

STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE VETERINARY EXAMINING BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF THE DISCIPLINARY :
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST :
 :
 : FINAL DECISION AND ORDER
RAJINDER S. SANDHU, D.V.M., : LS0808067VET
RESPONDENT. :

[Division of Enforcement Case # 05 VET 028]

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

Rajinder S. Sandhu, D.V.M.
2746 E. Layton Avenue
Sr. Francis, WI 53132

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. Rajinder S. Sandhu, D.V.M., Respondent herein, whose date of birth is July 21, 1967, is duly licensed by the Wisconsin Veterinary Examining Board to practice veterinary medicine in the State of Wisconsin pursuant to license number 4596, which was first granted on December 18, 1996.

2. Respondent's last address reported to the Department of Regulation and Licensing is 2746 E. Layton Avenue, St. Francis, WI 53132.

3. At all times relevant to this action, Respondent was working as a veterinarian at Airport Animal Hospital in St. Francis, Wisconsin.

4. On Tuesday, November 23, 2004, Betty and Dennis Garczynski brought their five-year-old Lhasa Apso to Respondent's clinic because the dog was having difficulty walking, was bloated and was not urinating. Mr. Garczynski told Respondent that they believed something was wrong with the dog's back. Upon examining the dog, Respondent found that the dog was not putting weight on his rear legs. Respondent took a blood sample and x-rays, and gave the dog a shot for pain. Respondent instructed the owners to call back the next morning for the lab results. In the dog's medical record, Respondent noted possible rule outs of "hip problem/ spinal cord injury/ tumor/ protrusion of disc."

5. Potential spinal cord injuries require immediate evaluation and treatment to prevent permanent paralysis.
6. Respondent did not advise Mr. Garczynski on November 23, 2004 of the emergent nature of a potential spinal cord injury.
7. During the morning of Wednesday, November 24, 2004, Respondent called Mrs. Garczynski with the lab results. Mrs. Garczynski advised Respondent that the dog was dragging his rear legs and was not improving. Respondent requested that the dog be brought to the clinic for further evaluation.
8. Respondent re-examined the dog and found that he was still not bearing weight on his rear legs and that his bladder was bigger. Respondent inserted a catheter to relieve the dog's bladder. Respondent advised Mrs. Garczynski that the x-rays showed nothing abnormal and that the lab results were essentially normal except for a raised magnesium level which could be attributed to the food the dog was eating. Respondent dispensed four cans of k/d dog food, amoxicillin 25 mg 1 BID for 7 days and provided an injection of penicillin.
9. Respondent's records reflect that he advised the owners that if the dog was not better by the following day he will refer to the Animal Emergency Clinic for further diagnostics and treatment.
10. Respondent alleges that he advised the owner that his options were to take the dog to the emergency clinic that day or to Respondent could provide supportive treatment at his clinic to see if the dog improved. The owners deny these options were provided and state that they were advised to bring the dog back if he did not improve.
11. Respondent did not advise the owners on November 24, 2004 of the emergent nature of a potential spinal cord injury.
12. During the remainder of Wednesday and on Thursday, November 25, which was Thanksgiving Day, the dog could not stand up or urinate. Respondent's clinic was closed on Thursday, due to the holiday.
13. During the morning of Friday, November 26, 2004, the owners called Respondent to report that the dog had not improved. Respondent advised them to take the dog to the emergency clinic. After obtaining the dog's lab results and x-rays from Respondent, the owners immediately took the dog to the Animal Emergency Center (AEC) in Glendale, Wisconsin.
14. Upon examination, the AEC veterinarian noted loss of motor function and pain in the dog's rear legs. The dog was still unable to void the bladder and was dribbling urine. The veterinarian discussed the treatment options with the owners, telling them that because the dog's condition had advanced to the point that he had no deep pain, his prognosis was guarded and he may never be able to walk again or urinate on his own. The owners elected to euthanize the dog.
15. Respondent failed to recognize the significance of the timing of evaluation and treatment of a potential spinal cord injury and failed to provide the owners with adequate options for evaluating and treating their dog's presenting and continuing condition, including the emergent nature of a potential spinal cord injury which required immediate evaluation and treatment.

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's conduct, as set out in paragraph 15 of the Findings of Facts, is a violation of Wis. Admin. Code sec. VE 7.06(1) and he 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. The license of Rajinder S. Sandhu, 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. Sandhu shall obtain a total of four (4) hours of continuing education in the evaluation and treatment of spinal cord trauma. The course(s) attended in satisfaction of this requirement may not be used to satisfy the statutory continuing education requirements for licensure.
2. Dr. Sandhu shall be responsible for obtaining the course(s) required under this Order, for providing adequate course descriptions to the Department Monitor, and for obtaining pre-approval of the course(s) from the Wisconsin Veterinary Examining Board, or its designee, prior to commencement of the program(s).
3. Within thirty (30) days following completion of the courses identified in paragraph 1 above, Dr. Sandhu shall file with the Department Monitor certifications from the sponsoring organization(s) verifying his attendance at the required course(s).
4. All costs of the educational program(s) shall be the responsibility of Dr. Sandhu.
5. Upon successful completion of the educational program(s) and payment of the costs set forth below, the license of Rajinder S. Sandhu, D.V.M., to practice veterinary medicine, shall be restored to unlimited status.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that:

6. Respondent shall, within 90 days of the date of this Order pay costs of this proceeding in the amount of one thousand twenty six (\$1026.00) 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

7. In the event that Respondent fails to pay costs as ordered or fails to comply with the ordered continuing education, Respondent's license (#4596) SHALL BE SUSPENDED, without further notice or hearing, until Respondent has complied with the terms of this Order.

8. 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