DOCKETED COMPLAINT NO. 1997-07

TEXAS STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS § TEXAS VETERINARY MEDICAL LICENSE NO. 980
vs. § 1997 RENEWAL CERTIFICATE
NORMAN C. RALSTON, D.V.M. § NUMBER 1600

COMPLAINT AFFIDAVIT

Before me, the undersigned authority, a Notary Public in and for Texas, on this day personally appeared Mike Carroll, who after being duly sworn, did depose and say:

On or about February 29, 1996, Mike Carroll, being an employee of the Texas State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, did in the course of such employment, make certain investigations into the professional conduct of one Norman C. Ralston, D.V.M., LBJ Animal Clinic, 12500 Lake June Road, Mesquite, Texas, 75180. Veterinary License Number 980, 1997 Renewal Certificate Number 1600, a practitioner of veterinary medicine in the State of Texas. As an employee of the Texas Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, I, Mike Carroll, do hereby present the following complaint against Norman C. Ralston, D.V.M.

I.

On June 27, 1995, Ms. Toni Hilton took her nine year old female mini-schnauzer dog "Stasya", to the LBJ Animal Clinic, 12500 Lake June Road, Mesquite, Texas. The dog was presented to the clinic with vomiting and loss of appetite.

II.

The dog was examined by Dr. Norman Ralston. Dr. Ralston performed a fecal exam and a urinalysis from samples brought in by Ms. Hilton. The fecal exam was negative. The results of the urinalysis were as follows, Urobiligen normal, Protein negative, ph 5, Blood negative, Ketone negative, Biliruben negative and Glucose negative. Minimal blood work was performed, resulting in BUN 5-15, PCV 50. Based on this information Dr. Ralston started treating the dog for a kidney condition.

III.

Dr. Ralston treated the dog for a kidney condition from June 27, 1995 through August 23, 1995, with minimal blood testing. Dr. Ralston treated the dog by using Lactated Ringers Solution, a number of different Homeopathic medications and acupuncture.
IV.

On August 30, 1995, Ms. Hilton took the dog in for treatment. At this time, she insisted that blood be drawn and sent off for testing. Dr. Ralston collected the blood and sent it to the Professional Animal Laboratory, in Irvine California. At this point he continued the same treatments for "Stasya".

V.

On September 19, 1995, Ms. Hilton again took her dog to see Dr. Ralston. Dr. Ralston was out of town. The dog was seen by Dr. Anna Scholey, an associate of Dr. Ralston. Dr. Scholey examined the dog. Her diagnosis of the dog’s condition was jaundice and a swollen liver. At this time, Ms. Hilton asked Dr. Scholey if the results from the blood test had returned. Dr. Scholey reviewed the test results from the patient record and informed Ms. Hilton that the test indicated the liver values were abnormal.

VI.

The test results from the Professional Animal Laboratory had been faxed to Dr. Ralston at 6:43am, on August 31, 1995. Dr. Ralston had examined and treated the dog on August 31, September 7, and September 12, 1995. He did not tell Ms. Hilton of the test results during any of these visits nor did he attempt to treat the dog for a liver condition or pursue other diagnostic tests.

VII.

From September 29, 1995 through November 27, 1995, Dr. Ralston continued to treat the dog in the same manner as he had previously. Dr. Ralston referred the dog to Dr. Gerald Rubin, Animal Internal Medicine Clinic, 2353 Royal Lane, Dallas, Texas, on November 27, 1995.

VIII.

Dr. Ralston’s patient records fail to reflect a diagnosis, document body weight and temperature, dosages of various medications administered and contain insufficient details as to what was discovered during his examinations of Ms. Hilton’s dog. Dr. Ralston’s patient records do not reflect the fact that a radiograph was taken of the dog or the results of that radiograph.

IX.

Dr. Ralston’s dispensing labels for medications do not contain the proper information required.

X.

Dr. Ralston ordered and dispensed a 5ml bottle of 2mg ImmunoRegulin, a prescription drug, for Ms. Hilton’s personal use.
XI.

By failing to properly diagnose and treat "Stasya's" medical condition as described in paragraphs II through VII, Dr. Ralston has violated Rule 573.22 Professional Standard of Humane Treatment of the Rules of Professional Conduct.

XII.

By failing to record the required information in his patient records as described in paragraph VIII, Dr. Ralston has violated Rule 573.52 - Patient Record Keeping of the Rules of Professional Conduct.

XIII.

By failing to properly label Homeopathic medications dispensed as described in paragraph IX, Dr. Ralston has violated Rule 573.40 - Labeling of Medications Dispensed of the Rules of Professional Conduct.

XIV.

By dispensing a prescription drug for the treatment of a human as described in paragraph X, Dr. Ralston has violated Rule 573.60 - Practice Prohibition of the Rules of Professional Conduct.

XV.

By violating the Rules of Professional Conduct as described in paragraphs XI through XIV, Dr. Ralston has also violated Section 14 (a) (5) and (11) of the Veterinary Licensing Act, article 8890.

ARTICLE 8890, SECTION 14

(a) . . . the Board may revoke or suspend a license, impose a civil penalty, place a person whose license has been suspended on probation, or reprimand a licensee . . . if it finds that a licensee:

(5) has engaged in practices or conduct in connection with the practice of veterinary medicine which are violative of the standards of professional conduct as duly promulgated by the Board in accordance with a law;

(11) has performed or prescribed unnecessary or unauthorized treatment;
The foregoing complaint is submitted to the Secretary of the Texas Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners on this the 3rd day of November, 1997.

Further, Affiant sayeth not.

[Signature]
Mike Carroll, Affiant

SUBSCRIBED and SWORN TO before me by the said Mike Carroll this the 3rd day of November, 1997.

[Signature]
Charles A. Adkins, Notary Public in and for Texas

The foregoing Complaint is hereby filed and docketed with the Texas State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners and styled Texas State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners vs. Norman C. Ralston, D.V.M. under Docketed Number 1997-07 this the 14th day of Nov., 1997

[Signature]
Howard M. Head, DVM, Board Secretary
Texas State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners