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Lisa Taylor-Austin

From: Colin Harvey [execsec@avdc.org]
Sent: Tuesday, January 27, 2009 11:28 AM
To: 'Lisa Taylor-Austin'
Subject: RE: Specialist status

Dear Ms. Taylor-Austin:

I am the Executive Secretary (and a diplomate) of the American Veterinary Dental College.

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) is the parent group of the American Board of Veterinary Specialties, which is the recognition (accreditation) entity for specialty organizations in North America.

AVMA promulgates a Principles of Veterinary Medical Ethics policy, which is available at <http://www.avma.org/issues/policy/ethics.asp>. See items II, C and X, B.

→ Although it is clear to me that the implication of use of the terms *specialize in dentistry* or *specialty practice* is that the individual is presenting themselves as being a "specialist", AVMA and the state veterinary licensure board would be the arbiters of whether such use is unprofessional if the individual is not a member of an ABVS-recognized specialty organization.

The term '*special interest in*' is in common use by individuals who limit their practice to a particular clinical discipline and who are not diplomates of the relevant AVMA-recognized specialty college.

Complaints that a veterinarian is contravening the AVMA Principles of Veterinary Medical Ethics can be sent to the AVMA Judicial Council (http://www.avma.org/about_avma/governance/volunteering/councils/judicial.asp) and the veterinary licensing authority in the state where the individual practices.

If the individual is a Fellow of the Academy of Veterinary Dentistry, a copy of the complaint can be sent to the Academy Secretary <http://www.avdonline.org/avdcontactavd.html>.

A copy of the complaint can be sent to me for AVDC records; however, AVDC has no standing for taking action on a complaint if the individual is not a diplomate of AVDC.

Colin Harvey
Executive Secretary, AVDC
E-mail: ExecSec@AVDC.org

AVDC

AMERICAN VETERINARY DENTAL COLLEGE

From: Lisa Taylor-Austin [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 27, 2009 6:40 AM
To: 'Lisa Taylor-Austin'; 'Colin Harvey'
Subject: RE: Specialist status

Can this person see the "..." in this email?

Disclaimer:

“Lisa Taylor-Austin believes there was merit to her claims that Dr. Deforge negligently cared for her cat, Simba, and that he misrepresented whether he was a Board-certified dental specialist. Dr. Deforge denies these claims and asserts that the Department of Public Health’s veterinary board cleared him of any wrong doing. However, Dr Deforge agreed to pay \$7,500.00 to compensate Ms. Taylor-Austin because he believed the risks inherent in any lawsuit and the cost of missing two weeks from his practice made it imprudent to go to trial.”

Note: My guardian’s costs for my medical care and all legal avenues exceeded \$20,000.