

**BEFORE THE MINNESOTA  
BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE**

In the Matter of  
Megan R. Steele, DVM  
License No. 19518

**AGREEMENT FOR  
CORRECTIVE ACTION**

This Agreement is entered into by and between Megan R. Steele, DVM ("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 was a veterinarian employed at an animal medicine, surgery, and rehabilitation clinic ("Clinic") in Mapleton, Minnesota.
2. On March 27, 2023, Licensee's patient, Monty, a 9-year-old male Maine Coon Cat/Siberian mix owned by C.B., was anesthetized for a dental cleaning and possible tooth extraction.
3. Licensee chose to premedicate Monty with a combination of tiletamine, zolazepam, hydromorphone and dexmedetomidine but could not include propofol to induce general anesthesia because propofol was not an available option at the Clinic.
4. Licensee did not maintain a written record of vital parameters during anesthesia, names and doses of medications, nor duration of the procedures or anesthesia.
5. During the dental procedures, mild hypothermia was addressed with an electric heating pad placed on Monty's trunk with a towel juxtaposed between the pad and Monty's skin. No other equipment to warm the patient was available at the Clinic but has since been purchased.

6. On Saturday, April 1, 2023, Monty's owner noted he was uncomfortable and that the skin of his left thorax and abdomen was reddened. Monty was also repeatedly licking his abdomen.

7. On Saturday, April 1, 2023, Monty's owner contacted the Clinic for advice and sent a picture of the cat's left trunk. A Staff member responded with follow-up questions to Monty's owner to assess Monty's well-being. Monty's owner responded after the Clinic opened on Monday, April 3, 2023. Staff that reviewed the picture did not consider the possibility of an iatrogenic burn and therefore did not recommend urgent care.

8. On April 3, 2023, Licensee evaluated Monty and made a diagnosis of iatrogenic burns secondary to use of the heating pad.

9. Licensee utilized injectable medications to facilitate examination and treatment. The names and quantities of the medications were not recorded.

10. Licensee shaved the affected area of the left thorax and abdomen, cleaned the abnormal skin, and treated the cat with injections of an antibiotic and meloxicam, a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory medication that is approved for one-time use in cats.

11. The Clinic did not have in stock robenacoxib, a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory medication which is indicated for control of postoperative pain and inflammation in cats for up to a maximum of three (3) days, and therefore, Licensee could not provide robenacoxib.

12. Licensee advised Monty's owner about the pain medications available in the Clinic and recommended that gabapentin be used. Licensee was unable to persuade Monty's owner to utilize gabapentin, a safer medication than meloxicam to control anticipated ongoing pain, that was available at the Clinic.

13. Licensee dispensed multiple doses of oral meloxicam for daily pain management despite knowledge of the risk of renal damage posed by repeated administration.

14. Licensee did not choose to prescribe compounded buprenorphine for oral administration, an option for ongoing pain control with a lower risk of complications.

15. The Clinic did not have in stock silver sulfadiazine, a standard wound dressing for burns, and therefore, the Licensee's choice of topical medications for managing the burns was limited by the unavailability of silver sulfadiazine.

16. As to the points described above, the Licensee's medical record for Monty during the March 2023 procedure was incomplete in that it lacked details of a physical examination, medications and anesthesia monitoring.

17. On June 13, 2023, Licensee met with the Complaint Review Committee, composed of John Howe, DVM, Board member, and Steven Shadwick, DVM, Board member, to discuss allegations regarding Licensee's practice of veterinary medicine contained in a Notice of Conference dated May 30, 2023. Rebecca Huting, 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 Stephen Plunkett, Esq. Following the conference, Dr. John Howe recused himself from the matter.

### **CORRECTIVE ACTION**

18. Based on the available information, the Committee views Licensee's practice as to Monty as failing to meet the standard of practice under 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 agrees that the conduct cited above constitutes a reasonable basis in law and fact to justify correction action. 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 three months from the date of this Agreement, Licensee shall submit to the Committee evidence of completion of at least four (4) credit hours on the topic of medical records. For this purpose, the Committee pre-approves the online medical records courses offered by Dr. Sarah Babcock, Animal Law and Legal Services. Other continuing education courses on medical records for this purpose must be pre-approved by the Committee. Credits from this continuing education may not be counted toward meeting the requirements for Licensee's next license renewal.

c. Within six months from the date of this Agreement, Licensee shall submit to the Committee evidence of completion of the following continuing education that must be pre-approved by the Committee:

1) Two (2) credits on the topic of small animal anesthesia to include monitoring and protocols for induction and maintenance of anesthesia.

2) Two (2) credits on the management of burns in small animals.

3) Two (2) credits on feline pain management, to include acute and chronic pain, opioids, and nonsteroidal medications.

Credits from this continuing education may not be counted toward meeting the requirements for Licensee's next license renewal.

d. Within one month from completion of the anesthesia continuing education, Licensee will submit a template to be used for monitoring anesthesia and recording medications.

Licensee will also submit protocols to be used for induction and maintenance of general anesthesia. The template and protocols must meet the approval of the Committee.

e. Within three months of completion of part 18.c. of this Agreement, Licensee will submit a list of her appointments and the nature of those appointments from the preceding three months to the Committee. Copies of the complete medical record from three (3) patients will be selected by the Committee: a surgery patient, a dental patient, and an urgent care appointment such as wounds.

The records must meet the approval of the Committee.

### **OTHER INFORMATION**

19. Upon Licensee's satisfactory completion of the corrective action referenced in paragraph 18 above, the Committee agrees to dismiss the complaint(s) concerning the matters referenced in paragraphs 1-16. 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.


20. 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.

21. 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.

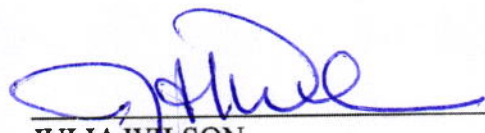
22. This agreement is not disciplinary action. See Minnesota Statutes section 214.103, subdivision 6. However, this agreement is classified as public data pursuant to Minnesota Statutes sections 13.41, subdivision 5, and 214.072, subdivision 3.

23. 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.

  
MEGAN R. STEELE, DVM  
Licensee

Dated: 8/07/2023

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JULIA WILSON  
Executive Director

Dated: August 16, 2023