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STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE VETERINARY EXAMINING BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF
THE INVESTIGATION OF

ANNAMARIE DITTMAR, D.V.M., LS9909291VET

Licensee

MEMORANDUM AND ORDER ON SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE

TO:

*Annamarie Dittmar, D.V.M.
Port Veterinary Clinic
118 South Webster Street
Port Washington, WI 53074*

*Pamela M. Stach
Attorney at Law
1400 East Washington Avenue
P.O. Box 8935
Madison, WI 53708*

An informal settlement conference was conducted in the above-captioned matter before the Veterinary Examining Board on June 30, 1999. The purpose of the conference was to provide interested parties with an opportunity to discuss allegations received pertaining to the practice of Dr. Dittmar as a veterinarian, and to attempt to reach a fair and consensual resolution of the matter.

Dr. Dittmar appeared in person and without legal counsel. Others present in addition to the board included Pamela M. Stach, attorney for the Department of Regulation & Licensing, Division of Enforcement, and Wayne Austin, the board's legal counsel.

The parties orally presented their respective positions regarding the matter to the board, and the board deliberated on a possible disposition of the matter. The board thereafter presented a proposed Stipulation for Dr. Dittmar's consideration, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof. The Stipulation was ultimately executed by Dr. Dittmar, Ms. Stach and Dr. Diane Scott, board chair.

Based upon the proceedings at the conference, and upon the Stipulation of the parties, the board enters the following order.

ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the license of Annamarie Dittmar, D.V.M., to practice veterinary medicine in Wisconsin is hereby limited to require that she be prohibited from engaging in orthopedic surgery until she successfully completes a course in orthopedics, including orthopedic radiology and pharmacology. The course shall be provided through the University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary medicine, and shall consist of clinical and, if necessary, classroom or home study of not more than 30 hours. A description of the course content and parameters shall be submitted to the Veterinary Examining Board, or its designee, for approval prior to commencement of the program.

Dated this 29th day of September, 1999.

STATE OF WISCONSIN

VETERINARY EXAMINING BOARD

by _____

Diane Scott, D.V.M.

Chair

STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE VETERINARY EXAMINING BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF
THE INVESTIGATION OF
ANNAMARIE DITTMAR, D.V.M.,

Licensee

STIPULATION

Annamarie Dittmar, DVM (Dr. Dittmar) and the Veterinary Examining Board (board) having reached agreement on disposition of the informal complaint identified as 98 VET 304, agree and stipulate as follows.

1. This Stipulation shall be made a part of a Memorandum and Order On Settlement Conference to be issued by the board, and all terms of the Stipulation shall be binding on Dr. Dittmar as part of the board's order
2. This Stipulation and the board's order shall be placed in Dr. Dittmar's permanent file, and may be used against her if there are further complaints against her.
3. Dr. Dittmar is licensed to practice licensed veterinary medicine in Wisconsin by license #2196 and she practices veterinary medicine at Port Veterinary Clinic in Port Washington, Wisconsin.
4. Dr. Dittmar first saw Champ, a neutered male golden lab, on October 22, 1997, for vaccinations and neutering. At that time, the client, Ms. Denise Canfield, asked for payment arrangements, stating that she could not afford large amounts of money at a time. The records for this visit indicate "limping right rear, some crepitus in hip joint, decreased range of motion." Ms. Canfield states she was not made aware of any problems with her dog's hop at that visit. Dr. Dittmar said that she did indicate that the puppy had some problems with its hips, but that she recommended observation at that time.
5. The next visit recorded in the patient chart was December 22, 1997. Ms. Canfield states that the dog was brought in due to an injury to the right hip. The patient records indicate, "limping right rear leg no longer weight bearing, severe restriction of range of motion crepitus, very painful. All other joints OK." Dr. Dittmar states that she was not aware of any incident resulting in injury, but understood the dog's condition to be a natural progression from the earlier visit. The patient records indicate that aspirin was given for pain and excision arthroplasty was recommended. The complainant indicates that Nethocarbamol was prescribed and a follow-up

visit in two weeks was recommended.

6. Dr. Dittmar states that at the December 22, 1997, visit, she explained the alternatives available to the client at this visit, to include a total hip replacement, shelf acetabulum surgery, or excision arthroplasty. Dr. Dittmar states that at this visit the complainant told her that she preferred the excision arthroplasty over the other options because of monetary considerations.

