: Restrict your pet's activity to on-leash walking for 14 days.
 - Incision: Check the incision at least once daily.
 - Notify the doctor of any of the following occur:
 - Your pet chews or damages the incision.
 - Your pet seems depressed or refuses to eat.
 - The incision is red or swollen or oozes pus or blood.

The client was instructed by both the assistant and Respondent to call with any questions.

7. A member of Respondent's staff brought Titan to the owners. She was carrying the dog and instructed owner Waldschmidt to take the dog from her. Prior to his release, Titan had not been ambulatory.

8. Respondent alleges that he and his staff monitored Titan at 30 to 60 minute intervals and the dog's recovery from the surgery and anesthetic was normal with gradually diminishing sedation. Color, perfusion, heart rate and respiration remained stable in normal range. This is not reflected in the patient record.

9. Respondent alleges he evaluated the dog prior to release, asserts that the dog was only mildly sedated. He authorized Titan's release. The dog's condition on release is not reflected in the patient records.

10. Titan was unresponsive during the trip home and his condition did not improve over night. He was unable to walk, would not eat or drink and had to be carried outside to urinate. Throughout the morning of March 27th, the owners attempted to get Titan to eat but he refused. At about noon, Titan had diarrhea and after drinking some water, began vomiting.

11. The owners did not contact Respondent regarding the dog's condition.

12. At approximately 2:00 p.m. on March 27th, the owners called the on-call veterinarian at Country Hills Animal Health, S.C., (Country Hills) in Eden, Wisconsin who provided instructions via telephone.

13. At approximately 8:00 p.m. on March 27th, the owners took Titan to Country Hills for evaluation. The owners said that Titan's breathing had not changed since they picked him up from Respondent's office. The veterinarian evaluated the dog as recumbent, weak, and unable to stand without assistance, severe dyspnoea, crackles and wheezing, anisocoria with tacky membranes and high fever. Chest x-rays and blood work revealed a condition consistent with pneumonia. Despite aggressive treatment, Titan developed severe respiratory difficulty, went into respiratory and cardiac arrest and expired in the early morning of March 28, 2004.

14. Respondent released the animal post surgically without adequate evaluation to determine if the animal was sufficiently recovered from anesthesia.

15. Respondent has since instituted changes to the pre-release evaluation process, specifically indicating that the animal must be alert and ambulatory with minimal or no residual sedation along with no signs of any post-surgical complications.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Wisconsin Veterinary Examining Board has jurisdiction to act in this matter, pursuant to Wis. Stat. sec. 453.07(2), and is authorized to enter into the attached Stipulation and Order, pursuant to Wis. Stat. sec. 227.44(5).

2. Respondent's conduct as set out above, is a violation of Wis. Admin. Code sec. VE 7.06(1) and he is therefore

subject to discipline pursuant to Wis. Stat. sec. 453.07(1)(f).

ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Stipulation of the parties is hereby accepted.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that:

1. Respondent, David A. Wright, D.V.M., is REPRIMANDED for the above conduct.

2. Respondent shall, within 90 days of the date of this Order pay costs of this proceeding in the amount of nine hundred fifty (\$950.00) dollars. Payment shall be made to the Wisconsin Department of Regulation and Licensing, and mailed or delivered to:

Department Monitor
Department of Regulation and Licensing
Division of Enforcement
1400 East Washington Avenue
P.O. Box 8935
Madison, WI 53708-8935
Fax (608) 266-2264
Telephone (608) 267-3817

3. In the event that Respondent fails to pay costs as ordered, Respondent's license (#1515) SHALL BE SUSPENDED, without further notice or hearing, until Respondent has complied with the terms of this Order.

4. This Order is effective on August 6, 2008.

Wisconsin Veterinary Examining Board

By: Robert Spencer
A Member of the Board

08-06-2008
Date