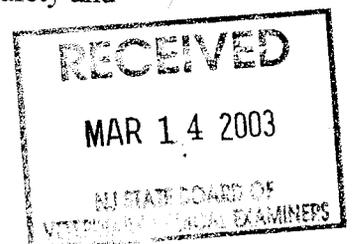


fact mistakenly removed Alf's left eye. She expressed deep remorse for this mistake and confessed that she was unclear how or why her "orientation relationship was in error that day." In her July 2002 correspondence, Dr. Dorney explained what happened the day of Alf's surgery. She indicated that, prior to the surgery, she verified with another veterinarian in the office, her father, which eye was to be removed. She also reviewed other medical reports relative to Alf's condition. Dr. Dorney administered preanesthetics and intubated Alf for surgery. She maintains that she scrubbed for surgery and that when she began to drape the eye, she realized that the cat was positioned upside down or backwards from her usual position for enucleations. While explaining how to position Alf correctly, Dr. Dorney inadvertently touched the cat. She then left the operating room to re-scrub. Upon her return to the operating room, she proceeded with the surgery unaware that she had removed the wrong eye until Ms. Haus came to visit Alf in the evening.

The Board finds that Dr. Dorney was straightforward in her admissions relative to the treatment of Alf. She has demonstrated remorse for her mistake by providing restitution to Ms. Haus and paying for Alf's subsequent eye related medical bills. Additionally, and importantly Dr. Dorney has instituted new procedures in her office in order to avoid a similar mistake in the future.

However, the Board concludes that cause for disciplinary action against Dr. Dorney exists as a result of the conduct detailed above. Specifically, the Board finds that Dr. Dorney engaged in gross negligence, contrary to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(c), which damaged the life, health, welfare or safety of Alf by removing the wrong eye during an enucleation. It appearing that the respondent desires to resolve this matter without the need for formal disciplinary proceedings; and the respondent acknowledging and not contesting the findings of fact and conclusions of law made by the Board; and the Board having been satisfied that the within resolution adequately protects the public health, safety and welfare; and for good cause shown:



IT IS on this 10th day of March 2003,

ORDERED that:

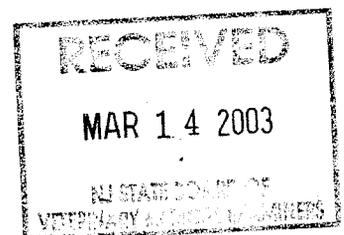
1. The respondent, Kirsten J. Dorney, D.V.M, is hereby formally reprimanded for engaging in gross negligence, contrary to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(c), in her treatment of Alf on February 8, 2002, by removing the wrong eye, which was healthy, during surgery.

2. Dr. Dorney is hereby assessed a civil penalty, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-22, in the amount of \$5,000.00 for engaging in gross negligence in the performance of Alf's eye surgery in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(c). Payment for the civil penalty shall be submitted no later than ten (10) days from the entry of this Consent Order, by certified check or money order, made payable to the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners and shall be forwarded to Leslie Aronson, Executive Director, Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, 124 Halsey Street, Sixth Floor, Post Office Box 45020, Newark, New Jersey 07101. Subsequent violations will subject respondent to enhanced penalties pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-25.

3. Failure to comply with any of the provisions of this Order or remit any and all payments required by this Order will result in the filing of a certificate of debt and may result in subsequent disciplinary proceedings for failure to comply with an Order of the Board.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF
VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By: Neal L. Beeber
NEAL L. BEEBER, D.V.M.
President



I have read and understand the within
Consent Order and agree to be bound
by its terms. Consent is hereby given
to the Board to enter this Order.


KIRSTEN J. DORNEY, D.V.M.

DATE: February 26, 2003