

**BEFORE THE MINNESOTA  
BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE**

In the Matter of  
Claire E. McCauley, DVM  
License No. 19822

**AGREEMENT FOR  
CORRECTIVE ACTION**

This Agreement is entered into by and between Claire E. McCauley, D.V.M. ("Licensee"), and the Minnesota Board of Veterinary Medicine Complaint Review Committee ("Complaint Review Committee") based on Minnesota Statutes section 214.103, subdivision 6(a)(2). Licensee and the Complaint Review Committee agree to the following:

**FACTS**

1. While Licensee practiced veterinary medicine at Anoka Equine Veterinary Services ("Clinic") in Elk River, Minnesota, the following occurred:

a. On September 4, 2022, Licensee evaluated Whiskey, a 10-year-old female Quarter Horse/Arabian cross, owned by K.B. and M.B., for an approximately 2-inch-long right forelimb laceration. The injury occurred earlier that day and was surrounded by marked swelling. Licensee did not note lameness of the limb.

b. Licensee cleaned and probed the wound which was below and anterior to the point of the elbow on the lateral side of the limb. Licensee found a small horizontal subcutaneous tract extending cranially for several centimeters. The owner cold-washed the wound. Licensee did not separately flush the wound or appreciate possible elbow joint involvement.

c. Licensee prescribed oral antibiotics and a high dose of phenylbutazone, a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug, that was to be administered for the following days on a tapering dose regimen.

d. On September 6, 2022, and again on September 8, 2022, Licensee communicated with the owner (M.B.) via text messages wherein the owner relayed that Whiskey was very sore on that limb. A shared video clip on September 8, 2022, showed continued Grade 4 lameness at a walk despite ongoing treatment with phenylbutazone. Licensee attributed the lameness to the wound, did not consider other sources of pain, and did not recommend reassessment or imaging.

e. On September 11, 2022, Licensee reviewed another video of Whiskey that showed progressive lameness. Licensee recommended reassessment within the next two days, not immediately. The owner chose to have the mare re-evaluated the same day by another veterinarian from the Clinic.

f. On September 12, 2022, and September 14, 2022, Licensee was provided with updated video clips showing persistence and progression of Whiskey's lameness despite ongoing treatment with a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory medication. Licensee was out of the office on September 14, 2022. On September 15, 2022, Licensee recommended that the owner could schedule an appointment for an ultrasound if there were additional concerns.

g. On September 16, 2022, sepsis of the elbow joint and avulsion of the lateral tuberosity of the proximal radius were identified at another veterinary clinic. Whiskey was euthanized based on the recommendation of this veterinary clinic.

h. Licensee's medical record was incomplete, lacking details of physical examination, differential diagnoses, potential reasons for the progressive increase in severe lameness, and details of owner communication.

2. On March 22, 2023, Licensee met with the Complaint Review Committee, composed of Julie Dahlke, DVM, Board member, and Raye Taylor, D.V.M., Board member, to discuss allegations regarding Licensee's practice of veterinary medicine contained in a Notice of

Conference dated March 7, 2023. Allan Aguilar, Assistant Attorney General, represented the Complaint Review Committee during the conference and participated remotely. Dr. Julia Wilson, executive director of the Board, also participated. Licensee was represented by Robert Kuderer, Esq.

### **CORRECTIVE ACTION**

3. Based on the available information, Licensee and the Committee agree that the conduct above violates Minnesota Statutes section 156.081, subdivision 2(11) and (12); and Minnesota Rules 9100.0700, subpart 1(A) and (C); and 9100.0800, subparts 1 and 4. Licensee and the Committee have agreed to enter into this Agreement for Corrective Action as follows:

a. Within three (3) months from the date of this Agreement, Licensee shall submit to the Committee evidence of completion of at least two (2) credit hours of continuing education for on the topic of medical record keeping. For purposes of this requirement, the Committee preapproves the online course, "Michigan: Medical Records and Veterinary Law" provided by Animal Law and Legal Services.

b. Within three (3) months from the date of this Agreement, Licensee shall submit to the Committee evidence of completion of interactive continuing education pre-approved by the Committee on the following topics:

- i) One hour on equine wound management;
- ii) One hour on the diagnosis and management of equine lameness to include upper limb etiologies.

c. Within one month of completion of the continuing education, Licensee shall submit her appointment schedule for the preceding month to the Committee. The schedule must indicate the purpose of each appointment. Licensee will submit a copy of the complete medical record for three (3) patients, selected by the Committee presented for lameness (1), injury requiring

emergency care (1), and medical condition (1). The medical records must meet the approval of the Committee.

#### **OTHER INFORMATION**

4. Upon Licensee's satisfactory completion of the corrective action referenced in paragraph 3 above, the Committee agrees to dismiss the complaint(s) concerning the matters referenced in paragraph 1. The Committee shall be the sole judge of satisfactory completion. The Committee may reopen this complaint if it receives newly discovered information that was not available to the Committee during the initial investigation, or if the Committee receives a new complaint that indicates a pattern of behavior or conduct.

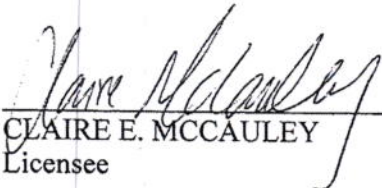
5. If Licensee fails to complete the corrective action satisfactorily, the Committee may, at its discretion, reopen the investigation and proceed according to Minnesota Statutes chapter 156 (the Board's Practice Act) and Minnesota Statutes chapters 214 and 14. Licensee agrees that failure to complete the corrective action satisfactorily is failure to cooperate under Minnesota Statutes section 156.123 and may subject Licensee to disciplinary action by the Board.

6. This agreement shall become effective upon execution by the Board's Executive Director and shall remain in effect until the Committee dismisses the complaint, unless the Committee receives additional information that renders corrective action inappropriate. Upon receiving such information, the Committee may, at its discretion, proceed according to Minnesota Statutes chapter 156 (the Board's Practice Act) and Minnesota Statutes chapters 214 and 14.

7. This agreement is not disciplinary action. *See* Minnesota Statutes section 214.103, subdivision 6. However, this agreement is classified as public data pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 13.41, subdivision 5, and 214.072, subdivision 3.

8. Licensee hereby acknowledges having read and understood this agreement and having 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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CLAIRE E. MCCAULEY  
Licensee

Dated: 5/5/23

  
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JULIA WILSON  
Executive Director

Dated: May 8, 2023