STATE OF WISCONSIN

BEFORE THE VETERINARY EXAMINING BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF THE DISCIPLINARY :

PROCEEDINGS AGAINST :

: FINAL DECISION AND ORDER

MICHAEL C. PRITZL, D.V.M., : LS0311122VET

RESPONDENT. :

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

Michael C. Pritzl, D.V.M.

6615 Cliffside Ct.

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, Michael C. Pritzl, D.V.M., Respondent, and Michael J. Berndt, 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

l. That Michael C. Pritzl, D.V.M., Respondent herein, of 6615 Cliffside Ct., Racine, Wisconsin 53402,

whose date of birth is October 26, 1950 is licensed and currently registered to practice veterinary medicine in the State of Wisconsin under license # 1596 which was granted on June 18, 1976.

2. An investigation, entitled 00 VET 29 is pending before the Wisconsin Veterinary Examining Board.

3. On January 15, 2000, "Stripers" an eight year-old male Persian cat presented at St. Francis Animal Hospital with a skin irritation on the cat's stomach area. This was the first time that the owner had taken her cat to the Respondent for treatment.

4. Respondent wanted to perform a skin biopsy and additional diagnostic testing, but the owner refused. No blood was drawn. Respondent said that an immune or allergic problem probably caused the skin irritation. Respondent recommended use of an oral steroid or an injectable steroid. The owner choose an injectable steroid. Stripers weighed 20 lbs and Respondent injected Stripers with 40 mgs of Depo Medrol, a glucocorticosteroid. This is twice the recommended maximum dose.

5. On February 1, 2000, the owner brought Stripers back for a follow-up appointment. There was only minor improvement in the skin irritation on the cat's stomach area. Respondent injected Stripers with 40 mgs of Depo Medrol. This is twice the recommended maximum dose.

6. Over the next few weeks, Stripers' condition did not improve. Stripers became increasingly dehydrated and lost his appetite.

7. On March 21, 2000, the owner brought Stripers back to the Respondent to evaluate weight loss. Stripers had lost 4.3 pounds. Respondent had blood work done on Stripers.

8. On March 22, 2000, Respondent got the results of the blood work and diagnosed Stripers with diabetes based on a blood sugar level of 531. Stripers was also suffering from hypokalemia, hypophosphatemia, and other electrolyte deficiencies. Respondent contacted the owner and the owner brought Stripers back to the clinic. Respondent did not perform a urinalysis or additional diagnostic testing to verify the diagnosis of diabetes. Respondent administered subcutaneous saline fluid and long-acting insulin (4 units). Respondent did not treat the electrolyte deficiencies or do a urinalysis to determine if ketosis was present. Stripers' blood glucose levels were monitored, and were 90 at 6:00 p.m.

9. Stripers was kept overnight for observation. Respondent did not provide any further care to Stripers after March 22, 2000. Respondent discussed the case with the other veterinarians at his clinic.

10. On March 23, 2000, Dr. C. took over the care of Stripers. Additional Subcutaneous fluids were administered, but no additional insulin was administered Blood glucose level was 60.4 at 8 a.m. and 23 at 10 p.m., and the ALT was at 506 (high). The ultrasound showed pancreatitis, and that the liver appeared normal.

11. Dr. C. informed the owner that Stripers' blood sugar levels were extremely low and Stripers' glucose and potassium levels needed to be monitored continuously. Dr. C. told the owner that their clinic did not have the staff available to provide close overnight monitoring and she recommended to the owner that Stripers be transferred to the Animal Emergency Center.

12. Stripers was then transferred to the Animal Emergency Center. When Stripers arrived he was convulsing. Dr. S. performed a physical exam and blood work. Stripers was severely hypokalemic, his BUN was normal, and he had a low calcium level. Stripers was treated for suspected liver encephalopathy, pancreatitis and

severe hypokalemia. Dr. S. said that Stripers was not suffering from diabetes and made a diagnosis of hypoglycemia. IV fluids, metronidazole, and Cephadroxil were started. Stripers was admitted for observation.

