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

IN THE MATTER OF:	*	
JILL A. MCLAUGHLIN, D.V.M.	*	DOCKET NO. 12-36A
LICENSE NO. 5154	*	

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CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER

This Consent Agreement and Order (Consent Agreement), dated this 14th day of NOVEMBER, 2012, is between the Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (Board) and Jill A. McLaughlin, D.V.M. (Dr. McLaughlin), License No. 5154. This Consent Agreement resolves the charges filed by the Board on October 3, 2012 in Docket No. 12-36A, alleging that Dr. McLaughlin violated a certain Code of Maryland Regulation (COMAR); specifically 15.14.01.07, regarding the care and treatment on or about April 28, 2010, of a two-year-old spayed female Pomeranian, "Sofie," who was presented by Shannon Gentry for examination, vaccinations, and dental cleaning. By entering into this Consent Agreement, Dr. McLaughlin waives the right to a hearing and appeal on the charges in Docket No. 12-36A. Dr. McLaughlin has no disciplinary history with the Board. By entering into this Consent Agreement, Dr. McLaughlin waives the right to a hearing and appeal on the charges in Docket No. 12-36A.

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 through 2-316, 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 or veterinary practitioner . . . [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, or revoking, a veterinarian's license, respectively. 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. McLaughlin, by entering into and signing this Consent Agreement, while generally and specifically denying liability in this case, agrees to the provisions of 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 a certain regulation adopted under the Veterinary Practice Act; specifically, COMAR 15.14.01.07, pertaining to professional judgment and practice. On or about April 28, 2010, Dr. McLaughlin failed to inform Shannon Gentry of her dog's abnormal laboratory results, failed to offer additional diagnostics, and failed to send serum to an outside laboratory to verify discordant laboratory results and rule out laboratory error for Ms. Gentry's two-year-old spayed female Pomeranian, "Sofie."

Taking all the facts and circumstances into consideration, including the severity of the violation, Dr. McLaughlin's lack of a disciplinary history, and Dr. McLaughlin's good faith effort to resolve this matter promptly, the Board concluded that the most reasonable and appropriate resolution in this matter included the following sanctions.

ORDER

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, it is this 14th day of November, 2012, by the Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, ORDERED that:

a. For the violation of COMAR 15.14.01.07 Professional Judgment and Practice, Dr. McLaughlin 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.

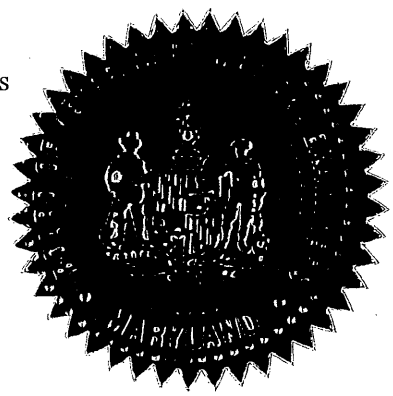
b. Dr. McLaughlin's License No. 5154 shall be suspended for a period of one week, which period is stayed. The one-week stay of suspension of the license is contingent upon timely compliance with the conditions of probation.

c. Dr. McLaughlin shall serve a period of probation of six months. While on probation, the veterinarian shall obey all laws and regulations governing the practice of veterinary medicine in this State and the conditions of this Consent Agreement. Violation of probation means that the veterinarian is charged and the Board ultimately concludes that the veterinarian violated the Veterinary Practice Act, related regulations, or the terms of this Consent Agreement during the period of probation. Violation of probation will result in the stay being lifted, and the Board ordering the veterinarian to comply with the sanction; in this case, suspension of the license for up to one week.

d. As a condition of probation, Dr. McLaughlin shall complete six credit hours of continuing education (CE) in internal medicine, as **pre-approved** by the Board. The veterinarian shall forward to the Board documentation from the CE provider showing proof of completion of the CE credits required under this Order. Proof from the CE provider shall include Dr. McLaughlin's name, the number of hours of CE completed, the topics covered, and the dates the CE were given. Completion of this CE will **not** be counted towards the 18 credit hours of CE required annually for re-registration of the veterinary license.

John L. Heizer, DVM

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



CONSENT

I, Jill McLaughlin, 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 four 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.

11-6-12
Date

_____, D.V.M.

NOTARY

STATE OF Maryland

CITY/COUNTY OF

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 6th day of November, 2012, before me, a Notary Public of the State and City/County aforesaid, personally appeared Jill McLaughlin, 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.

RONEE CHANDLER
Notary Public-Maryland
Harford County
My Commission Expires
1/23/16

Ronee C Chandler
Notary Public

My Commission expires:
1/23/16