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

IN THE MATTER OF:	*	
CRISTINA M. MOLLENKOPF, D.V.M.	*	DOCKET NO. 11-81
LICENSE NO. 4962	*	

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CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER

This Consent Agreement and Order (Consent Agreement), dated this 15th day of DECEMBER, 2011, is between the Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (Board) and Cristina M. Mollenkopf, D.V.M. (Dr. Mollenkopf), License No. 4962. This Consent Agreement resolves the charges filed by the Board on November 7, 2011 in Docket No. 11-81, alleging that Dr. Mollenkopf violated certain Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) under the Veterinary Practice Act. Specifically, in Docket No. 11-81, the Board alleged that Dr. Mollenkopf violated COMAR 15.14.01.07 pertaining to professional judgment and practice, on or about August 26, 2002, by failing to provide the minimal standards of care in the treatment of John Welling's four-year-old Golden Retriever, "Casey," who was presented for spaying. On November 15, 2011, Dr. Mollenkopf requested to resolve the charges informally. Thereafter, the parties entered into discussions and were able to reach a resolution. By entering into this Consent Agreement, Dr. Mollenkopf waives the right to a hearing and appeal on the charges in Docket No. 11-81. Dr. Mollenkopf has no prior disciplinary history with the Board.

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 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). 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 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. Mollenkopf, by entering into and signing this Consent Agreement, while generally and specifically denying liability in this case, agrees to this Consent Agreement, acknowledging that the Board has sufficient evidence to find, as fact, and conclude as a matter of law that she did violate certain regulations adopted under the Veterinary Practice Act, specifically, COMAR 15.14.01.07 pertaining to professional judgment and practice. On August 26, 2002, Dr. Mollenkopf failed to provide at least the minimal standards of care in her treatment of John Welling's four-year-old Golden Retriever, "Casey," which was presented for spaying. Dr. Mollenkopf improperly performed an ovariohysterectory. Taking all the facts and circumstances into consideration, including the severity of this matter and Dr. Mollenkopf's lack of prior disciplinary history, the Board concluded that the most reasonable and appropriate resolution in these matters included the following sanctions.

ORDER

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, it is this 15th day of DECEMBER 2011, by the Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, ORDERED that:

a. For the violations of COMAR 15.14.01.07 Professional Judgment and Practice, Dr. Mollenkopf is assessed a civil penalty in the amount of $500, payment to be made to the Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners ("SBVME") within 30 days of the date of this Order.

b. Dr. Mollenkopf's License No. 4962 shall be suspended for 1 week (stayed). The stay of suspension of the license is contingent upon timely payment of the civil penalty.

John L. Heizer, D.V.M.
Vice President
Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners

CONSENT

I, CRISTINA MOLENHOF acknowledge that I have had an opportunity to consult with legal counsel before entering into and signing this document. By this Consent, I hereby acknowledge the legal authority and the jurisdiction of the Board over this matter and to issue and enforce this Consent Agreement. In order to resolve this matter, I agree to accept and submit to the foregoing Consent Agreement, consisting of three pages, including this page. I sign this Consent without reservation as my voluntary act after having had an opportunity to consult with counsel, and I acknowledge that I fully understand the language, meaning, and terms of this Consent Agreement.

12/12/2011
Date

Christina Molenhof, D.V.M.

NOTARY

STATE OF Maryland

CITY/COUNTY OF Baltimore

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this day of 12th Dec., 2011, before me, a Notary Public of the State and City/County aforesaid, personally appeared Christina Molenhof D.V.M., and made oath in due form of law that the foregoing Consent Agreement and Order was her voluntary act and deed.

AS WITNESS my hand and notarial seal.

Pamela C. Whye
Notary Public
My Commission expires: 5-10-14

PAMELA C. WHYE
NOTARY PUBLIC, BALTIMORE COUNTY
STATE OF MARYLAND
My Commission Expires May 10, 2014