

Summary of Discipline Committee Hearing



THE COLLEGE OF
VETERINARIANS
OF ONTARIO

DR. STEPHEN SHERIDAN

Hearing Date: October 16, 2013

ALLEGATIONS OF PROFESSIONAL MISCONDUCT AND SERIOUS NEGLECT

BRIEF SUMMARY

The Discipline Committee met to consider allegations of professional misconduct in the case presented. The member resigned at the beginning of the hearing and asked the College to suspend the proceedings indefinitely.

A Mutual Acknowledgement and Undertaking was made between the College and the member. An abbreviated version follows:

I, Dr. Stephen Sheridan,

will not engage in the practice of veterinary medicine, or hold myself out as engaging in the practice of veterinary medicine, or use the title veterinarian or veterinary surgeon or an abbreviation or variation as an occupational or business designation, either in Ontario or elsewhere, and I agree to surrender my licence to practise veterinary medicine to the College.

I will not seek to resume the practice of veterinary medicine, seek to hold myself out as engaging in the practice of veterinary medicine, seek to use the title veterinarian or veterinary surgeon or an abbreviation or variation as an occupational or business designation or seek the return of my licence to practise veterinary medicine, except in accordance with the provisions of this Undertaking and Agreement.

I acknowledge that if I do seek to resume the practice of veterinary medicine, I will have been out of practice for a lengthy period; therefore I will not seek to resume the practice of veterinary medicine in Ontario or elsewhere until I have complied with the following requirements:

- I will complete a research paper referencing at least 10 different recognized authorities addressing proper pain management, infection control, proper standards for euthanasia and appropriate recordkeeping. I also undertake to pay the costs of a reviewer to assist the Registrar to determine whether the paper is acceptable.
- I will complete a medical records workshop.

- I will complete the CVO Jurisprudence Examination.

Provided that I successfully complete the provisions of this Undertaking and Agreement, the College undertakes to return my licence to practise veterinary medicine. However, I undertake and agree that should I be permitted to resume the practice of veterinary medicine:

- I will not be employed by, or practise under the authority of, a non-veterinarian.
- I will practise only as an employee of another veterinarian and I will not employ an auxiliary.
- I will be monitored on the following terms:
 - i. For the first 30 working days, I will be monitored by direct supervision. The monitor will report to the Registrar on my knowledge, skills, recordkeeping and on my practice generally. If the monitor is of the opinion that I have fallen below the standards of practice or that I have exposed a patient to risk, I will be monitored for a further 30 days by direct supervision, following which the monitor will provide another report to the Registrar.
 - ii. Following a positive report after the first or second 30 working day period, I will be monitored for a further 90 working days by indirect supervision, following which the monitor will prepare a report on my knowledge, skills, recordkeeping and on my practice generally. If the monitor is of the opinion that I have fallen below the standards of practice or that I have exposed a patient to risk, I will be monitored for 90 working days by indirect supervision, following which the monitor will provide a report to the Registrar.
 - iii. I agree to be responsible for all expenses associated with being monitored.

- Six to ten medical records will be selected and reviewed by a peer reviewer, at my expense, for two years. These reports will be provided to the Registrar and I understand that I will be provided with copies of each report for comment, should I wish to do so.
- I undertake and agree to pay all costs associated with this Undertaking and Agreement within 30 days of receiving an

invoice from the College.

- I undertake and agree to pay to the College \$5,000 towards the costs of its investigation into allegations of professional misconduct and serious neglect against me within 30 days.
- I acknowledge and agree that my failure to adhere to any of the provisions may result in the referral of further allegations of professional misconduct and/or serious neglect to the Discipline Committee for a hearing and that any such proceedings may result in my licence to practise veterinary medicine being suspended or revoked.
- I further acknowledge and agree that my failure to adhere to any of the provisions will result in the adjournment sine die of proceedings before the Discipline Committee being vacated and the matter scheduled for hearing. This Undertaking and Agreement and subsequent evidence may be introduced as evidence against me and shall form part of the material considered by the Registrar, Registration Committee, Discipline Committee or other appropriate body, in the case of this jurisdiction, or in the case of any other jurisdiction, may be considered in the evaluation of any application for registration, membership or licensure in or for the practice of veterinary medicine.

I acknowledge and agree that any information obtained by the College as a result of this Undertaking and Agreement may be used by the College or any committee of the College.

I hereby consent to the College placing on the register of the College the content of this Undertaking and Agreement. I also acknowledge and agree that the Notice of Hearing dated June 29, 2012 be entered on the register along with a notation indicating that the College agreed not to proceed with the hearing on the basis of this Undertaking and Agreement.

I acknowledge that I have had the opportunity to obtain independent legal advice prior to signing this Undertaking and Agreement.