

STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE VETERINARY EXAMINING BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF THE DISCIPLINARY :
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST :
 :
ALISON M. FRENCH, D.V.M., : FINAL DECISION AND ORDER
RESPONDENT. : LS0808063VET
 :

[Division of Enforcement Case # 05 VET 032]

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

Alison M. French, D.V.M.
1117 S. Oneida Avenue
P.O. Box 1186
Rhineland, WI 54501

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. Alison M. French, D.V.M., Respondent herein, whose date of birth is May 1, 1973, is duly licensed by the Wisconsin Veterinary Examining Board to practice veterinary medicine in the State of Wisconsin pursuant to license number 4922, which was first granted on May 21, 1999.
2. Respondent's last address reported to the Department of Regulation and Licensing is 1117 S. Oneida Avenue, P.O. Box 1186, Rhineland, WI 54501.
3. At all times relevant to this action, Respondent was working as a veterinarian at French's Homestead Veterinary Clinic in Rhineland, Wisconsin.
4. On March 12, 2005, at approximately 9:30 a.m., an approximately eight-year-old, 84-pound female Alaskan Malamute owned by Mark Braaten was presented to Respondent for removal of porcupine quills.
5. Respondent sedated the Braaten dog with ketamine (10mg/ml) and diazepam (5mg/ml) intravenously. The first 4 ml of the 50:50 mixture was administered with some delivered subcutaneously due to the dog's movement during administration. Another 4 ml of the mix was given intravenously in the other front leg and again the dog moved during administration, with an undetermined amount being administered subcutaneously.

6. The dog was placed on the table and quill removal was attempted. The dog was not sufficiently sedated for removal of the quills inside her mouth. Intubation was not possible and the dog fought the mask of isoflurane. Another 2 ml of the ketamine/diazepam mixture was given in the dog's hind leg, which allowed for intubation with a size 9 endotracheal tube. The dog was maintained at 3% Isoflurane gas and the remaining quills were removed.

7. The gas was turned off as soon as a gag reflex was present and the endotracheal tube was removed. Respondent administered 19.5mg of Morphine Sulfate subcutaneously for pain control before the dog was placed in a kennel for recovery.

8. The Braatens returned to the clinic at approximately 12:30 p.m. to pick up the dog. The dog was able to ambulate but was very ataxic. Respondent was concerned about the post anesthetic status of the dog but agreed to discharge the dog with the following instructions:

- a. Keep the dog confined in a small area until she was completely recovered and able to walk normally.
- b. Do not feed or give water to the dog until the next day.

9. Later that day at approximately 5:00 p.m., Mr. Braaten called Respondent to report that the dog was wandering around appearing to still be under the effects of the anesthesia and that the dog's belly was becoming swollen or bloated. Respondent advised Mr. Braaten that the dog was just experiencing the stages of anesthesia recovery and that the dog needed to remain calm with no food or water. When Mr. Braaten asked if he could give the dog anything to ease the bloating, such as GasX, and Respondent told him that would be all right.

10. At 11:00 p.m. on March 12, Mr. Braaten called Respondent to inform her that his dog had died.

11. Respondent failed to recognize the possibility of the development of bloat or the possibility of complications from the anesthesia, and failed to advise the client that the dog needed to be immediately evaluated as the symptoms could be a potentially life threatening condition.

12. The amounts of ketamine/diazepam administered to the dog were excessive based upon the dog's weight.

13. Respondent's original record for the March 12th visit did 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. 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, conduct as set out in paragraphs 11 through 12 above, is a violation of Wis. Admin. Code sec. VE 7.06(1) and she is therefore subject to discipline pursuant to Wis. Stat. sec. 453.07(1)(f).

3. Respondent's conduct as set forth in paragraph 13 above is a violation of Wis. Admin. Code sec. VE 7.06 (15) and she 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, Alison M. French, D.V.M., is REPRIMANDED for the above conduct.
2. The license of Alison M. French, D.V.M., to practice veterinary medicine in the State of Wisconsin shall be

limited to require that, within nine (9) months of the date of this Order, Dr. French shall obtain a total of ten (10) hours of continuing education in the following areas: four (4) hours in the diagnosis and treatment of gastric dilatation; two (2) hours in record keeping; and four (4) hours in anesthesia induction. The courses attended in satisfaction of this requirement may not be used to satisfy the statutory continuing education requirements for licensure.

3. Dr. French shall be responsible for obtaining 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.

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

5. All costs of the educational programs shall be the responsibility of Dr. French.

6. Within thirty days of completion of the recordkeeping course, Respondent shall submit three patient records created after the date of the course completion, to the Department Monitor to determine compliance with the requirements of Wis. Admin. Code sec. VE. 7.03.

7. Upon successful completion of the educational programs, submission and approval of the records and payment of the costs set forth below, the license of Alison M. French, D.V.M. to practice veterinary medicine, shall be restored to unlimited status.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that:

8. Respondent shall, within 90 days of the date of this Order pay costs of this proceeding in the amount of eight hundred and forty five (\$845.00) 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

9. In the event that Respondent fails to pay costs as ordered, fails to comply with the ordered continuing education, or fails to provide the medical records as ordered, Respondent's license (#4922) SHALL BE SUSPENDED, without further notice or hearing, until Respondent has complied with the terms of this Order.

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

Wisconsin Veterinary Examining Board

By: Robert Spencer
A Member of the Board

8/6/08
Date