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

IN THE MATTER OF:	*	
GREGORY V. MEYER, DVM LICENSE NO. 4256	*	DOCKET NO. 19-61
	*	
MARYMONT ANIMAL HOSPITAL, INC. HOSPITAL LICENSE NO. 15-025	*	

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CIVIL PENALTY FINAL ORDER

This Civil Penalty Final Order ("Order"), dated this 15th day of January, 2020, is issued by the Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners ("Board" or "SBVME") against Dr. Gregory V. Meyer, DVM ("Dr. Meyer"), License No. 4256. This Order confirms the intention of Dr. Meyer to waive the right to contest the charges filed by the Board on March 29, 2019 in Docket No. 19-61, alleging that Dr. Meyer, as owner and responsible veterinarian at Marymont Animal Hospital, Inc., (License No. 15-025) violated the Maryland Veterinary Practice Act, Agriculture Article, Sections 2-301 - 2-316, Annotated Code of Maryland, ("Veterinary Practice Act") and related Code of Maryland Regulations ("COMAR") 15.14.01 – 15.14.17. By email dated April 27, 2019, Dr. Meyer requested a hearing on the charges. Thereafter, he appeared before the Board for a Resolution Conference on June 27, 2019. By email dated January 13, 2020, Dr. Meyer notified the Board of his voluntary withdrawal of the hearing request, as well as his agreement to resolve the matter through this Order and to pay the civil penalty proposed.

Under State law, the Board is the licensing authority responsible for regulating the practice of veterinary medicine in this State, which includes filing disciplinary actions against veterinarians charged with violating provisions of the Veterinary Practice Act and related COMAR regulations. As part of its authority, the Board "may refuse, suspend, or revoke any application or license, and censure or place on probation any licensee . . . if the veterinarian or veterinary practitioner . . . [f]ails to comply with Board rules and regulations after receiving a license[.]" Md. Code Ann., Agric. Art., § 2-310(8). In addition, the

Board may impose a civil penalty of not more than $5,000 for a first offense, or $10,000 for a second or subsequent offense in lieu of or in addition to suspending or revoking a veterinarian's license, respectively. Md. Code Ann., Agric. Art. § 2-310.1. In setting the amount of a civil penalty, the Board shall consider the severity of the violation, the good faith of the violator, and the history of prior violations as well as the Board's regulatory civil penalty standards. Md. Code Ann., State Gov't Art., § 10-1001(b); COMAR 15.14.11 (Civil Penalty Standards for Veterinarians).

FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Gregory V. Meyer, DVM, License No. 4256 ("Dr. Meyer"), after having the opportunity to seek advice of legal counsel, has waived his right to a hearing on the charges in Docket No. 19-61 and agreed to pay the $1,500.00 civil penalty assessed by the Board. In so doing, Dr. Meyer acknowledges that the Board has sufficient evidence to find, as fact, and conclude as a matter of law that he violated Agriculture Article Section 2-310(8), Md. Code Ann., and related regulation; specifically COMAR 15.14.01.12-3C (Expired Medications) and COMAR 15.14.01.12D (Controlled Dangerous Substances), as follows:

1. At all times relevant to these charges, Dr. Meyer was a veterinarian licensed to practice in Maryland, where he been licensed since 1993. Dr. Meyer is the owner and responsible veterinarian at a veterinary hospital known as Marymont Animal Hospital, Inc. ("Hospital") located at 24 Randolph Road, Silver Spring, MD 20904 (License No. 15-025).

2. Dr. Meyer has a prior disciplinary history with the Board involving expired medications. In Docket No. 17-50, Dr. Meyer was found to have violated the Board's expired medication regulations, as reflected in a Civil Penalty Final Order. For the violation(s) found, Dr. Meyer paid a civil penalty of $750.00.

3. On February 26, 2019, during a follow up inspection of the Hospital, Board Inspector, Pegeen Morgan ("Ms. Morgan"), and Board Investigator, Susan Husk ("Ms. Husk"), discovered 8 expired medications in the Hospital's treatment cabinets mixed with non-expired medication. The oldest of the expired medications found during the inspection, a bottle of barium sulfate powder, had expired in July of 2018 and another, Medicated Hot Spot Spray, had expired in August of 2018. One of the expired

medications found was a controlled drug (Schedule IV), namely Tramadol, which was not in a locked cabinet. The findings of Ms. Morgan's inspection are reflected in a Veterinary Hospital Inspection Report. In addition, the co-owner of the Hospital, Alison Martini, DVM (License No. 4800), signed a COMAR Violation Sheet, reflecting the expired medication violation found during the inspection.

4. COMAR 15.14.01.12-3A prohibits veterinarians from administering expired medications to an animal and COMAR 15.14.01.12-3C requires that expired medications be packaged and kept separate and apart from unexpired medications until disposal of such medications. By allowing expired medications to be maintained in the Hospital's working stock, as identified during the February 26, 2019 inspection, Dr. Meyer, the Hospital's responsible veterinarian, violated COMAR 15.14.01.12-3C.

5. In addition, COMAR 15.14.01.12D provides that a veterinarian must maintain all Schedule III-V drugs under lock when not in use. By allowing a Schedule IV drug, namely Tramadol, to be maintained in the Hospital's working stock unsecured, Dr. Meyer violated COMAR 14.14.01.12D.

Taking all the facts and circumstances into consideration, including the nature of the violation, the veterinarian's prior disciplinary history with the Board involving expired medications, and the veterinarian's good faith effort to resolve this matter, the Board concluded that the most reasonable and appropriate resolution in this matter was a civil penalty only.

ORDER

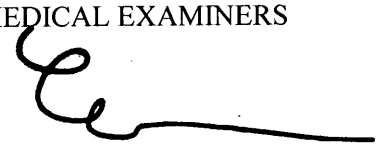
Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, it is this 15th day of January, 2020, by the Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, **ORDERED** that:

1) for the violation of Agriculture Article, § 2-310(8), Md. Code Ann., of the Veterinary Practice Act, and COMAR 15.14.01.12-3C, Dr. Meyer is assessed a civil penalty in the amount of $1000.00;
2) for the violation of Agriculture Article, § 2-310(8), Md. Code Ann., of the Veterinary Practice Act, and COMAR 15.14.01.12D (Controlled Dangerous Substances), a first violation, Dr. Meyer is assessed a civil penalty of $500.00;
3) The total civil penalty of $1500.00 is due within twelve months of the date of this order. At minimum, the civil penalty must be paid in monthly installments of $125 per month with each

installment due by the first day of each month. Dr. Meyer is free to pay more than the minimum at any time, but must pay at least $125.00 per month until the civil penalty has been paid in full (or the remaining balance if the balanced owed is less than $125.00);

4) If Dr. Meyer fails to make any minimum monthly installment by the first of the month, his failure to do so may be considered to be unprofessional conduct in violation of this Consent Agreement and COMAR 15.14.01.04, which, following notice and an opportunity to be heard, may subject him to additional sanctions including suspension or revocation of his license and/or assessment of an additional civil penalty.

STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY
MEDICAL EXAMINERS



Elizabeth Callahan, DVM
President