

STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE VETERINARY EXAMINING BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY :
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST :
 :
MARK A. THOMPSON, D.V.M. : FINAL DECISION AND ORDER
RESPONDENT. : ORDER 0000871

[Division of Enforcement Case # 09 VET 057]

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

Mark A. Thompson, D.V.M.
41 Sammy Jo Circle
Fond du Lac, WI 54935

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 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. Mark A. Thompson, D.V.M., Respondent, (DOB November 13, 1970), is currently licensed by the Wisconsin Veterinary Examining Board to practice veterinary medicine in the State of Wisconsin (license # 4501-50), which was first granted on May 21, 1996.

2. Respondent's last address reported to the Department of Regulation and Licensing is 41 Sammy Jo Circle, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, 54935.

3. On August 4, 2010, Respondent was disciplined by the Department of Regulation and Licensing (Case No. 08 VET 019) for inadequate record keeping and documentation of informed consent.

4. At the time of the events set out below, Respondent was a veterinarian at the Country Hills Pet Hospital in Eden, Wisconsin, 53019.

5. On August 21, 2009, Cheyanne, a nine year old golden retriever, presented to Respondent with a history of lameness in the left rear leg. Radiographs revealed a partial cruciate tear in the left knee. Respondent performed an extra capsular surgical repair of Cheyanne's cruciate tear on August 27, 2009. Metacam and Ciprofloxacin (antibiotic) were prescribed following the surgery.

6. Between September 2, 2009 and September 10, 2009, on four occasions, client KR telephonically reported Cheyanne's inappetence to Respondent and his clinic.

7. On September 11, 2009, Cheyanne presented for an examination. A routine complete blood count screen (CBC) and chemistry panel were performed and Cheyanne was prescribed Cerenia (an anti-nausea drug).

8. After reviewing the CBC on September 12, 2009, Respondent suspected "an autoimmune reaction," and diagnosed Cheyanne with a low red blood cell count (hematocrit of 33.7% n=37-55%, pre-operative hematocrit of 46.6%) secondary to the prescribed medications. Respondent recommended discontinuing the Metacam and Ciprofloxacin medications, continuing with Cerenia and conducting a repeat CBC within two days. Respondent's records on this date do not identify or discuss Cheyanne's low platelet count (53,000 /microliter n=175-500,000/microliter).

9. Autoimmune hemolytic anemia is a type of hemolytic anemia where the patient's immune system attacks its own red blood cells, leading to their destruction (hemolysis). A Coombs antiglobulin test refers to a clinical blood test used in immunohematology and immunology to test for autoimmune hemolytic anemia. A slide agglutination test is also a clinical blood test used to screen for immune disease, particularly immune mediated hemolytic anemia. A positive slide agglutination can indicate immune mediated hemolytic anemia.

10. On September 15, 2009, Respondent performed a CBC which revealed that Cheyanne's red blood count (RBC), was 36.6%. n=37-55%. Respondent's diagnosis was anemia secondary to an idiosyncratic reaction to the medicine, which had been discontinued on September 12, 2009.

11. While Cheyanne's platelets had rebounded to 193,000, n=175-500,000/microliter, the red blood cell count was still below her pre-surgery levels. This presentation is symptomatic of immune mediated hemolytic anemia, which can become life threatening. Upon finding a

decreasing red blood cell count in a lethargic, inappetant patient on September 12, 2009, a minimally competent veterinarian would have performed a slide agglutination test and/or submitted the blood to a reference laboratory.

12. On September 17, 2009, Cheyanne presented after hours with severe diarrhea, pale mucous membranes, low temperature and high respirations. A diagnostic panel, a slide agglutination and comprehensive fecal test were performed. The diagnostic panel revealed significant anemia. The slide agglutination test was a strong positive, which indicated immune mediated hemolytic anemia. The stool test revealed a giardia and clostridia bacterial overgrowth.

13. Respondent's diagnosis was autoimmune hemolytic anemia of unknown origin or cause. Respondent administered immunosuppressive IV steroids, IV fluids, and two broad spectrum antibiotics in an attempt to stabilize Cheyanne and increase body temperature.

14. Ninety minutes after the patient's initial presentation, Respondent telephoned the client recommending a frozen plasma transfusion. The client refused this recommendation and requested supportive care. Cheyanne died approximately three hours later.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Wisconsin Veterinary Examining Board has jurisdiction to act in this matter, pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 453.07, and is authorized to enter into the attached Stipulation and Order, pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 227.44(5).

2. By the conduct above, Respondent violated Wis. Admin. Code § VE 7.06(1).

ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

1. Mark A. Thompson, D.V.M. (license # 4501-50) is hereby REPRIMANDED.

2. Respondent shall, within ninety (90) days from the date of this Order, complete two (2) hours of continuing education in the diagnostic evaluation of CBC results; and two (2) credit hours in the area of veterinarian ethics and informed consent. Respondent shall provide evidence of satisfactory completion of the continuing education to the Department Monitor. Respondent may not apply these hours of continuing education to his biennial continuing education requirements. If Respondent obtains more than the assigned hours of continuing education to fulfill the requirements of this Order, then Respondent may use any of the hours of continuing education obtained in excess of these hours towards the biennial continuing education requirements.

3. Respondent shall, within ninety (90) days from the date of this Order, pay costs of this proceeding in the amount of THREE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$300.00). 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

4. 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 provide evidence of satisfactory completion of the continued education, or pay the costs as set forth above in a timely matter, the Respondent's license (#4501-50) may, in the discretion of the board or its designee, be SUSPENDED, without further notice or hearing, until Respondent has complied with this Order.

5. This Order shall become effective on the date of its signing.

WISCONSIN VETERINARY EXAMINING BOARD

By: Robert Spencer, DVM
A Member of the Board

5/25/2011
Date