

Rockwood Vet pleads guilty, loses licence for six months

By Frances Niblock

Rockwood vet Dr. Clare Maine plead guilty to professional misconduct and will lose her licence for up to six months for her treatment of Lola, a dog who suffered for two months with an undisclosed broken jaw following dental surgery in January 2005 at the Rockwood Veterinary Clinic.

Lola's owner, an Eramosa woman who adopted the tiny dog from a puppy mill, was at the May 17 hearing in Guelph, when a College of Veterinarians of Ontario (CVO) disciplinary panel fined and assessed costs of \$6,500 against Dr. Maine, and banned her from performing canine dental surgery. The suspension begins when Dr. Maine's current maternity leave ends this fall.

On Tuesday, Rose Robinson, the complaints coordinator at the CVO confirmed the guilty plea, but said the official reasons for the decision would not be available for several weeks and would not discuss any penalty conditions.

Lola's owner, who does not want to be identified, can't believe Dr. Maine allowed her dog to suffer.

The owner said she almost fainted when another vet at the clinic phoned her and asked if she was aware that Lola's jaw had been fractured during dental surgery, information in Dr. Maine's chart. Complications set in and the dog was put down after two months of pain and suffering.

Lola's owner said the penalty is not enough.

"Even though she plead guilty, she has never once apologized to me ... I think it is unconscionable for anyone - if I knew that my pet had a broken bone and I just disregarded it I would be guilty of cruelty - but for a vet to do it - she admitted that no one told me about it (the fracture)," she said on Monday.

The owner also asked the CVO panel to be more accountable to the public and prominently post disciplinary decisions on vets on its website.

"People have to know about this," she said, adding no more pets should needlessly die.

On Tuesday, the CVO website listed Dr. Maine as having a clean record, an inaccuracy Robinson said

was due to the newness of the website, adding "that is something we have to work on."

This is the second time the CVO has suspended Dr. Maine's licence to practice because of professional misconduct - the first suspension was for four months in December 2003, with four subsequent months reduced when Dr. Maine completed three courses, paid fines and costs and agreed to mentoring and to having her practice monitored, which ended last month.

Dr. Maine is scheduled to appear before the CVO disciplinary hearing on June 7 for a verbal reprimand in connection with her guilty plea.

No information is available about a May 10, CVO complaints review committee meeting that dealt with a complaint against Dr. Maine by Acton's Amawatie Schroeder into the unexpected death of her five-year-old Dalmatian, Felix, while under Dr. Maine's care at the Rockwood Veterinary Clinic in December 2005.

At press time, Dr. Maine was not available for comment.

Guelph/
Eramosa

Council Chips
by Rebecca Ring

Tax collection authority delegated to Manager of Revenue

Council delegated the treasurer's authority for tax collection responsibilities to the Manager of Revenue. The need to extend this authority from the finance department arose when the manager of revenue ran into problems during the sale of land for tax arrears. She did not have the authority to sign the necessary documents. Council passed a by-law granting this authority for tax collection and tax sales according to the *Municipal Act, 2001*.

Retirement and service recognition policy adopted

Council agreed to adopt a policy "to acknowledge and recognize the commitment and dedication of [township] employees and volunteer firefighters." For retirement, gift certificates will be awarded as follows:

ten to 14 years of service is \$125, 15 to 19 years is \$150, 20 to 24 years is \$175, 25 to 29 years is \$200, 30 to 34 years is \$225, 35 to 39 years is \$250, and 40 or more years of service is \$300. In addition, the township will hold a retirement event with a budget of \$2,000 for a retiring employee with 25 plus years of service, at the recipient's discretion.

For those still on staff or duty, the following will be awarded: after ten and 15 years of service, a letter of congratulations from the mayor; after 20 years, a letter of congratulations from the mayor and a gift certificate for \$150; after 25 years, a letter of congratulations from the mayor and a gift certificate for \$175; after 30 and 35 years, a letter of congratulations from the mayor and a gift certificate for \$200; after 40 years, a letter of congratulations from the mayor and a gift certificate for \$250.

The Rockwood
MILLER



Wellington OPP issue 343 charges in Road Safety Week

Canada Road Safety Week from May 16 through to May 22 saw the Victoria Day weekend included in the period, and it is always a major focus period for the OPP because of the large volume of traffic and the number of serious collisions that occur.

The main focus was the three major factors that lead to death or serious injury which have been identified as speed (aggressive driving), lack of seatbelt use and drinking and driving. Wellington OPP focused on main thoroughfares and intersections throughout the

County. Results include:

Drinking and Driving Offences - 5 charges; 12-hour suspensions - 7 issued; fail to yield offences - 14 charges; careless driving - 6 charges; seatbelt violations - 17 charges; speeding - 294 charges. Total: 343 charges.

There were 24 property damage collisions, four including deer, six personal injury collisions, six injured for a total of 30.

There was one reported marine incident over the Victoria Day weekend, on the Saturday officers

responded to a report of boaters in distress on Puslinch Lake. A local resident heard cries for help from boaters and called police.

Officers responded but did not locate anyone in distress. Investigation revealed that four unknown boaters had called for help and a local resident had gone to their aid. Four adults all wearing PFDs (personal floating devices) called for help when their aluminum boat took on water and began to sink. They were close to shore and were all rescued. The boat sank. No one was injured.

Memorial service at Eden Mills cemetery

A memorial service is being held at the Eden Mills Community cemetery on Sunday, June 4 to remember loved ones buried there. The service will start at 2p.m.

Not only is the service a time to remember loved ones, those who attend will also be able to meet old friends and see the new additions at the cemetery, says Linda Wilson of the committee organizing the memorial.

THE
CLASSIFIEDS

small ads

BIG

deals

Ask for Marie!

Phone (519) 853-0051

CAPSULE
Comments



Canada is the first country in the world to call for mandatory labelling of trans fats in food. This occurred in December 2005 so now consumers can determine how much of this bad fat is in pre-packaged food like baked goods, snack foods and some breads.

However there is some good news about coffee that we often have with our trans-fat-containing baked goods. Although coffee does raise your blood pressure for a short time after a cup, it certainly doesn't cause any permanent hypertension.

Morning sickness during early pregnancy can be quite a problem. There are safe prescription drugs that can control it but some women get relief from ginger capsules. These usually come in a 500mg strength and it is a safe way of controlling the nausea. If that doesn't work, there are other treatments.

Many doctors aren't refilling prescriptions by phone anymore. This is a good idea. It allows doctors more time for direct patient care and patients will have enough medication to last until their next visit. Ensure your prescription has enough refills on it. Our pharmacists will remind you when you have had your last refill.

We subscribe to many pharmacy and medical journals to ensure our knowledge about medications is current. Life-long learning is all part of being a pharmacist. It helps us serve you better.

ROCKWOOD PHARMACY
178 Alma Street, Rockwood ON (519)856-9486