

STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE VETERINARY EXAMINING BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF :
DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS AGAINST : FINAL DECISION
: AND ORDER
ERIC MARTIN STEPHENSON, D.V.M. : LS0404262VET
RESPONDENT :

Division of Enforcement Case File Nos. 99 VET 039

The parties to this action for the purposes of section 227.53 of the Wisconsin statutes are:

Eric Martin Stephenson, D.V.M.
118 N. John St.
Mayville, WI 53050

Veterinary Examining Board
PO Box 8935
Madison, WI 53708-8935

Department of Regulation and Licensing
Division of Enforcement
PO Box 8935
Madison, WI 53708-8935

The parties in this matter agree to the terms and conditions of the attached Stipulation, subject to the approval of the 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

1. Eric Martin Stephenson, D.V.M., (D.O.B. 10/26/1952) is duly licensed in the state of Wisconsin to practice veterinary medicine (license # 2146). This license was first granted on June 19, 1980.
2. Respondent's latest address on file with the Department of Regulation and Licensing is 118 N. John St., Mayville, WI 53050.
3. On or about October 30, 1992, Respondent examined patient "Mece," a female Chihuahua mix. An x-ray was taken and Respondent diagnosed Perthes Disease. Respondent recommended a femoral head ostectomy on the left side.
4. Respondent's records show that on December 9, 1992, Respondent performed a femoral head ostectomy, along with spay and other minor procedures.
5. Respondent's records show that on December 22, 1992, the dog was still not using the left leg.
6. In December of 1993, the record indicates that the dog's owner stated that Mece would hold up her left rear leg off on. Respondent diagnosed osteoarthritis from the previous femoral head condition.
7. Mece was seen on December 1, 1997 at another clinic. Mece was exhibiting signs of worsening rear limb lameness and muscle atrophy.
8. X-rays were taken on that date that showed a large growth in the area of the left rear femoral head.

- 9. Respondent states that this was the first time that he had performed a left femoral head ostectomy and that most likely removed too little of the left femoral head.
- 10. Respondent has successfully performed this procedure numerous times each year since 1992, with no complaints.
- 11. Respondent consents to issuance of the following Conclusions of Law and Order.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 1. The Veterinary Examining Board has jurisdiction to act in this matter, pursuant to sec. 453.07, Wis. Stats.
- 2. The Board is authorized pursuant to sec. 227.44(5), Wis. Stats. to enter into the attached Stipulation and Order and impose the following terms and conditions.
- 3. Respondent's conduct described above falls below the standards of a minimally competent veterinarian and constitutes grounds for action within the meaning of sections 453.07(2)(a) and Wis. Adm. Code sections VE 7.07 and VE 7.06(1).

ORDER

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:

- 1. The stipulation of the parties is approved.
- 2. The license of Eric Martin Stephenson, D.V.M., (license #2146), to practice as a veterinarian in the State of Wisconsin is SUSPENDED for 15 days, commencing on July 19, 2004.
- 3. Respondent shall pay costs in the sum of \$2,250 to the Department of Regulation and Licensing by February 28, 2005.
- 4. This Order shall become effective upon the date of its signing.

VETERINARY EXAMINING BOARD

By: Larry Mahr	6-23-04
A Member of the Board	Date