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Connecticut Veterinary Medical Association
PO Box 1058
Glastonbury, CT 06033

Dear Connecticut VMA:

I am in receipt of a letter and related materials from Ms. Lisa Taylor-Austin dated February 9, 2009 sent to the Practitioner Licensing and Investigations Section of the Connecticut Department of Public Health, registering a complaint against Dr. Donald DeForge.

The materials provided by Ms. Taylor-Austin include a copy of page 42 from the 2008-2009 Connecticut VMA (CVMA) Directory. The page is titled: AVMA Recognized Specialty Boards: CVMA Member Diplomates, and lists Dr. DeForge under the heading American Veterinary Dental College (AVDC).

Dr. DeForge is not a Diplomate of AVDC. Please remove the AVDC notation for Dr. DeForge from your Directory, inform your members of this correction, and take any other action appropriate.

I note from your web site that the CVMA Code of Ethics includes the following:

Section 1. Every member shall observe the Veterinary Practice Act and the Code of Ethics adopted by this Association, and shall be answerable thereto for a breach of same.

Section 2. Unless specifically amended by the membership, the principals of veterinary medical ethics established by the American Veterinary Medical Association shall govern the acts and activities of each member of this corporation.

Section 3. Personal or other solicitation and/or advertising may be considered unprofessional conduct if a veterinarian, for himself, partner or associate, or for any other veterinarian, person or organization affiliated with him shall....

(iv) states or implies that a veterinarian is a certified or recognized specialist unless he is board certified in such specialty.

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.