STATE OF MARYLAND
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BEFORE THE STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS

IN THE MATTER OF:	*	
SAMIR HAFEZ, D.V.M.	*	DOCKET NO. 19-52
LICENSE NO. 2096	*	

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ORDER ACCEPTING LETTER OF SURRENDER

The State of Maryland Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners ("Board") hereby accepts the letter of surrender of the veterinary license of Samir Hafez, D.V.M. ("Dr. Hafez"), License No. 2096, which is attached as Exhibit A. Board records will reflect that as of the date of this Order, Dr. Hafez has surrendered his license to practice veterinary medicine and is bound by all terms, conditions, and promises set forth in the letter of surrender.

ORDER

Based upon the attached Letter of Surrender, it is hereby **ORDERED**, that the letter of surrender signed by Samir Hafez, DVM (License No. 2096) and received by the Board on June 16, 2020, be, and hereby is accepted. Dr. Hafez is hereby **ORDERED** to comply with all of terms, conditions, and promises in his letter of surrender, including surrendering his license to the Board's Executive Director immediately. In addition, Dr. Hafez must immediately surrender any license to practice veterinary medicine issued by any other state and may not apply for any new license or reinstatement of any existing license until he has applied and been reinstated to practice veterinary medicine in Maryland. In accordance with the letter of surrender and this Order, Dr. Hafez is no longer authorized to practice veterinary medicine in Maryland. This is a public order.

WITNESS the hand and seal of the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, State of Maryland, this 23rd day of July, 2020.

STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY
MEDICAL EXAMINERS

Elizabeth Callahan, DVM
President
State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners
Maryland Department of Agriculture
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Room 102
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
Telephone: 410.841.5862

Exhibit A

Dear Dr. Callahan and Members of the Board,

Please be advised that I will be retiring from the practice of veterinary medicine as of April 1, 2020. I am in the process of closing the veterinary hospital I own and at which I serve as responsible veterinarian, namely Worcester Animal Clinic, License No. 23-008. Presently, the hospital is open part-time and I am not accepting any new patients. I do not perform surgery at the practice. I have been informing my patients that they will need to find other veterinary care for their animals after my hospital has closed and providing copies of medical records.

This letter affirms my intention to surrender my veterinary license, License No. 2096, as of April 1, 2020. I understand that once my license is surrendered, I may not give veterinary medical advice or treatment to any animal, with or without compensation, and cannot prescribe medications or otherwise engage in the practice of veterinary medicine as it is defined in the Maryland Veterinary Practice Act ("Veterinary Practice Act"), Agriculture Article, §§ 2-301, *et seq.,* Annotated Code of Maryland (2016 Repl. Vol.) and related COMAR regulations. In other words, if the Board accepts this surrender, I will be in the same position as an unlicensed individual in this State.

I understand that this Letter of Surrender will be a **PUBLIC DOCUMENT**, and upon acceptance by the Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners ("the Board"), becomes a part of a **FINAL ORDER** of the Board.

I understand that a complaint was filed with the Board on or June 11, 2018 (Docket No. 19-52), alleging violations of the Veterinary Practice Act arising from my treatment of two animals. To date, the Board has not finalized action on this complaint, and therefore, has not made any findings of facts or conclusions of law regarding the allegations contained in the complaint. I have agreed to give up my license in the manner acceptable to the Board as of April 1, 2020, without need for the Board to conduct further proceedings in Docket No. 19-52, including filing formal charges and conducting a hearing.

I acknowledge that I have had the opportunity to consult with an attorney before signing this letter surrendering my license to practice veterinary medicine. I understand that by submitting this letter, I have no right to any further due process with respect to the surrender/revocation of my license, including a right to a hearing or an appeal.

I further acknowledge and agree that I will not seek to have my license reinstated or reapply for a new license to practice veterinary medicine in Maryland for the next two years.

I further understand that if more than 2 years have elapsed from the Board's acceptance of my letter to surrender, I may obtain a license only by compliance with the same requirements that are imposed by Agriculture Article, Sections 2-301 *et seq.*, Maryland Annotated Code, on other license applicants.

I understand that for the Board to reinstate my license or to grant me a new license, I must apply and appear before the Board with satisfactory evidence of my current fitness to practice

veterinary medicine and that I bear the burden of demonstrating to the Board that I am competent to practice veterinary medicine in this State. I understand and agree that as part of the application process, if ordered by the Board to do so, I will consent to and report for mental or physical examination in accordance with Agriculture Article, § 2-307-1, Maryland Annotated Code, to demonstrate my current fitness to practice veterinary medicine.

By agreeing to this condition, I understand that the Board is not required to order a mental or physical examination and is not precluded from denying my application for licensure based upon other grounds, including, but not limited to, the facts giving rise to the complaint in Docket No. 19-52. I also understand that the Board may consider the information obtained in this/these or any other investigations of my veterinary practice which may arise in the interim, when making a decision on any future application.

I understand that the Board will advise the American Association of Veterinary State Boards and the National Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners of this Letter of Surrender.

I agree that I shall send by certified mail, return receipt required, my Drug Enforcement Administration Registration card to: Division Supervisor, Drug Enforcement Administration, 200 St. Paul Place, 22nd Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21202.

I acknowledge that the Board will send a copy of this Letter of Surrender and/or any final order reflecting the surrender entered by the Board to both the State of Maryland Division of Drug Control and the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), attesting that I am surrendering my privilege to prescribe controlled dangerous substances in the State of Maryland. I agree that I will not reapply for certifications for use in the State of Maryland with the United States DEA or the State of Maryland Division of Drug Control unless and until the Board reinstates my license to practice veterinary medicine.

I agree to surrender all active licenses to practice veterinary medicine that I have in any other states, and I agree not to apply for licensure or reactivation of any inactive license in any other state until such time as the Maryland Board reinstates my license to practice veterinary medicine.

I understand language, meaning, terms, and effect of this letter, as well as the consequences of the Board's acceptance of my surrender or its issuance of a Consent Order revoking my license.

Sincerely,

Samir A. Hafez, D.V.M.