Dr. John Doe performed surgery on a dog named Roxy. As the surgery proved to be more complicated than initially anticipated, Dr. Doe determined that he would like to keep Roxy overnight on IV fluids and re-examine her in the morning. Dr. Doe called Roxy's owners and advised them of his plan to keep Roxy overnight; however, Dr. Doe did not explain to Roxy's owners that Roxy would be left alone in the clinic overnight. Dr. Doe examined Roxy the next day and determined that she was ready to go home.

Issue: should Dr. Doe have advised Roxy's owners that Roxy would be left alone in the clinic overnight?

Answer: Yes. A registrant must obtain informed consent from a client before providing veterinary services (section 211(2) of Part 4 of the CVBC Bylaws). In order to obtain informed consent from a client for proposed veterinary services, a registrant must ensure that the client is provided with information a reasonable person would require to understand the proposed veterinary service (section 211(5) of Part 4 of the CVBC Bylaws). The information that a registrant provides to client must include information about the level of supervision that will be provided, including the level of supervision with respect to after hours care (Section 211(6)(j) of Part 4 of the CVBC Bylaws). The client should also be clear on the alternatives that are available to them should they be uncomfortable with the level of after hours care.

Additional information about the recommended overnight hospitalization (the "Proposed Service") that should have been provided to the client as part of the informed consent discussion would include:

- the reason for the recommendation for the Proposed Service,
- the general nature of the Proposed Service (including but not limited to the level of supervision that would be provided overnight),
- the purpose (expected benefit) of the Proposed Service,
- the risks or dangers of the Proposed Service
- reasonable alternative course of action available (i.e. referral to an emergency clinic, at home monitoring) and the risks and benefits of each
- potential consequences to the patient if the recommendation is refused
- who (veterinarian, non-veterinarian staff) will be providing which aspects of the proposed service

(Section 211(6)(a-g) of part 4 of the Bylaws)