

IN THE MATTER OF the *Veterinarians Act*, SBC 2010, c. 15, as amended

The College of Veterinarians of British Columbia

(the “College”)

– and –

Dr. Pavitar Bajwa

(the “Respondent”)

Counsel for the College

**A. Doolittle
O. Adamson**

Counsel for Dr. Bajwa

C. Parfitt

Introduction

1. The College applies to adjourn this discipline hearing as it has been advised Dr. Bajwa died in India on June 4, 2026, where he was receiving medical care for his serious health issues. The hearing is currently set for the week of July 6 – 10, 2026.
2. The panel is aware there are several other outstanding disciplinary proceedings against Dr. Bajwa. The College seeks an order that this matter be adjourned generally, that is, without a new specific date, and has advised that it intends to seek a general adjournment of each of the matters against Dr. Bajwa.
3. These disciplinary proceedings make allegations of professional misconduct and are known to, or followed by, complainants, members of the profession and members of the public. Dr. Bajwa disputed each of the allegations set out in the citations.
4. The College submits that it is important to bring the various proceedings to an end formally and with an explanation for why they are being concluded without a decision on the merits. It believes it is important that observers of the proceedings, including

complainants, be made aware why no hearings are occurring in respect of the outstanding disciplinary matters. The College does not wish to simply adjourn all the proceedings without providing a brief background and chronology of each one.

5. The College submitted several reasons in support of its position. First, the College notes that the Discipline Committee has delegated the control and management of the proceeding to the various panels. Second, it is the various panels which have the power to adjourn the proceedings under s. 284(1)(b) of the Bylaws.
6. Further, as the different proceedings are at different stages, it is possible that the College will seek specific directions in one hearing but not another, and it is possible that different panels will make specific directions on their own motion. Finally, as indicated above, the College submits that brief reasons for the adjournments will be in the public interest. There may be case-specific facts appropriately included in such reasons.
7. The Panel agrees that brief reasons for the adjournment are appropriate together with a direction respecting what should be done to conclude this matter.
8. Counsel for the College has prepared a brief chronology of some of the steps taken in this matter following the issuance of the Citation. We find the chronology to be accurate and concise, and we have incorporated it into these reasons.

Abbreviated Chronology

9. The Citation in this matter was issued on October 16, 2024, and sets out several allegations respecting the spay surgery treatment of a seven-month-old kitten named “Lilly.”
10. The hearing in this case was originally set for December 16-19, 2024. It was adjourned at Dr. Bajwa’s request due to his counsel’s schedule. The matter was then set for the week of July 28, 2025. No earlier dates could be found due to schedules of counsel and the Panel.
11. In March of 2025, Dr. Bajwa travelled to India to seek medical treatment. On July 14, 2025, counsel for Dr. Bajwa filed a notice of motion seeking to adjourn the hearing dates based on Dr. Bajwa’s medical condition. The College consented, on certain conditions, and the hearing was ultimately rescheduled to the week of February 9, 2026.
12. Dr. Bajwa returned to British Columbia in mid-September 2025 but then returned to India in November 2025. On January 9, 2026, counsel for Dr. Bajwa filed a further notice of motion seeking to adjourn the hearing dates based on Dr. Bajwa’s medical condition. The College again consented to an adjournment, on certain conditions including reporting requirements in relation to Dr. Bajwa’s medical condition, and the hearing was ultimately rescheduled to the week of July 6, 2026.

Conclusion

13. These proceedings have presented the Panels hearing each of the citations against Dr. Bajwa with a challenging task of balancing the public interest in the timely resolution of disciplinary proceedings with Dr. Bajwa's interest in ensuring the hearing was fair, a matter impacted by his inability to prepare for and attend the hearing due to his medical condition, particularly in the past six months.
14. There is a duty of fairness associated with any professional disciplinary process. In all proceedings the panel must conduct its work in an unbiased and fair manner. That duty includes hearing evidence and submissions of both parties before reaching a decision. That duty cannot be satisfied when the respondent has died before the hearing has begun.
15. There is process in the Criminal Law whereby criminal charges, no matter how serious, are ended upon proof of death of the accused person. We intend to follow a similar process here. Once the College has received formal confirmation of Dr. Bajwa's death, this citation must be referred back to the Investigation Committee of the College to take steps to conclude the citation and to take all necessary steps related to Dr. Bajwa's registration with the College.
16. In this way we believe the statutory obligations of the College to enforce standards of practice, pursuing matters of discipline, and governing registrants in accordance with the Act will be satisfied. Transparency is important to the College's processes, so the public can perceive what it is doing in fulfilment of its duties and objects.
17. In the circumstances, we order that this matter be adjourned generally pending the receipt of formal documentation respecting the death of Dr. Bajwa. Once that information is received the matter is to be referred to the Investigation Committee for further action without the need to reappear before us. However, either of the parties may request a further appearance before this panel if it is deemed necessary for any reason.

DATED this 8th day of July, 2026.

Keith Bracken

Keith Bracken, Chair

Catharine Shankel

Dr. Catharine Shankel

Amy Cheung

Dr. Amy Cheung