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and half years; we're not talking about a couple of weeks here," said David Hutson, Oakland County assistant prosecutor. "That's really a big thing."

Kahan, who is a veterinarian at VCA Hospital, let his license lapse for a 1 1/2 years and has since renewed it, his attorney said. The process doesn't involve retesting or review.

Once he learned his license expired, the vet renewed it the following day, a Farmington

Hills police detective said. "This is purely a ministerial mistake of not renewing a license," said James Budnick, Kahan's attorney. "He just didn't send in his 60 bucks or whatever in."

The attorney said the prosecutor is relenting to pressure from Dana Saulles, whose Bichon Frise Bo died from an intestinal disease in March. Kahan treated the dog and was unlicensed at the time, she said.

"I'm upset the dog died; I don't have a vendetta," said Saulles, who refused to comment as to whether she intends to sue the vet. "He did something wrong. He didn't do the right thing and he doesn't want to be held responsible."

Saulles, who is single, has two other dogs, Quigley and Doogie. Bo took ill in March and Saulles took him to Kahan. She doesn't have children and considers the animals as part of her family.

When the dog continued to have problems with his hind legs, she took him to an emergency veterinarian hospital where the intestinal disease was discovered. The disease, which resulted from pancreatitis, progressed too far and the dog died shortly after.

Bo originally belonged to Saulles' fiancé, Bob, who died at 47 of a stroke. She also took the dog to an area nursing home to visit elderly residents, who affectionately called him "Snowball."

"So not only is it my family that has lost my precious sweetie, Bo, it's the nursing home."

Saulles said sobbing. "It's the only thing I had left of him. People don't know that. He was just a wonderful dog."

Since investigating the matter herself, Saulles has talked to numerous animal rights organizations. She wonders how many other veterinarians are unlicensed.

Saulles also thinks state law should be changed in terms of strengthening the rights of pet owners, especially in terms of access to veterinarian records. She said she was unable to get the records for her deceased dog and the prosecutor's office had to subpoena them.

"This is not about me; this thing is about animals," she said.

If convicted, she'd like to see the veterinarian spend time in jail, be fined and have a donation sent in her dog's name to the Michigan Humane Society. Saulles doesn't see that happening, though.

The vet's attorney believes the matter should be dropped.



Dogs: Doogie (at left) and Bo, who took ill in March and later died, have been part of Dana Saulles' life for quite a while. She says she has no vendetta against Dr. Michael Scott Kahan.

Burdick said his goal is "to get into perspective. What has the prosecutor's office to put it done wrong?"

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