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

IN THE MATTER OF:	*	
SEMINOLE ANIMAL HOSPITAL SERVICES, LLC d/b/a Shot Vet	*	DOCKET NO. 20-29
LICENSE NO. 03-00295 (Mobile Veterinary Clinics)	*	

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CIVIL PENALTY FINAL ORDER

This Civil Penalty Final Order ("Order") dated this 10th day of March, 2020, is issued by the Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners ("SBVME" or "the Board") against Seminole Animal Hospital Services, LLC, d/b/a Shot Vet ("Shot Vet"). At all times relevant to the events referred to in this Order, Shot Vet was the owner of a mobile veterinary clinic formerly licensed as License No. 16-105 and currently licensed as No. 03-00295. This Order confirms the intention of Shot Vet to waive the right to contest the charge filed by the SBVME on February 6, 2020 in Docket No. 20-29 alleging that Shot Vet violated the 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. Specifically, in Docket No. 20-29, the Board alleged that Shot Vet violated COMAR 15.14.03.01.1-I by failing to notify the SBVME in writing within 30 days of any change to information required to be provided to the SBVME for licensing purposes, including the address of the licensee. By letter to the SBVME dated February 21, 2020, Shot Vet, through its counsel, voluntarily waived the right to a hearing on the charge in Docket No. 20-29 and agreed to pay the $500.00 civil penalty assessed in this matter. On March 4, 2020, the Board received a check from Shot Vet representing full payment of the civil penalty.

Under Maryland law, the SBVME is the licensing authority responsible for regulating the practice of veterinary medicine in this State, which includes filing disciplinary actions against owners of veterinary hospitals and mobile clinics charged with violating the provisions of the Veterinary Practice Act and related COMAR regulations. As part of its authority, the SBVME "may refuse, suspend, or revoke any application

or license, and censure or place on probation any licensee ... if the veterinarian ... [f]ails to comply with Board rules and regulations after receiving a license[.]" Md. Code Ann., Agric. Art., § 2-310(8). The Board also may impose a civil penalty of not more than $5,000 for the 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. § 10-101(b); COMAR 15.14.11 (Civil Penalty Standards for Veterinarians).

FINDINGS OF FACTS AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Shot Vet, owner of a mobile veterinary clinic currently licensed as License No. 03-00295, having had the opportunity to consult with counsel, has waived its right to a hearing on the charge. In so doing, Shot Vet acknowledges that the Board has sufficient evidence to find as fact and to conclude as a matter of law that Shot Vet violated COMAR 15.14.03.01.1-I, made applicable to mobile veterinary clinics under COMAR 15.14.07.06D, as follows:

1. On Sunday, October 20, 2019, Shot Vet was the owner of a mobile veterinary clinic licensed by the SBVME as License No. 16-105. Pursuant to this license, Shot Vet was authorized to provide veterinary services using a mobile unit licensed and registered in Maryland, with a Maryland license plate number 7CV8754 and a physical address (where the unit is garaged) located at 7905 Malcom Rd, Suite 207, Clinton, MD.
2. On Sunday, October 20, 2019, Board Inspector, Pegeen Morgan ("Ms. Morgan" or "Inspector Morgan") attempted to conduct a routine inspection of Shot Vet Mobile Unit, License No. 16-105. She arrived at the CVS Drug Store in Edgewater, Maryland, at approximately 11:45 a.m., where the mobile clinic was scheduled to offer veterinary services.
3. When she arrived at the site, Inspector Morgan observed that the unit providing services at that location had a different license plate number than the unit licensed as License No. 16-105. The mobile unit at that location had Virginia tags with license plate number URJ8155.

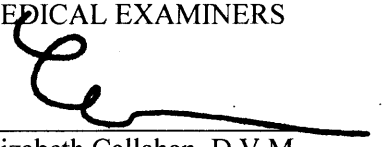
4. Ms. Morgan later learned that Shot Vet had registered the unit licensed as No. 16-105 in Virginia as of January 2019, which resulted in the issuance of new tags. At that time, the location at which the vehicle was being stored when not in use also changed. Rather than being stored in Maryland, the vehicle is now stored in Virginia.
5. Shot Vet failed to notify the Board of these changes in registration and address for the mobile unit, both at the time of the changes and when renewing the annual registration for Fiscal Year 2020. The deadline for renewing a hospital license for Fiscal Year 2020 was July 1, 2019.
6. Once she observed that Shot Vet was operating a mobile unit with a different registration than the one for which the license was granted, Ms. Morgan contacted a representative of Shot Vet to inform him that a new license was needed. Shot Vet complied, submitted an application, and on November 5, 2019, the Board issued a new license to the owner, License No. 03-00295, authorizing Shot Vet to operate the unit with VIN Number: 3C6TRVBGXHE523448, Virginia license plate number URJ8155, in Maryland as a mobile veterinary clinic.

Taking all the facts and circumstances into consideration, including the nature of the violation, the lack of prior disciplinary history with the Board, and the licensee'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 findings of fact and conclusions of law set forth herein, it is this 16th day of March, 2020, hereby **ORDERED** by the Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners that for the violation of Agriculture Article, Section 2-310(8), Md. Code Ann., and COMAR 15.14.03.01.1-I (requiring the owner of a veterinary hospital or mobile veterinary clinic to notify the SBVME, in writing, within 30 days of any change to information required for licensing purposes, including address), Seminole Animal Hospital Services, Inc., LLC, d/b/a Shot Vet is assessed a civil penalty in the amount $500.00. The Board acknowledges payment of the full civil penalty by check received on March 4, 2020.

STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY
MEDICAL EXAMINERS



Elizabeth Callahan, D.V.M.
President
State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners
Maryland Department of Agriculture