

**BEFORE THE MINNESOTA
BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE**



In the Matter of
Kathleen Marie Skalko, D.V.M.
License No. 00804

**AGREEMENT FOR
CORRECTIVE ACTION**

This Agreement for Corrective Action (“Agreement”) is entered into by and between Kathleen Marie Skalko, D.V.M (“Licensee”) and the Complaint Review Committee (“Committee”) of the Minnesota Board of Veterinary Medicine (“Board”) pursuant to the authority of Minn. Stats. § 156.127, subd. 2 and § 214.103, subd. 6(a). Licensee and the Committee hereby concur that this Agreement shall be based on the following:

FACTS

1. On February 2, 2004, Licensee became licensed as a veterinarian in Minnesota.
2. At all times relevant to these allegations, Licensee practiced veterinary medicine at Moose Lake Veterinary Clinic (“Clinic”) located in Moose Lake, Minnesota.
3. On July 2, 2014, Licensee provided veterinary services to Nike Jane, a 6 ½ year old female Doberman, owned by S.S. and L.W.
4. Licensee failed to perform or document thorough neurologic and musculoskeletal examinations on Nike Jane despite a history of pain in the hind end and difficulties rising and using the right hind leg.
5. Licensee failed to inform Nike Jane’s owner of differential diagnoses for the dog’s clinical signs and localized pain, and also failed to inform her of the value of radiography to confirm Licensee’s presumptive diagnosis of intervertebral disc disease.

6. Licensee failed to fully document physical examination findings, differential diagnoses, diagnostic options, prescriptions and client communication.

7. On December 11, 2014, Licensee met with the Committee, composed of Barbara Fischley, D.V.M., Board member, and Mary Olson, D.V.M., Board member, to discuss allegations made in a Notice of Conference dated July 22, 2014. Nicholas Lienesch, Assistant Attorney General, represented the Committee at the conference. Julia Wilson, D.V.M., Executive Director of the Board, also attended the conference.

CORRECTIVE ACTION

Based on the available information and discussion at the conference, Licensee and Committee agree that the conduct above violates Minn. Stat. § 156.18 (veterinary prescription drugs), Minn. R. 9100.0800, subp. 1 (general standard of practice), and subp. 4 (recordkeeping). Licensee and the Committee have agreed to enter into this Agreement for Corrective Action as follows:

1. Within one month from the date of this Agreement, Licensee must submit documentation of all of her veterinary continuing education from the most recent license renewal period, March 1, 2012 to February 28, 2014.

2. Within three months of the date of this Agreement, Licensee shall submit to the Review Committee evidence of completion of at least 1.75 hours of continuing education on the topic of veterinary medical records. Licensee shall submit written documentation, such as measurable learning objectives and qualifications of the instructor, in order to receive preapproval from the Review Committee of classes Licensee takes in fulfillment of this requirement. For purposes of this requirement, the Review Committee will preapprove Section 7 of the "*Online Veterinary Law and Ethics Course*" offered by James F. Wilson, D.V.M., J.D., through Iowa State University.

3. Within six months of the date of this Agreement, Licensee must complete four hours of interactive continuing education on the topic of canine neurology, including spinal cord disease. Courses must be pre-approved by the Committee. These credit hours may not be counted towards the Licensee's next license renewal.

4. Within six months of completion of the required medical records continuing education described in paragraph 2 above, Licensee must provide the Committee with three complete medical records of her cases for review to demonstrate her understanding of minimum standards for record keeping. The cases should include one dog with neurologic disease, one sick animal, and one animal that received spinal manipulation. The records must meet the approval of the Committee.

OTHER INFORMATION

1. Licensee has been advised by Review Committee representatives that Licensee may choose to be represented by legal counsel in this matter.

2. Upon Licensee's satisfactory completion of the corrective actions referred to above, the Review Committee agrees to dismiss the complaint concerning the matters referred to in the facts above. Licensee agrees that the Review Committee shall be the sole judge of satisfactory completion. Licensee understands that if, after dismissal, the Review Committee receives additional complaints alleging conduct similar to that referred to in the facts above, the Review Committee may reopen the dismissed complaints.

3. If Licensee fails to complete the corrective action satisfactorily or if the Review Committee receives additional complaints alleging conduct similar to that referred to in the facts above, the Review Committee may, in its discretion, reopen the investigation and proceed according to Minn. Stat. chs. 14, 156, and 214. Licensee agrees that failure to complete

corrective action satisfactorily constitutes failure to cooperate under Minn. Stat. § 156.123 and may subject Licensee to disciplinary action by the Board.

4. Licensee shall be responsible for all costs incurred as a result of compliance with this Agreement.

5. The effective date of this Agreement shall be the date it is executed by the Review Committee. The Agreement shall remain in effect until the Review Committee dismisses the complaint unless the Review Committee receives additional information that renders corrective action inappropriate. Upon receipt of such information, the Review Committee may, in its discretion, proceed according to Minn. Stat. chs. 14, 156, and 214.

6. Licensee understands this Agreement does not constitute disciplinary action. Licensee further understands and acknowledges this Agreement and the dismissal letter issued upon successful completion of the corrective action are classified as public data pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 13.41, subd. 5.

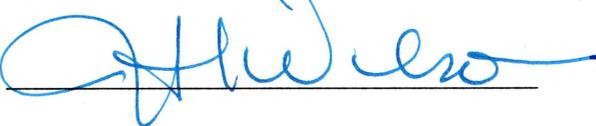
7. Licensee hereby acknowledges that she has read and understands this Agreement and has voluntarily entered into it. This Agreement contains the entire agreement between the Review Committee and Licensee, there being no other agreement of any kind, verbal or otherwise, which varies the terms of this Agreement.

Dated: 12/22/2014



KATHLEEN MARIE SKALKO, D.V.M
LICENSEE

Dated: 12/26/14



JULIA WILSON, D.V.M.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FOR THE COMPLAINT REVIEW
COMMITTEE