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

IN THE MATTER OF:	*	
MICHAEL D. GOLDEN, D.V.M.	*	DOCKET NO. 11-51
LICENSE NO. 3608	*	

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CIVIL PENALTY FINAL ORDER

This Civil Penalty Order (Order), dated this 22nd day of September, 2011, is issued by the Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (Board) against Michael D. Golden, D.V.M. (Dr. Golden), License No. 3608. This Order confirms the intention of Dr. Golden not to contest the charge filed by the Board on July 29, 2011, in Docket No. 11-51, alleging that Dr. Golden violated a certain Code of Maryland Regulation (COMAR) under the Veterinary Practice Act. Specifically, in Docket No. 11-51, the Board alleged that Dr. Golden violated COMAR 15.14.03.01-1 Licensing Requirement, from about April 2004, through March 9, 2011, by operating a veterinary hospital without a valid hospital license from the Board. On or about August 8, 2011, Dr. Golden submitted full payment of the civil penalty assessed by the Board as the only sanction in this matter, and voluntarily waived the right to a hearing and appeal on the charge in Docket No. 11-51.

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, Agriculture Article §§ 2-301 *et seq.*, Annotated Code of Maryland and related regulations. As part of its authority, 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 a veterinarian's license. 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 any 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

Dr. Golden has submitted payment of the civil penalty assessed by the Board in Docket No. 11-51 without requesting a hearing or appeal of the charge in Docket No. 11-51. After having the opportunity to seek advice of counsel, Dr. Golden voluntarily agreed to the Board's sanction, acknowledging that the Board has sufficient evidence to find, as fact, and conclude as a matter of law that he did violate a regulation adopted under the Veterinary Practice Act, specifically, COMAR 15.14.03.01-1 Licensing Requirement. From about April 2004 until March 9, 2011, Dr. Golden operated a veterinary hospital known as Veterinary Housecall Service, located at 2100 Concord Boulevard, Suite A, in Crofton, Maryland 21032 without a valid veterinary hospital license from the Board. On March 9, 2011, Dr. Golden applied to the Board for a veterinary hospital license. Taking all the facts and circumstances into consideration, including the severity of the violation, the veterinarian's lack of prior disciplinary history with the Board, and the veterinarian's good faith effort to promptly resolve this violation, 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 22nd day of September, 2011, by the Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, **ORDERED** that for the violation of COMAR 15.14.03.01-1 Licensing Requirement, Dr. Golden is assessed a civil penalty in the amount of $2,100 ($300 for each of seven years without licensure); the Board acknowledges that payment of $2,100 has been received from Dr. Golden.

Chris H. Runde, DVM

Chris H. Runde
President
Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners

