

**BEFORE THE MINNESOTA  
BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE**

In the Matter of  
Eric N. Ruhland, DVM  
License No.09308

**AGREEMENT FOR  
CORRECTIVE ACTION**

This Agreement is entered into by and between Eric N. Ruhland, 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. At all times relevant to these allegations, Licensee practiced veterinary medicine at a pet hospital in St. Paul, Minnesota.
2. On July 6, 2023, shortly before Licensee’s clinic closed, Licensee consented to admit Chiweenie, a 12-year-old male Chihuahua mix owned by A.D. as an emergency patient. Licensee spoke with staff in a manner that was construed as callous when stating the dog might be dead on arrival.
3. Licensee directed his staff to immediately take Chiweenie into the treatment area and to place two catheters, at which time Chiweenie was unresponsive.
4. Licensee’s staff performed a lateral radiograph of the dog because he was conveniently laid on the radiograph table for catheter placement. The radiograph was not labeled with patient identifiers and the date was incorrect.
5. Licensee performed a cursory physical examination, noted fixed and dilated pupils, did not detect a heartbeat and informed his owner that the dog was deceased. Subsequently, upon finding movement and vocalization, Licensee euthanized the patient in the treatment room.

6. Licensee informed his owner that Chiweenie had died unaided and did not disclose that Licensee had administered euthanasia solution without owner permission.

7. Licensee's medical record was grossly incomplete, lacking history, physical examination, diagnosis, and client communication.

8. Licensee placed addendums in the medical record after receiving notice of the conference.

9. On March 8, 2024, Licensee met with the Complaint Review Committee, composed of Julie Dahlke, DVM, Board member, and Raye Taylor, DVM, Board member, to discuss allegations regarding Licensee's practice of veterinary medicine contained in a Notice of Conference dated March 8, 2024. Priya Narayanan, Assistant Attorney General, represented the Complaint Review Committee during the conference and participated remotely. Dr. Julia Wilson, executive director of the Board, also participated.

### **CORRECTIVE ACTION**

11. 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), (B), (C); and (D); 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 one month from the date of this Agreement, Licensee shall submit to the Committee documentation of the continuing education for Licensee's most recent license renewal.

b. Within six months from the date of this Agreement, Licensee shall submit to the Committee evidence of completion of at least eight (8) credit hours of continuing education on the topic of medical records, client communication and ethics. For purposes of this requirement,

the Committee preapproves the following online modules provided by Dr. Sarah Babcock's Animal and Veterinary and Legal Services:

- i) Medical Records and Veterinary Law (2 credits)
- ii) Consent and Client Communication (1 credit)
- iii) 10 Top Medical Record Deficiencies (1 credit)
- iv) Veterinary Ethics (4 credits)

The credits from this continuing education may not be applied to the requirements for Licensee's next license renewal.

c) Within three (3) months of completion of the continuing education above and for two (2) subsequent quarters, Licensee will submit his appointment schedule for the preceding quarter. The record must indicate the reason for the appointment. Copies of the medical record and imaging files will be selected for review from three (3) patients: two emergency patients and one wellness patient. The records must meet the approval of the Committee.

### **OTHER INFORMATION**

1. Upon Licensee's satisfactory completion of the corrective action referenced in paragraph 1 above, the Committee agrees to dismiss the complaint(s) concerning the matters referenced in paragraphs 1-9. 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.

2. 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.


3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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.

  
ERIC N. RUHLAND  
Licensee

Dated: 6/19/24

  
JULIA H. WILSON PAMELA A. JOHNSON  
Executive Director

Dated: 6/20/24