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STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE VETERINARY EXAMINING BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF THE DISCIPLINARY
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

JOHN S. TRAVIS, D.V.M.,
RESPONDENT.

:
:
:
: FINAL DECISION AND ORDER

: ORDER 0000340
:

[Division of Enforcement Case # 08 VET 010]

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

John S. Travis, D.V.M.
1839 Erie Avenue
Sheboygan, WI 53081

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. John S. Travis, D.V.M., (D.O.B.: April 13, 1963) is duly licensed as a veterinarian in the state of Wisconsin (license # 50-3400). This license was first granted on July 13, 1989.
2. Respondent's last address reported to the Department of Regulation and Licensing is 1839 Erie Avenue, Sheboygan, Wisconsin 53081.
3. At all times relevant to this action, Respondent was working as a veterinarian at the Sheboygan Animal Hospital in Sheboygan, Wisconsin.

4. On December 5, 2007, an approximately three year-old akita ("Mago") owned by Leo and Donna Kaminski was presented to Respondent for scheduled spay and prophylactic stomach tack procedures. Respondent's surgical report does not indicate the amounts and routes of administration for medications given pre-, peri- and post-operatively. The surgery was uneventful and the akita was released that afternoon to the owners.

5. Later that same day, the owners contacted Respondent and advised that the akita was bleeding significantly at the incision site. Respondent instructed them to return to the clinic that evening at which time he performed an exploratory procedure and found clotting around the uterine stump, but no active bleeding. His report for that second surgery reflects that he found "no significant isolated bleeds" but did find "a lot of smaller oozing bleeders from the mesentery and some bleeding from the uterine stump." He re-ligated the uterine stump and both ovarian pedicles and re-closed the abdomen.

6. Following the second surgery, the Respondent performed a complete blood work up and found the akita's hematocrit to be 32, the platelet count to be 39,000 and the white blood cell count to be 7,800. A six panel chemistry screen performed showed the following results: a BUN value of 13.0, a CREA value of 0.8, an ALP value of 28, and an ALT value of 86. Respondent administered Ciprofloxacin to address any further risk of infection.

7. On December 6, 2007, blood was noted in the akita's kennel. The Respondent performed an ultrasound, but did not find any fluid in the abdomen. He concluded that the bleeding was from blood trapped in the subcutaneous tissue. The Respondent performed another complete blood count which revealed a hematocrit of 37.9 and an improved platelet count of 103,000. The white blood cell count was elevated to 23,000 which Respondent attributed to the stress of two surgeries. Respondent's records do not indicate that he either considered or investigated the possibility of a potential bleeding disorder after no cause of bleeding was found during the second surgery.

8. Respondent's records for December 6, 2007 reference additional bleeding but there are no physical examination findings specific to the continued blood loss and no documentation about therapy or treatment for the additional hemorrhaging.

9. On December 7, 2007, the Respondent checked the akita's status and noted that she appeared to be doing better. One of the kennel staff informed the Respondent that there was a small amount of foul diarrhea which Respondent felt to be related to the antibiotics. He did not order any blood work to be completed on that date.

10. Respondent's records for December 7, 2007 contain only the following information: "No bleeding last night, some interest in food. Appears to be doing better." The Respondent did not record any physical examination findings or any treatment rendered on that date.

11. On December 8, 2007, a veterinary technician informed the Respondent that the akita's diarrhea was worse, but that no blood was present. The Respondent examined the akita and found that her color was still pink, that her temperature was normal and that she was alert and ambulatory. However, she was inappetent. Respondent administered Cefazolin and 1 liter of LRS intravenously. He did not note the amount of Cefazolin given or the route of administration. A six panel chemistry screen showed the following results: a BUN value of

30.0, a CREA value of 1.6, an ALP value of 382, and an ALT value of 363. Her platelet count was 72,000 and her hematocrit was 32.

12. Respondent's records for December 8, 2007 reflect that the akita was alert, had foul watery diarrhea in the morning and had no bleeding from the incision. No other physical examination findings are noted.

13. On December 9, 2007, the Respondent observed the akita to have taken a turn for the worse in that there was a significant amount of blood in her cage along with diarrhea with melena. Blood tests revealed that the akita's hematocrit value had dropped to 15 and the platelet count was down to 52,000. Physical examination also revealed significant petechiation of the gums. The Respondent began intravenous fluids and gave 250 ml of Oxyglobin. He conferred with the owners and decided to perform a third surgery to attempt to find the source of the bleeding.

14. The Respondent re-opened the incision and found no obvious bleeders. However, he did find 800 ml of blood in the abdomen and petechiation throughout the body wall and omentum. Forty-five minutes into surgery, the akita experienced cardiac arrest and was unresponsive to Epinephrine, atropine and compressions.

15. Prior to performing the third surgery on December 9, 2007, the Respondent failed to recommend a whole blood transfusion, failed to treat the akita for a bleeding disorder and failed to refer the akita to a specialist.

16. Respondent's conduct in providing care and treatment to treat the akita failed to meet the minimum standards of acceptable veterinary practice and evidence a lack of knowledge or the ability to apply professional principles and skills in the following manner:

- a. The Respondent failed to either consider or investigate the possibility of a potential bleeding disorder after no cause of bleeding was found during the second surgery.
- b. Prior to performing the third surgery on December 9, 2007, the Respondent failed to recommend a whole blood transfusion, failed to treat the akita for a bleeding disorder and failed to refer the akita to a specialist.

17. Respondent's surgical report for December 5, 2007 does not document the amounts and routes of administration for medications given pre-, peri- and post-operatively and his records for the dates of December 6-8, 2007 do not contain the information required under Wis. Admin. Code § VE 7.03.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

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

2. Respondent's conduct as set out in paragraphs 4 through 15 above, constitutes a violation of Wis. Admin. Code § VE 7.06(1) and he is therefore subject to discipline pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 453.07(1)(f).

3. Respondent's conduct as set forth in paragraphs 4 through 15 above, constitutes a violation of Wis. Admin. Code § VE 7.06 (15) and he is therefore subject to discipline pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 453.07(1) (f).

ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

1. Respondent, John S. Travis, D.V.M., is REPRIMANDED for the above conduct.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that:

2. Respondent shall, within nine (9) months from the date of this Order, successfully complete the record keeping course through the Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association and successfully complete four (4) hours of continuing education in the area of diagnosing and managing bleeding disorders. The course(s) attended in satisfaction of this requirement may not be used to satisfy the statutory continuing education requirements for licensure.

3. All costs of the educational programs shall be the responsibility of the Respondent.

4. Within thirty (30) days following completion of the course(s) identified in paragraph 2 above, Respondent shall file with the Department Monitor certifications from the sponsoring organization(s) verifying his attendance at the required courses.

5. Respondent shall, within 90 days of the date of this Order pay costs of this proceeding in the amount of SIX HUNDRED (\$600.00) 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

6. 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 timely submit payment of the costs or fails to comply

with the ordered continuing education as set forth above, the Respondent's license (# 50-3400) may, in the discretion of the board or its designee, be SUSPENDED, without further notice or hearing, until Respondent has complied with payment of the costs or completion of the continuing education.

7. This Order is effective on the date of its signing.

Wisconsin Veterinary Examining Board

By: Marthina Greer DM
A Member of the Board

8/4/10
Date