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

IN THE MATTER OF:	*	
SUZANNE E. ROBBINS, D.V.M.	*	DOCKET NO. 13-59
LICENSE NO. 4502	*	

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CIVIL PENALTY FINAL ORDER

This Civil Penalty Order (Order), dated this 27th day of March, 2013, is issued by the Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (Board) against Suzanne E. Robbins, D.V.M. (Dr. Robbins), License No. 4502. This Order confirms the intention of Dr. Robbins to waive the right to contest the charges filed by the Board on March 14, 2013 in Docket No. 13-59, alleging that Dr. Robbins violated the Veterinary Practice Act and certain related Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR). Specifically, in Docket No. 13-59, the Board alleged that Dr. Robbins violated COMAR 15.14.10.05 Credit Substantiation, at C, by reporting false or misleading information to the Board in a renewal registration on or about June 1, 2012, and COMAR 15.14.10.06 Failure to Meet Requirements, on or about July 1, 2012 through February 14, 2013, by failing to meet the continuing education requirements in a timely manner. On or about March 22, 2013, Dr. Robbins 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. 13-59.

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 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 considers 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. Robbins has submitted payment of the $450 civil penalty assessed by the Board in Docket No. 13-59, and waived the right to a hearing or appeal of the charge. After having the opportunity to seek advice of legal counsel, Dr. Robbins 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 she did violate certain regulations adopted under the Veterinary Practice Act; specifically, COMAR 15.14.10.05 Credit Substantiation, at C, and COMAR 15.14.10.06 Failure to Meet Requirements, by reporting false or misleading information to the Board in her renewal registration for Fiscal Year 2013 on or about June 1, 2012, and failing to meet the 18-hour continuing education requirements for renewal of her registration for Fiscal Year 2013 until February 14, 2013, respectively.

Taking all the facts and circumstances into consideration, including the nature of the violations, the veterinarian's lack of a prior disciplinary history with the Board, and the veterinarian's good faith effort to resolve this matter promptly, 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 27th day of March, 2013, by the Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, **ORDERED** that for the violation of COMAR 15.14.10.05 Credit Substantiation, at C, and COMAR 15.14.10.06 Failure to Meet Requirements, Dr. Robbins is assessed a civil penalty in the amount of $450. The Board acknowledges that payment of $450 was received from Dr. Robbins on March 22, 2013.

Chris H. Runde, DVM

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