

The Discipline Committee (DC) convened two hearings via Zoom on July 6 and on October 20, 2021 to determine an outcome in case #2020-10, a complaint referred to the DC by the Professional Conduct Committee (PCC) against Dr. Davinder Bath.

Dr. Bath had performed surgery on a feline patient suffering from a urinary blockage and subsequent bladder rupture. He had used a warming device while the anesthetized patient was in dorsal recumbency. The patient had an open wound on its back and the improper use of the warming device resulted in extensive damage to the patient's skin.

The complaint was based on 5 potential breaches of the Bylaws of the Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association and 1 potential breach of the *Veterinarians Act, 1987*. Following negotiations between the two opposing counsels, a joint submission based on four charges was presented to the DC.

The four breaches were that Dr. Bath:

1. failed to provide veterinary care that is appropriate and adequate
2. injured a patient by incorrectly using a forced-air warming device
3. failed to keep clear, accurate and detailed client and medical records
4. failed to clearly and consistently communicate all aspects of the patient's health status and treatment costs to the client

The DC accepted the joint submission as presented. However, during the hearing the charge of inadequate records was questioned. The DC members thought that the evidence as presented indicated that case records were satisfactory. After the hearing the DC deliberated amongst themselves the charge of failure to communicate. It was the members' opinion that the evidence/records indicated that Dr. Bath had explained treatment regime and costs to the client and several follow-up phone calls were made to the client. Since Dr. Bath had agreed to the joint submission, it was decided not to intervene in the case. The DC concluded that asking for clarification or rejecting the joint submission would only result in increased legal costs for the accused, since all costs of the investigation and hearing were to be born by Dr. Bath.

The DC assigned a penalty as proposed by the joint submission

1. Dr. Bath shall prepare an information piece on the application of forced-air warming units to be distributed to SVMA members
2. Dr. Bath must complete an on-line medical records course
3. Dr. Bath shall be subject to 2 inspections of his medical records over a twelve-month period
4. He will receive a letter of reprimand
5. He will pay all costs of the investigation and hearing. The costs amounted to \$ 19,685.29.