IN THE MATTER OF THE VETERINARY PROFESSION ACT, RSA 2000, c V-2, AS AMENDED;

AND IN THE MATTER OF A HEARING INTO THE CONDUCT OF DR. JEFF SERFAS, A MEMBER OF THE ALBERTA VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION;

AND INTO THE MATTER OF A COMPLAINT BY TT WITH RESPECT TO THE TREATMENT OF HER DOG";

IN THE MATTER OF THE VETERINARY PROFESSION ACT, RSA 2000, c V-2, AS AMENDED;

AND IN THE MATTER OF A HEARING INTO THE CONDUCT OF DR. JEFF SERFAS, A MEMBER OF THE ALBERTA VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION;

AND INTO THE MATTER OF A COMPLAINT BY DP & VP WITH RESPECT TO THE TREATMENT OF THEIR DOG;

IN THE MATTER OF THE VETERINARY PROFESSION ACT, R.S.A. 2000, c. V-2, AS AMENDED;

AND IN THE MATTER OF A HEARING INTO THE CONDUCT OF DR. JEFF SERFAS, A MEMBER OF THE ALBERTA VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION;

AND INTO THE MATTER OF A COMPLAINT BY ABVMA COMPLAINTS DIRECTOR INTO THE CONDUCT OF DR. JEFF SERFAS IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 27.1 OF THE *VETERINARY PROFESSION ACT;*

DECISION OF THE HEARING TRIBUNAL:

...

C. The Hearing Tribunal's Penalty Orders.

Order 1 – A reprimand shall be issued against Dr. Serfas

Order 2(a) – Dr. Serfas' registration shall be suspended from the practice of veterinary medicine in Alberta for a period of one (1) year commencing on June 15, 2019.

Order 2(b) – Commencing on June 15, 2020 and contingent on meeting all other requirements in this order, as well as all applicable ABVMA requirements for licensure, for a period of 3 years Dr. Serfas' practice will be restricted to the practice of large animal veterinary medicine in Alberta.

Order 3(a) – Dr. Serfas will be suspended from the practice of companion animal veterinary medicine in Alberta for a period of 4 years commencing on June 15, 2019.

Order 3(b) – Commencing on June 15, 2023 and contingent on meeting all other requirements of these orders, as well as all other ABVMA requirements for licensure, Dr. Serfas will be eligible to practice companion animal veterinary medicine in Alberta under the immediate or direct supervision of an unrestricted ABVMA General Practice Licensee.

Order 3(c) – Commencing on June 15, 2024 and contingent on meeting all other requirements in this order, as well as all other ABVMA requirements for licensure, Dr. Serfas will be eligible to practice companion animal veterinary medicine in Alberta as unrestricted ABVMA General Practice Licensee Veterinarian.

Order 4 – FVC shall be closed effective as of the date of this decision and shall remain closed until the veterinary practice entity (VPE) passes the ABVMA PIPS inspection, there is an unrestricted ABVMA Practice Licensee assigned as the responsible veterinarian for FVC, and the PIPS Committee and the Complaints Director, acting reasonably, approve the reopening of the FVC clinic.

Order 5 – After re-opening, FVC shall be subject to an unannounced PIPS inspection by an ABVMA PIPS inspector every six (6) months for five (5) years. These inspections shall focus on, but not be limited to, medical records, anesthesia monitoring, appropriate professional staffing, proper equipment (use and maintenance), dispensing (drugs), dental procedures, and companion animal (care). Dr. Serfas shall pay the costs of these practice inspections and shall provide any and all information requested by and to the inspector. The results of each PIPS inspection shall be provided to the PIPS Committee and the Complaints Director for approval. If joint approval is not granted, the VPE will be closed immediately and remain closed until the VPE passes the ABVMA PIPS inspection.

Order 6 – Dr. Serfas shall be required to complete, at his own cost, within six (6) months from the date of this decision, the following continuing education obligations:

Order 6(a) – Complete twenty-five (25) hours of continuing education in the area of companion animal dentistry (approved by the Complaints Director).

Order 6(b) – Provide comprehensive and detailed standard operating procedure (SOPs) that describe the approach to the companion animal dentistry cases, including but not limited to, assessment, documentation, scaling, radiology, extraction, surgery, pain management, and discharge/aftercare instructions, which SOPs must be approved by the Complaints Director.

Order 6(c) – Complete ten (10) hours of continuing education in area of companion animal pain management (approved by the Complaints Director).

Order 6(d) – Complete ten (10) hours of continuing education in area of medical records (approved by the Complaints Director).

Order 6(e) – Complete ten (10) hours of continuing education in area of client communication (approved by the Complaints Director).

Order 6(f) – For clarification, these continuing education hours are in addition to the ABVMA's annual requirement of twenty (20) hours of continuing education.

Order 7 – Dr. Serfas shall pay fines to the association for the findings of unprofessional conduct in the maximum amount of $50,000.00 as follows, which represents $20,000.00 for Discipline

Case # 18-04, $25,000.00 for Discipline Case # 17-22, and $5,000.00 for Discipline Case # 17-31. The fine for Discipline Case # 18- 04 is payable over one (1) year and is payable prior to June 15, 2020. The fines for Discipline Cases # 17-22 and 17-31 are payable over five (5) years and are payable prior to June 15, 2024.

Order 8 – Dr. Serfas shall pay costs of $60,000.00 associated with these investigations and the hearing. These costs are payable over five (5) years and are payable prior to June 15, 2024.

Order 9 – If the Complaints Director determines that Dr. Serfas has breached any of the above penalty orders, including but not limited to, the determination that Dr. Serfas practices veterinary medicine during the period of suspension and/or restricted companion animal practice, Dr. Serfas' registration with the ABVMA will be cancelled for of five (5) years.

Order 10- There shall be publication of this order on a "with names" basis in the ABVMA Newsletter and these orders shall be posted on the ABVMA website until Dr. Serfas has complied with all orders of the Hearing Tribunal.

Dated this 29 day of May, 2019.

Hearing Tribunal