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

IN THE MATTER OF:	*	
PETROS VOSKERCHIAN, D.V.M.	*	DOCKET NO. 12-16
LICENSE NO. 6131	*	

* * * * * * * * * * * * *

CIVIL PENALTY FINAL ORDER

This Civil Penalty Order (Order), dated this 23rd day of JANUARY, 2012, is issued by the Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (Board) against Petros Voskerchian, D.V.M. (Dr. Voskerchian), License No. 6131. This Order confirms the intention of Dr. Voskerchian to waive the right to contest the charge filed by the Board on November 10, 2011 in Docket No. 12-16, alleging that Dr. Voskerchian violated Section 2-313(1) of the Veterinary Practice Act and a certain related Code of Maryland Regulation (COMAR). Specifically, in Docket No. 12-16, the Board alleged that Dr. Voskerchian violated COMAR 15.14.01.11 Annual Registration, on or about July 1, 2011 through August 2, 2011, by practicing veterinary medicine at the Montgomery Village Veterinary Center without a valid registration for the 2012 fiscal year from the Board. On or about December 20, 2011, Dr. Voskerchian submitted full payment of the civil penalty assessed by the Board as the only sanction in this matter and, thus, voluntarily waived the right to a hearing and appeal on the charge in Docket No. 12-16.

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 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

Dr. Voskerchian has submitted payment of the $600 civil penalty assessed by the Board in Docket No. 12-16, and waived his prior request for a hearing or appeal of the charge. After having the opportunity to seek advice of legal counsel, Dr. Voskerchian 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 Section 2-313 of the Veterinary Practice Act and a regulation adopted under the Veterinary Practice Act; specifically, COMAR 15.14.01.11 Annual Registration, by practicing veterinary medicine at the Montgomery Village Veterinary Center on or about July 1, 2011 through August 2, 2011 without a valid registration for the 2012 fiscal year from the Board.

Taking all the facts and circumstances into consideration, including the severity of the violation, the veterinarian's history of prior violations with the Board, and the veterinarian's good faith effort in this matter, 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 JANUARY, 2012, by the Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, **ORDERED** that for the violation of the Veterinary Practice Act and COMAR 15.14.01.11 Annual Registration, Dr. Voskerchian is assessed a civil penalty in the amount of $600. The Board acknowledges that payment of $600 has been received from Dr. Voskerchian.

Chris H. Runde, DVM

Chris H. Runde, D.V.M.
President
Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners