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

IN THE MATTER OF:	*	
SUSAN P. DE LEON, V.M.D.	*	DOCKET NO. 12-26
LICENSE NO. 4657	*	

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CIVIL PENALTY FINAL ORDER

This Civil Penalty Final Order (Order), dated this 16th day of JANUARY, 2012, is issued by the Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (Board) against Susan P. de Leon, V.M.D. (Dr. de Leon), License Number 4657. This Order confirms the intention of Dr. de Leon not to contest the charge filed by the Board on December 20, 2011, in Docket No. 12-26, alleging that Dr. de Leon violated the Veterinary Practice Act and a certain Code of Maryland Regulation (COMAR). In Docket No. 12-26, the Board alleged that Dr. de Leon violated the Veterinary Practice Act, specifically, § 2-313(1), and COMAR 15.14.01.11 Annual Registration, by employing or permitting Timothy J. Cujdik, D.V.M. to practice veterinary medicine at Old Court Animal Hospital, a veterinary hospital Dr. de Leon owned and operated on July 1, 2011 until October 2, 2011. Specifically, on July 6, 14, and 23, August 10, September 9, and October 1, 2011, Dr. Cujdik practiced veterinary medicine without a valid registration for Fiscal Year 2012 from the Board.

On or about January 3, 2012, Dr. de Leon 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. 12-26.

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. de Leon has submitted payment of the $300 civil penalty assessed by the Board without requesting a hearing or appeal of the charge in Docket No. 12-26. After having the opportunity to seek advice of counsel, Dr. de Leon 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 Dr. de Leon did violate the Veterinary Practice Act, specifically, § 2-313(1), and COMAR 15.14.01.11 Annual Registration, by employing or permitting Timothy J. Cujdik, D.V.M. to practice veterinary medicine at Old Court Animal Hospital, a veterinary hospital which Dr. de Leon owns and operates, from July 1, 2011 until October 2, 2011; specifically, on July 6, 14, and 23, August 10, September 9, and October 1, 2011, without a valid registration for Fiscal Year 2012 from the Board. Taking all the facts and circumstances into consideration, including the severity of the violation, Dr. de Leon's lack of prior disciplinary history with the Board, and Dr. de Leon'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 6th day of JANUARY, 2012, by the Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, **ORDERED** that for the violation of the Veterinary Practice Act;specifically, Section 2-313(1), and COMAR 15.14.01.11, Dr. de Leon is assessed a civil penalty in the amount of $300.00; the Board acknowledges the payment of $300.00 has been received from Dr. de Leon.

Chris H. Runde, DVM

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