

Summary of Discipline Committee Hearing

DR. [REDACTED]

AUGUST 31, 2012

ALLEGATIONS OF PROFESSIONAL MISCONDUCT

- failed to appropriately or adequately perform the tooth extractions in that, among other things, he failed to remove some teeth, he removed parts of some teeth without extracting the roots of the teeth, leaving crown and root fragments
- failed to perform a proper post-operative examination in that he failed to examine mucous membranes or capillary refill times
- failed to keep proper records before, during and after the surgery
- failed to provide post-operative proper home care advice

BRIEF SUMMARY

The member saw a 10-year-old Yorkshire Terrier for a dental procedure involving multiple extractions.

DECISION

Dr. [REDACTED] pleaded guilty to having engaged in professional misconduct within the meaning of paragraphs 2 (failing to maintain the standard of practice of the profession) and 27 (failing to make or retain the records required by the Regulation) of section 17 (1) of Ontario Regulation 1093 under the *Veterinarians Act*.

PENALTY

- Reprimand
- Suspension of the member's licence to practise veterinary medicine for three months. One month to be suspended if the

member completes a research paper addressing all the findings of professional misconduct. One month to be suspended if the member completes a medical records workshop.

- Imposing a condition and limitation on the member's licence prohibiting him from performing dentistry until he completes remedial coursework containing a practical component to demonstrate he is able to practise dentistry in a manner consistent with the standards of practice of the profession.
- The member will pay costs to the College of \$2,000.
- Pursuant to legislation, this matter is published including the member's name.

PANEL'S REASONING

The member failed to appropriately or adequately perform the tooth extractions, leaving crown and root fragments. This is supported by the records of the clinic where the dog was later treated.

The Panel recognizes failing to remove roots of teeth, particularly diseased teeth, and leaving sharp bone fragments in the mouth would place the patient at risk of chronic oral pain, infection and resultant debilitation. The member did not recognize the inadequacy of the procedure he had performed.

The member failed to perform a proper post-operative examination of the dog, in that he failed to examine the mucous membranes or capillary refill times. The Panel recognizes these to be vital parameters which assist in evaluating patient cardio-respiratory status. Given the

extent of the dental procedure, and particularly as the records referred to some intra-operative hemorrhage, an adequate assessment of the dog's post-operative status demanded the evaluation of these parameters.

The member failed to keep adequate medical records for the dog, including no documentation of a complete pre-surgical examination; no documentation of the duration of fluid therapy or total volume of fluids administered or urinary output; only two notations of heart rate over the 120 minute procedure, and no documentation of number of teeth extracted and the extraction sites. The Panel believes proper medical records are essential to ensure continuity of patient care, and as a means to establish the quality of care.

The member failed to provide post-operative proper home care advice to the client. The medical records contain no reference to any home care advice conveyed to the dog's caregivers. An extensive dental procedure involving multiple extractions carries significant post-operative risks. It is thus imperative the client is fully informed of the details of home care.

The Panel considered the submissions and agreed the penalty embraced the general principles of specific and general deterrence, and protected the public interest.

It was apparent to the Panel during the hearing that the member was remorseful for his conduct, and for the unfortunate outcome for his patient.