

## **Discipline Case Report: 2016-04**

The Discipline Committee (DC) convened a hearing of Case #2016-04 Professional Conduct Committee vs Dr Tiffany Pomarenski on May 4, 2018. The report of the Professional Conduct Committee (PCC) had indicated there was evidence Dr Pomarenski may be guilty of professional misconduct based on information and a complaint the Committee had received.

### **Findings**

With regard to Bylaw 22.8(a), Dr Pomarenski showed poor judgement in providing anesthesia and attempting to reduce the hip luxation. Although the DC sympathized with the situation as presented, it did not relieve Dr Pomarenski of her obligation to meet the established standards of practice.

With regard to Bylaw 22.8(b), Dr Pomarenski failed to demonstrate adequate judgement in recognizing her practice limitations and referring to a qualified practitioner.

With regard to Bylaw 22.8(c), Dr Pomarenski contravened the SVMA Code of Ethics.

With regard to Bylaw 22.8(s), Dr Pomarenski attempted to reduce the hip luxation under general anesthesia without proper monitoring and without the benefit of x-ray and failed to refer the client to a clinic with the proper diagnostic and gas monitoring facilities. By failing to do so, the DC determined Dr Pomarenski's actions to be unbecoming, improper, unprofessional or discreditable.

With regard to Bylaw 31.1, by not adhering to the limitations and standards of her ambulatory practice, the DC determined that Dr Pomarenski was not practising veterinary medicine to the best of her ability.

With regard to Bylaw 31.6, by failing to refer and choosing to use a general anesthetic with the intent of manipulating the hip and without the benefit of radiographic diagnosis, it was deemed Dr Pomarenski was operating outside the scope of her practice.

With regard to Bylaw 31.10, Dr Pomarenski did not fulfill her legal obligations to her client and did not comply with the laws, Bylaws and regulations governing her actions.

With regard to Bylaw 31.14, by failing to refer and by attempting to reduce the hip luxation without the benefit of an x-ray Dr Pomarenski failed in her responsibility to provide her patient with the best possible veterinary care.

With regard to Bylaw 33.7, Dr Pomarenski's breach of the SVMA Code of Ethics was evidence of unethical behaviour and was considered to be professional incompetence or professional misconduct.

### **Penalty**

The Discipline Committee determined the penalty should be as follows:

1. A Letter of Reprimand;
2. No Fine; and
3. Pay to the SVMA all costs (\$42,649.24) related to the inquiry and hearing into the member's conduct by April 30, 2019. If the member fails to pay the amount owing by the due date, the member is to be suspended until the amount is paid in full.