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

IN THE MATTER OF:	*	
SUZANNE ROBBINS, DVM LICENSE NO. 4502	*	DOCKET NO. 22-02
ANIMAL MEDICAL CENTER OF BURTONSVILLE HOSPITAL LICENSE NO. 15-160	*	

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CIVIL PENALTY FINAL ORDER

This Civil Penalty Final Order ("Order"), dated this 31st day of August 2021, is issued by the Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners ("Board" or "SBVME") against Suzanne Robbins, DVM ("Dr. Robbins"), License No. 4502. This Order confirms the intention of Dr. Robbins to resolve Docket No. 22-02 without the issuance of formal charges. By correspondence with Board counsel on August 30, 2021, Dr. Robbins agreed to the terms and conditions set forth in this Civil Penalty Final Order, including the findings that she violated the Maryland Veterinary Practice Act, Md. Code Ann., Agric. §§ 2-301 - 2-316 ("Veterinary Practice Act") and related Code of Maryland Regulations ("COMAR") 15.14.01 – 15.14.17.

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. § 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. Agric. § 2-310.1. In setting the amount of a civil penalty, the Board shall consider the severity of these violations, the good faith of the violator, and the history of prior violations, as

well as the Board's civil penalty standards. Md. Code Ann., State Gov't, § 10-1001(b); COMAR 15.14.11 (Civil Penalty Standards for Veterinarians).

FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. At all times relevant to this charge, Dr. Robbins was a veterinarian licensed to practice in Maryland, where she has been licensed since 1995. Dr. Robbins is the responsible veterinarian at a veterinary hospital known as Animal Medical Center of Burtonsville ("Hospital") located at 15543 Old Columbia Pike, Burtonsville, MD 20866 (License No. 15-160). Dr. Robbins does not have a history of expired medication violations.

2. On June 24, 2021, during an annual inspection of the Hospital, Board Inspector Pegeen Morgan ("Inspector Morgan") found more than 70 expired medications in the Hospital's working stock of drugs. The expired medications included twelve rabies vaccines, twelve feline infectious peritonitis vaccines, forty-six Borrelia burgdorferi extract, and one bottle of Tramadol (500 tablets). The oldest expired medications included two containers of 500 Albon tablets (125 mg) that expired in October of 2020.

3. Inspector Morgan issued a Veterinary Hospital Inspection Report reflecting her findings on June 24, 2021. Inspector Morgan also completed a COMAR Violation Sheet reflecting the violations found.

4. Notably, Inspector Morgan also identified a lockbox for controlled medications that was not bolted down and was stored near a window, making it a security risk.

5. COMAR 15.14.01.12-3A prohibits veterinarians from administering expired medications to an animal. 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. Dr. Robbins violated this regulation by allowing expired medications to be stored with non-expired medications in the working stock of the Hospital at which she serves as the responsible veterinarian.

Taking all the facts and circumstances into consideration, including the nature of the violation, the veterinarian's lack of 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 31st day of August 2021, by the Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, **ORDERED** that for the violation of Md. Code Ann., Agric. § 2-310(8) and COMAR 15.14.01.12-3C, Suzanne Robbins, DVM is assessed a civil penalty of $300. Dr. Robbins shall pay the civil penalty within thirty (30) days of the date of this Order. Payment shall be by check payable to the Maryland Department of Agriculture ("MDA") with the notation "SBVME 22-02" and mailed to the MDA at 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Annapolis, MD 21401.

STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY
MEDICAL EXAMINERS

Elizabeth Callahan/CDS

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Elizabeth Callahan, DVM
President