7. The complainant alleges that Dr. Dittmar did not at any time explain any of the alternatives to the surgery she had proposed, and that Dr. Dittmar did not explain the nature of the surgical procedure recommended. That patient record does not indicate that options were provided to the client, but states that excision arthroplasty was recommended.

8. The next visit occurred on January 16, 1998 for x-rays. The complainant states that it was at this visit that hip surgery was suggested based on the x-ray results. The patient record does not have an entry for this visit, however, Dr. Dittmar did submit an x-ray dated January 16, 1998 for this client.

9. The surgery was performed on January 23, 1998 (a Friday). The patient record indicates that the surgery was to remove the "head of femur-right hip, severely dysplastic." The dog was released to the owner that afternoon. The record indicates Keflex was prescribed (1000 mg, 1 cap BID for 10 days). Ms. Canfield states that pills were given to make Champ drowsy, though there is no mention of this in the patient record. Dr. Dittmar states that all patients were given verbal instructions to return in 10 days for suture removal, that some swelling was normal, that the dog should be allowed to limit its own activity for a couple of days. Dr. Dittmar states that she would also tell clients that 2 aspirins should be given twice daily for pain, that the antibiotics should be given as directed and that they should call with any questions.

10. Ms. Canfield maintains that a call was made to Dr. Dittmar's office on Monday, January 26, 1998 because the dog would not eat, sit or lie down except on the couch. The complainant states that Dr. Dittmar told her to give the dog cooked meat. There is no record of this conversation in the patient record, nor did Dr. Dittmar make any reference to this call in her responses.

11. On Wednesday, January 28, the complainant called Dr. Dittmar's office with an update. Dr. Dittmar told her to come in and get a different antibiotic. The complainant states that she did get the new antibiotic (name unknown) and gave it three times daily mixed in the patient's water. The patient record does not reflect that this conversation took place or any antibiotic was prescribed for the patient. Dr. Dittmar did not refer to this contact in her responses.

12. On Friday, January 30, the complainant again called Dr. Dittmar to inform her that the dog was still not eating and that the leg and paw were grossly swollen; the patient record indicates that the complainant called in to report that the dog was still not eating. The complainant and the record both indicate that Dr. Dittmar made a house call on the patient. The complainant states that Dr. Dittmar did not glove or wash, but inspected the incision site and noted it was grossly infected. The patient record indicates that 3 cc Gentacin IM and 2 1/2 cc Floccillin subQ were given. The complainant states that Dr. Dittmar instructed the complainant to continue to give the unknown antibiotic. There is no reference to this in the patient record.

13. Another veterinarian was called to visit the animal on Saturday, January 31. Three to four cups of purulent discharge was removed from the incision site.

14. The dog was taken to a third veterinarian and x-rays were done on April, 1998. It was reported that at this time infection and inflammation were excessive throughout the connective tissue. On May 4, the third veterinarian diagnosed a draining track and muscle atrophy of the entire leg muscle. The complainant decided to put the animal to sleep.

15. Dr. Dittmar was previously disciplined by the Veterinary Examining Board. On June 17, 1998. The Board accepted a stipulated resolution to case 96 VET 054 in which Dr. Dittmar agreed to complete 6 hours of additional education in the maintenance of appropriate veterinary medical records. The requirement of that order have been met.

16. The parties agree that Dr. Dittmar's actions in this matter constitute a violation of sec. VE 7.06(1) , Code.

The parties agree that in resolution of this matter, Dr. Dittmar's license shall be limited to require that she be prohibited from engaging in orthopedic surgery until she successfully completes a course in orthopedics, including orthopedic radiology and pharmacology. The course shall be provided through the University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary medicine, and shall consist of clinical and, if necessary, classroom

or home study of not more than 30 hours. A description of the course content and parameters shall be submitted

to the Veterinary Examining Board, or its designee, for approval prior to commencement of the program.

Dated this 14th day of August, 1999.

Annamarie Dittmar, D.V.M.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 1999.

Pamela M. Stach

Dated this 29th day of September, 1998.

STATE OF WISCONSIN

VETERINARY EXAMINING BOARD

by _____

Diane Scott, D.V.M.

Chair