

**BEFORE THE MINNESOTA
BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
COMPLAINT REVIEW COMMITTEE**

In the Matter of
Signe M. Wass, D.V.M.
License No. 16401

**AGREEMENT FOR
CORRECTIVE ACTION**

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

A. FACTS

1. On May 26, 2001, Licensee became licensed as a veterinarian in Minnesota.
2. Licensee conducts a veterinary practice in Dundas, Minnesota.
3. The Board received a complaint alleging that Licensee failed to properly care for a six-year-old female dachshund named “Princess” aka “Elsa” owned by KL. The Committee conducted an investigation into the complaint, which included review of medical records for the animal, correspondence with the Licensee and the Complainant, and subsequent review of sample medical records after changes were instituted at Licensee’s veterinary practice.
4. On May 23, 2013, Licensee met with the Committee, composed of Joanne Schulman, D.V.M., Board member, to discuss allegations made in a Notice of Conference dated May 6, 2013. Greg Schaefer, Assistant Attorney General, represented the Committee at the conference. Julia Wilson, D.V.M., Executive Director of the Board, also attended the conference. Following discussion of the Board’s concerns, Licensee submitted four sample medical records for spay and dental cases, with one of each belonging to a private client and one

of each belonging to an animal rescue organization. These records were reviewed by the Committee. Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 156.081, subd. 2(11) (departure from the minimum standards of acceptable and prevailing practice) and (12) (unprofessional conduct); Minn. R. 9100.0700, subp. 1.A. (failure to meet the minimum standards of practice) and C. (incompetent practice); and Minn. R. 9100.0800, subp. 1. (general standard of practice), 4 (record keeping), and 8 (humane care), Licensee and the Committee have agreed to enter into this Agreement for Corrective Action to address the following concerns:

a. After performing a routine spay, mass removal, ear cytology, vaccination for rabies, and the extraction of 12 teeth, Licensee acknowledged that an oral-nasal fistula likely formed during or after the dental extractions.

b. Licensee acknowledged digital dental radiographs were not taken but were indicated.

c. Licensee did not diagnose nor treat an oral-nasal fistula that developed.

d. Licensee did not diagnose nor treat a jaw fracture.

e. Licensee acknowledged that medical records for animal rescue organizations and private clients were not in compliance with Minnesota Rules 9100.0800, subpart 4. Examples of concerns in the sample medical records that arrived on June 3, 2013, include the following:

1) Lab results for a complete blood count and chemistry profile were not included for one dog, although the record indicated that these tests were performed.

2) Dental records for a privately owned animal indicated four teeth needed extracting, but five teeth were extracted. The name of the doctor performing the extraction was not captured on the form.

3) The type of suture material utilized on both a dental case and a spay was not specified.

4) The prior vaccination history was not recorded in the medical record of a rescue dog that received a three-year rabies vaccination.

B. CORRECTIVE ACTION

Based on the above background information, Licensee and the Committee agree to the following corrective actions:

1. Within 12 months of the date of this Agreement, Licensee shall submit to the Board evidence of completion of at least four hours of continuing education on the topics of Companion Animal Dentistry. Licensee must receive course preapproval from the Committee prior to attending the course(s). The Committee will not accept courses that are not preapproved.

2. Within three months of the date of this Agreement, Licensee shall submit to the Board evidence of completion of at least five hours of continuing education on the topics of veterinary medical records, veterinary law, and ethics. Licensee shall submit written documentation, such as measurable learning objectives and qualifications of the instructor, in order to receive preapproval from the Committee of classes that Licensee takes in fulfillment of this requirement. For purposes of this requirement, the Committee will approve modules 6 and 7 of the "Online Veterinary Law and Ethics Course" offered by James F. Wilson, D.V.M., J.D.

3. Licensee shall comply with the medical record-keeping requirements of Minnesota Rules 9100.0800, subpart 4.

C. OTHER INFORMATION

1. Licensee has been advised by Committee representatives that Licensee may choose to be represented by legal counsel in this matter. Although aware of this opportunity, Licensee has elected not to be represented by legal counsel.

2. Upon Licensee's satisfactory completion of the corrective action referred to above, the Committee agrees to dismiss the complaint(s) concerning the matters referred to in paragraphs A.3. and A.4. above. Licensee agrees that the Committee shall be the sole judge of satisfactory completion. Licensee understands that if, after dismissal, the Committee receives additional complaints alleging conduct similar to that referred to in the facts above, the Committee may reopen the dismissed complaints.

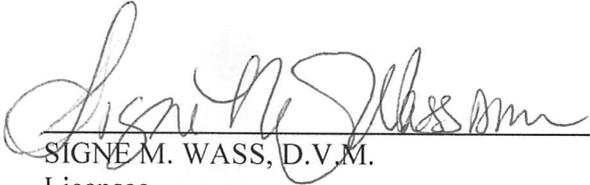
3. If Licensee fails to complete the corrective action satisfactorily or if the Committee receives additional complaints alleging conduct similar to that referred to in the facts above, the Committee may, in its discretion, reopen the investigation and proceed according to Minnesota Statutes chapters 14, 156, and 214. Licensee agrees that failure to complete corrective action satisfactorily constitutes failure to cooperate under Minnesota Statutes section 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 for Corrective Action.

5. The effective date of this Agreement shall be the date it is executed by the Committee. The Agreement shall remain in effect until the Committee dismisses the complaint, unless the Committee receives additional information that renders corrective action inappropriate. Upon receipt of such information, the Committee may, in its discretion, proceed according to Minnesota Statutes chapters 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 Minnesota Statutes section 13.41, subdivision 5.

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


SIGNÉ M. WASS, D.V.M.
Licensee

Dated: June 12, 2013


JULIA H. WILSON, D.V.M.
For the Complaint Review Committee

Dated: 7/1, 2013