13. On March 24, 2000, Stripers was alert, was offered food, but would not eat. Repeat blood work was done. Stripers continued to receive IV fluids. Cefazolin and metronidazole were continued. As Stripers potassium level was at a dangerous level, Dr. S also administered oral potassium.

14. On March 25, 2000, the owner would not allow a feeding tube to be placed. Stripers was anorexic and the owner elected to take Stripers home because she believed that Stripers would do better a home.

15. On March 26, 2000, the owner contacted Dr. S. at the Animal Emergency Clinic because Stripers was still not eating. Dr. S. offered hospitalization and placing an N-G tube, but the owner declined due to financial considerations.

16. On March 27, 2000, Stripers was euthanized.

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 administering too high a dosage of Depo Medrol to an animal constituted a violation of Wis. Adm. Code sec. VE 7.06(1).

4. Respondent's conduct of failing to give an animal with hypokalemia supplemental potassium constituted a violation of Wis. Adm. Code sec. VE 7.06(1).

5. Respondent's conduct of administering long acting insulin without knowing Stripers' current blood sugar level and without confirming the diagnosis of uncomplicated diabetes by urine testing constituted a violation of Wis. Adm. Code sec. VE 7.06(1).

ORDER

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

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that Michael C. Pritzl, D.V.M., is REPRIMANDED.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Dr. Pritzl, shall, within six months from the date of this order perform individual research on the proper use and administration of Depo Medrol on felines.

1. Upon completion of his individual research, Dr. Pritzl will submit to the Veterinary Examining Board a two page report summarizing the results of his research.

2. Dr. Pritzl's research on the proper use and administration of Depo Medrol on felines needs to address at a minimum the following areas:

a). How the dosage level of Depo Medrol is calculated.

b). The recommended minimum and maximum dosage levels for felines.

c). The contraindications for the use of Depo Medrol in felines.

d). The possible side-effects and adverse reactions for felines.

e). The symptoms or warning signs that a veterinarian should inform the owner to be aware of and to look out for.

f). The information the veterinarian should tell an owner concerning this drug.

3. Dr. Pritzl shall also submit a separate list of all the sources that he consulted during his research. At a minimum, Dr. Pritzl must consult the Veterinary Physician's Desk Reference, and contact the drug's manufacturer.

4. If the Veterinary Examining Board does not approve Dr. Pritzl's report, then Dr. Pritzl will continue his research, and submit a new report to the Veterinary Examining Board for approval. Dr. Pritzl will continue his research and will continue to submit reports to the Veterinary Examining Board until the Veterinary Examining Board approves his report.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Dr. Pritzl, shall, within six months from the date of this order, participate and satisfactorily complete an educational course in the area of the diagnosis and treatment of diabetes in felines.

1. Dr. Pritzl will be responsible for locating course(s) satisfactory to the Wisconsin Veterinary Examining Board or its designee and for obtaining the required pre-approval of the courses from the Wisconsin Veterinary Examining Board prior to taking the courses.

2. Dr. Pritzl is responsible for providing a description of the course content to the Department Monitor prior to commencement of the program.

3. Further, the Board may reject in whole or in part any educational opportunity which is nominated by Dr. Pritzl 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 Dr. Pritzl nominates it by reason of the educational opportunity's scope, content, method of instruction, or degree of participation required of students. If the Board approves an educational opportunity in fulfillment of less than the entire purpose for which Dr. Pritzl nominates it, Dr. Pritzl may either accept the Board's limited approval, or forego the opportunity entirely and select another course.

4. Dr. Pritzl will be responsible for all of the costs of attending the educational programs.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, within 60 days after the courses are concluded, Dr. Pritzl will file with the Wisconsin Veterinary Examining Board certifications from the sponsoring organization of his attendance at the required courses and his personal written affidavit that he 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. Pritzl 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 he has complied with all of the terms of this Final Decision and Order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Dr. Pritzl shall pay COSTS in the amount of 200 HUNDRED dollars ($200.00). 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 00 VET 29 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 12th day of November, 2003.

WISCONSIN VETERINARY EXAMINING BOARD

Diane Scott

A Member of the Board