

Summary of Discipline Committee Hearing

DR. NABEEL AL-AZAWI

Hearing Date: April 8, 2014



ALLEGATIONS OF PROFESSIONAL MISCONDUCT

- failed to adequately document a pre-surgical examination
- failed to obtain informed consent for surgery
- asked a volunteer to attempt to place a catheter
- failed to monitor the dog while she was being sedated
- failed to document treatment of the dog
- administered anesthesia without assistance from an adequately trained auxiliary
- failed to maintain an appropriate surgical suite
- discussed the case with the clients in the surgery room and offered pizza
- failed to offer or suggest a necropsy directly to the client
- failed to create or maintain an adequate anesthetic record
- 13 additional allegations were withdrawn

BRIEF SUMMARY

The member was to perform a spay on a young female dog. The member administered dexmedetomidine, acepromazine and ketamine as pre-anaesthetic sedation. However, before the spay surgery could be performed, the dog died, likely due to excessive sedation.

DECISION

The member pleaded and was found guilty with respect to the allegations. The College and the member had negotiated an Agreed Statement of Facts, including an admission of professional misconduct.

PENALTY

- Reprimand
- Suspension of the member's licence to practise veterinary medicine for three months, one month to be remitted if the member completes a mentorship related to appropriate sedation, anaesthetic and monitoring protocols, the proper use of auxiliaries, informed consent, maintaining appropriate surgery facilities and record keeping at the member's expense.
- The member will prepare a research paper to address issues discussed during the mentorship.
- The member will pay costs to the College of \$5,000.
- Pursuant to legislation, this matter is published including the member's name

PANEL'S REASONING

The panel reviewed the evidence and determined the member failed to adequately document a pre-surgical examination, failed to obtain the owner's informed consent to surgery, failed to adequately document the dog's treatment, and failed to maintain an adequate anesthetic record.

The lack of appropriate notations in the medical records demonstrated the member failed to monitor the dog while she was being sedated. Further, the evidence demonstrated the member failed to offer or suggest a necropsy to the client.

The panel also accepted the expert report and determined the member failed to maintain an appropriate surgical suite and failed to use properly trained auxiliaries during the procedures.

The panel also determined that discussing the case with the client in the surgery room and offering pizza was not appropriate behaviour in the situation.

In reaching its decision, the panel also considered the fact that there was significant discussion between the parties in the pre-hearing conference which led to both parties signing the Agreed Statement of Facts.

In reaching a decision on penalty, the panel considered previous decisions reached in similar cases. The panel also considered the following mitigating factors:

- the admission of guilt by the member, and
- the fact that it is the first complaint against the member

and the following aggravating factors:

- the seriousness of the allegations, and
- the number of allegations.

The panel believes the penalty is appropriate and that it will achieve its goals regarding rehabilitation and deterrence and renders justice.