dix C, Part 2, Security #1(iv) and #2 Dispensing. Only a veterinarian may dispense narcotics and/or controlled drugs. What can an employee of a veterinarian do? Appendix C, part 3, sets out what an employee can do in relation to drugs other than narcotic and/or controlled drugs or those listed in Part 1, Schedule F, of The Food and Drug Act.

What if you are approached to be a professional witness in a lawsuit? I am assuming one party to an action wishes you to give evidence as to proper medical care. You may set your own fee in advance with the lawyer of the party calling you. It should reflect your time spent and should not be dependent on the outcome of the case. Meet with the lawyer and review all up to date texts on the issue in dispute. Consult texts that are recognized authorities. Make sure you know precisely what the questions will be that the lawyer will put to you. Discuss with him possible questions on cross-examination. The lawyer cross-examining will usually not attack you in a direct manner, but will chip away at the edges of your testimony. Such things as "your opinion would be more accurate if you were actually present at the operation? You would be in a better position if the owner had informed you as to certain other factors? In an emergency perfection is often impossible? Hindsight is not available to the doctor operating on a mute animal? The symptoms could be equally consistent with more than one diagnosis? The practise in issue does not represent a great deviation from normal practise? At most it is an error of judgment? The symptoms could well have been affected by the subsequent care of the owner?"

Sharpe and Sawyer say at pages 135 and following:

> It is essential to get the facts sorted out and arranged in an orderly fashion. Office and hospital records should be sorted out and carefully examined. With the necessary information at one's fingertips, a doctor can give his evidence clearly and logically, with enough confidence in his testimony to answer any question.
>
> Equally important in the preparation of testimony is a review of what the authors of widely-accepted texts in the field have to say about the main points in issue. Bear in mind that the lawyers will have read the same material in many cases. Sometimes, the information available to the lawyer will be outdated. In such instances, and where it may turn out that the physician recommended or carried out a procedure not found in older texts, one should be able to justify the practise in question by reference to the latest journals or textbooks.

Last, make sure you are insured. This is vital. The premiums are reasonable. You should have your premises insured for any accident which might occur and you should be covered for malpractice.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Survival of *Trichinella spiralis* Larvae in Deep-frozen Wolf Tissue

DEAR SIR:

I wish to report an observation made during a survey conducted to investigate the incidence of trichinella infection in wild carnivores of Alberta. The survey was a joint project of Alberta Fish and Wildlife Division and the Peace River Regional Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, Alberta Agriculture.

Tongue muscle from a wolf killed in the Fort McMurray area of Alberta was found to contain motile larvae of *Trichinella spiralis*. This muscle sample had been maintained frozen for 18 months at -10°C before examination. To test the viability of these larvae, portions of the remaining tongue muscle were digested with a pepsin/HCl solution. One hundred larvae were recovered and administered by stomach tube to a white laboratory mouse. Six weeks later the mouse was necropsied and encysted larvae of *T. spiralis* were identified in the tongue and diaphragm.

As the trichinella larvae in this wolf remained infective despite temperatures of -10°C for 18 months it suggests that we are dealing with the arctic strain of trichinella (ATS). In 1950 it was suggested that the arctic strain of trichinella might be resistant to low temperatures (1). Since then viable trichinella have been recovered from black bear meat frozen for 81 days at -18°C (2) and in polar bear meat after storage for 12 months at -15°C (3).

I acknowledge the guidance given by Dr. Lydden Polley, Western College of Veterinary Medicine, on the procedure to demonstrate the infectivity of the larvae.

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