

# 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 :  
ERIK H. HAUKAAS, D.V.M. : FINAL DECISION AND ORDER  
RESPONDENT. : ORDER 0000667

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[Division of Enforcement Case # 07 VET 31]

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

Erik H. Haukaas, D.V.M.  
605 9th Avenue W  
Ashland, WI 54806

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

Wisconsin 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 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. Erik H. Haukaas, D.V.M. ("Respondent") was born on August 9, 1964, and is licensed to practice veterinary medicine in the state of Wisconsin pursuant to license number 3580-50. This license was first granted on August 7, 1990.

2. Respondent's most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Department of Regulation and Licensing is 605 9th Avenue W, Ashland, WI 54806.

3. On June 19, 1997, Respondent was previously disciplined by the Board in case # 92 VET 26 (LS 9706191 VET). This case involved allegations that Respondent failed to recognize the presence of osteosarcoma of the distal femur on a radiograph and symptoms of the progressing bone tumors. The Order required Respondent to participate in and successfully complete a course in the recognition of subtle bone tumors on radiography and the recognition of symptoms of progressing bone tumors. Respondent successfully completed this educational course and this limitation was removed from his license on November 12, 1997.

4. At all times relevant to the current proceeding, Respondent was working as a veterinarian at Bay Area Animal Hospital in Ashland, Wisconsin.

5. Between March 6, 2006 and June 25, 2007, client NN brought her eleven year old dog "Ruthie," a husky mix breed, born in 1996, into Respondent's clinic for care and treatment. Dr. KH was the primary veterinarian providing care to Ruthie during this time period. Ruthie suffered from arthritis and chronic lick granulomas on her front legs and was seen for treatment of this condition, and periodic routine nail trims.

6. From March 6, 2006 through June 25, 2007, the medical records contain notes about arthritis treatment, medication prescriptions and refills. Physical examinations were noted on some visits and with some notations referring to weight loss. The medical records fail to sufficiently document a complete physical examination. The medical records fail to properly include a diagnosis or differential diagnosis, document discussions with the owner concerning diagnostic or treatment options, or identify the treating veterinarian.

7. On April 3, 2007, Ruthie presented with a limp on her left hind leg with mild swelling. Dr. KH recommended that if the symptoms did not improve within the next 4-5 days, client NN should bring Ruthie in for radiographs.

8. Client NN did not bring Ruthie in until May 1, 2007 for a routine nail trim. Dr. KH was not available, and Respondent saw Ruthie. Ruthie was agitated and presented with chronic lick granulomas on her front legs. She required muzzling to complete the nail trimming. At this appointment, there was no indication in the medical records which veterinarian performed the treatment, that cancer was considered a possible diagnosis, or that radiographs of Ruthie's legs were taken or recommended.

## 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 failed to maintain minimally adequate patient medical records as required by Wis. Admin. Code § VE 7.03, as described in paragraph 5, above. This conduct constitutes a violation of Wis. Admin. Code § VE 7.03, 7.06(15) and the Respondent is therefore subject to discipline pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 453.07(1)(f).

## ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

1. Erik H. Haukaas, D.V.M. is hereby REPRIMANDED.

2. Respondent's license to practice veterinary medicine in the state of Wisconsin is LIMITED to require that, within twelve (12) months of the date of this Order, Respondent shall obtain, locate, and successfully complete a minimum of two (2) hours of continuing education in the area of veterinary medical record keeping and a minimum of four (4) hours of continuing education in the area of completing a thorough physical exam of companion animals. The courses attended in satisfaction of this requirement may not be used to satisfy the statutory continuing education requirements for licensure.

3. Respondent is responsible for locating the courses required under this Order, for providing adequate course descriptions to the Department Monitor, and for obtaining pre-approval of the courses from the Wisconsin Veterinary Examining Board, or its designee, prior to commencement of the programs. For the purposes of this Order, the Board's designee is the Department Monitor in paragraph 7 below.

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

6. Upon successful completion of the educational programs, submission and approval of the records and payment of the costs set forth below, Respondent's license to practice veterinary medicine shall be restored to unlimited status.

7. Respondent shall, within ninety (90) days from the date of this Order, pay COSTS of this proceeding in the amount of NINE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$900.00). Payment shall be made payable to the Wisconsin Department of Regulation and Licensing, and mailed to:

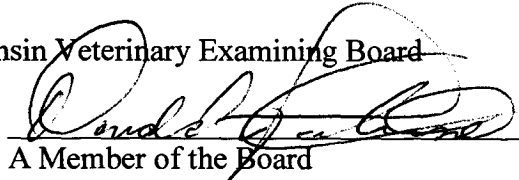
Department Monitor  
Division of Enforcement  
Department of Regulation and Licensing  
P.O. Box 8935  
Madison, WI 53708-8935  
Telephone (608) 267-3817  
Fax (608) 266-2264

8. 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 (# 3580-50) may, in the discretion of the Board or its designee, be SUSPENDED, without further notice or hearing, until Respondent has complied with the payment of the costs or completion of the continuing education.

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

Wisconsin Veterinary Examining Board

By:

  
A Member of the Board

  
Date