

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

In the Matter of  
Steven Elliott Elwood, D.V.M.  
License No. 01382

**AGREEMENT FOR  
CORRECTIVE ACTION**

This Agreement is entered into by and between Steven Elliott Elwood, 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 June 12, 1982, Licensee became licensed as a veterinarian in Minnesota.
2. Licensee conducts a veterinary practice in Albert Lea, Minnesota.
3. The Board received a complaint alleging that Licensee failed to properly care for a 15-year-old cat owned by CB. The Committee conducted an investigation into the complaint, which included review of medical records for the animal and correspondence with the Licensee and the Complainant.
4. On March 23, 2013, Licensee met with the Committee, composed of Barbara Fischley D.V.M., Board member, to discuss allegations made in a Notice of Conference dated February 27, 2013. Greg Schaefer, Assistant Attorney General, represented the Committee at the conference. John King, D.V.M., pro tem Executive Director of the Board, and Julia Wilson D.V.M., Executive Director of the Board, also attended the conference. Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 156.127, subd. 2, Minn. R. 9100.0700, and Minn. R. 9100.0800, subp. 4, Licensee and the

Committee have agreed to enter into this Agreement for Corrective Action to address the following concerns:

a. Licensee failed to conduct an adequate physical and neurologic examination of the animal before concluding that it had rabies and should be euthanized. Licensee failed to offer palliative symptomatic treatment to the cat while awaiting the owner's signature on the euthanasia permission form.

b. Licensee's medical records were incomplete. For example, Licensee's documentation failed to include physical examination findings, diagnostic tests that were offered, reasonable differential diagnoses, and any potential treatments that could be offered to the owner for the animal other than euthanasia.

## **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 Neurology. 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 Minn. R. 9100.0800, subp. 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 he 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.

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STEVEN ELLIOTT ELWOOD, D.V.M.  
Licensee

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JULIA H. WILSON, DVM  
For the Complaint Review Committee

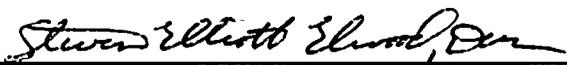
Dated: \_\_\_\_\_, 2013

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STEVEN ELLIOTT ELWOOD, D.V.M.  
Licensee MN 01382

  
JULIA H. WILSON, DVM  
For the Complaint Review Committee

Dated: 4/26, 2013

Dated: 4/29, 2013