



# VETERINARY SURGEONS BOARD OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

## Summary of Disciplinary Tribunal Anaesthetic procedure on dog November 2004

### Complaint

This complaint involved the desexing of a female Malamute. The animal was operated on and a certificate of desexing was provided. The certificate was signed by the vet to the effect that the animal had been desexed. The animal was seen to drop blood spots on occasions, and ultimately, the owners took the animal to another veterinarian 2 years later. The second veterinarian performed surgery to ascertain the problem, and found a fully-formed normal uterus and ovaries still present in the animal.

Two counts of unprofessional conduct were lodged in the Formal Complaint. The second count was withdrawn by consent. The veterinary surgeon pleaded guilty to unprofessional conduct based on the first count of the complaint. This was that

*'The respondent acted negligently in that a reasonably competent veterinary surgeon would not have signed the certificate referred to in particular 1.4'.*

### Determination

The Disciplinary Tribunal determined that the veterinarian had signed a certificate indicating the animal had been desexed when it had not been desexed. No records whatsoever relating to the animal or the surgical procedure performed, or treatment given, were available to the Disciplinary Tribunal. There was therefore no explanation as to why the animal was not desexed, and why the veterinary surgeon signed the certificate indicating that it had been desexed.

The Disciplinary Tribunal imposed conditions on the veterinary surgeon and his practices, as follows:

1. Each of the veterinarian's practices has a bound book as a surgery log. All surgical cases performed must be listed in the logbook, with the name of the admitting vet, the name of the owner, the name of the pet, the veterinary procedure or procedures undertaken; and the entry must be signed and dated by the vet who performed the surgical procedure.
2. A document is posted in all the veterinarian's surgeries requiring veterinarians to adhere to procedures and policies of the practice. The document must include information about signing certificates by the person responsible; and completing the surgery log before leaving the practice or before ending the shift.
3. The veterinarian must make sure all veterinarians working for him and/or his practices are aware of the procedures required.
4. The practices will be inspected by the Veterinary Surgeons Board's inspector, to ensure that the surgery logbooks have been completed; anaesthetic monitoring forms are completed and stored appropriately; and the documentation at 2 above



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is correct and on display. The inspections will be carried out in 3 months time, six months time and 12 months time.

5. Costs of the inspections will be borne by the veterinary surgeon.
6. Costs of proceedings of the Disciplinary Tribunal would be agreed between the parties.

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