

Summary of Discipline Committee Hearing



THE COLLEGE OF
VETERINARIANS
OF ONTARIO

DR. LULA VIHOS

AGREED STATEMENT OF FACTS

- failed to maintain the standard of practice of the profession
- failed to reply appropriately or within a reasonable time to a written inquiry received from the College
- an act or omission relevant to the practice of veterinary medicine that, having regard to the circumstances, would be regarded by members as unprofessional
- conduct unbecoming a veterinarian

BRIEF SYNOPSIS OF FACTS

The member entered into a Mutual Acknowledgement and Undertaking with the College of Veterinarians of Ontario as a result of a decision by the Complaints Committee.

The member agreed to participate in a medical records workshop and research and prepare a research paper addressing "Chronic Renal Disease in Dogs and Cats". The member was to complete both the workshop and the paper within 90 days of receiving the Complaints Committee's decision and reasons.

The College advised the member by letter of the deadline to complete the workshop and paper.

The College and the workshop leader made numerous attempts to assist the member in completing the workshop and paper, including

repeatedly contacting the member by phone and email. The College also extended the deadline to complete the workshop and paper by one month. As the member failed to complete either the workshop or the paper, she breached her Undertaking to the College.

The member also failed to respond appropriately or within a reasonable time to the College's efforts to assist her to comply with the Undertaking.

DECISION

1. Finding

The member admitted the allegations as outlined in the Agreed Statement of Facts, including an admission of professional misconduct.

2. Penalty

- Reprimand
- Suspension of the member's licence for eight weeks, five weeks of which is to be remitted if the member completes ProBE - an ethics and boundaries course, and completes the two original elements of the Undertaking with the College.

3. Costs/Publication

- The member will pay costs to the College of \$3,000

PANEL'S REASONING

When coming to a decision, the panel considered all the documentation presented to them and accepted the Joint Submission as to Penalty and Costs as sufficient to protect the public interest.

As part of their deliberation, the panel also considered the following:

- The hearing was the first discipline occurrence for the member
- The member had taken steps towards corrective action, illustrating an interest in rehabilitation

The penalties presented by both parties supported the three guiding principles of public protection, general deterrence and specific deterrence for the member.

The panel accepted the proposed Joint Submission as to Penalty and Costs, regarding it to be reasonable and fair given the actions of the member. The penalties fell within the range of outcomes that were acceptable based on existing case law.