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

IN THE MATTER OF:	*	
PATRICK SKIPTON, DVM LICENSE NO. 2475	*	DOCKET NO. 19-66
	*	
WOODFIELD VETERINARY CLINIC HOSPITAL LICENSE NO. 15-076	*	

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CIVIL PENALTY FINAL ORDER

This Civil Penalty Final Order ("Order"), dated this 23rd day of May, 2019, is issued by the Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners ("Board" or "SBVME") against Dr. Patrick Skipton, DVM ("Dr. Skipton"), License No. 2475. This Order confirms the intention of Dr. Skipton to waive the right to contest the charge filed by the Board on or about April 15, 2019 in Docket No. 19-66, alleging that Dr. Skipton, as owner and responsible veterinarian at Woodfield Veterinary Clinic (License No. 15-076) 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 on April 17, 2019, Dr. Skipton notified the Board that he wishes to voluntarily waive the right to a hearing and appeal on the charge in Docket No. 19-66.

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

Patrick Skipton, DVM, License No. 2475 ("Dr. Skipton"), after having the opportunity to seek advice of legal counsel, waived his right to a hearing or appeal of the charge, agreed to pay the civil penalty proposed and to entry of this Order. In so doing, Dr. Skipton 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 a related regulation; specifically COMAR 15.14.01.12-3C, as follows:

1. At all times relevant to the charge, Dr. Skipton was a veterinarian licensed to practice in Maryland, where he been licensed since 1982. Dr. Skipton has no prior disciplinary history with the Board. Dr. Skipton is the owner and responsible veterinarian of a veterinary hospital known as Woodfield Veterinary Clinic ("Hospital") located at 25017 Woodfield Road, Damascus, MD 20872 (Hospital License No. 15-076).

2. On March 14, 2019, Board Inspector, Pegeen Morgan ("Ms. Morgan") conducted a routine inspection of the Hospital during which she found 16 expired medications on a shelf in the Hospital's refrigerator, the oldest of which had expired in October of 2017. As Board inspectors have done during previous inspections when expired medications were discovered in the Hospital's working stock, Ms. Morgan advised that the Hospital inventory system should be improved and the inventory checked to remove expired medications from working stock every thirty days. Ms. Morgan issued a COMAR Violation sheet, which was signed by Dr. Skipton.

3. COMAR 15.14.01.12-3A prohibits veterinarians from administering expired medications to any 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.

Taking all the facts and circumstances into consideration, including the nature of the violation, the veterinarian's lack of prior disciplinary history with the Board, and the veterinarian's good faith effort to resolve this matter promptly, 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 23rd day of May, 2019, by the Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, **ORDERED** that 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. Skipton is assessed a civil penalty in the amount of $600.00. The Board acknowledges receiving full payment of the $600.00 civil penalty from Dr. Skipton on May 3, 2019.

STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY
MEDICAL EXAMINERS



David L. Handel, DVM
President