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. 14-01
LICENSE NO. 6131	*	

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

CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER

This Consent Agreement and Order (Consent Agreement), dated this 26 day of June, 2014, is between the Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (Board) and Petros Voskerchian, D.V.M. (Dr. Voskerchian), License No. 6131. This Consent Agreement resolves the charges filed by the Board on November 21, 2013 in Docket No. 14-01, alleging that on or about January 4, 2013, Dr. Voskerchian violated Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR), specifically COMAR 15.14.01.07 pertaining to veterinary care Provided to "Mocha," an 11-month-old Domestic-shorthaired ca t adopted by Deborah Dangay. On or about December 3, 2013, Dr. Voskerchian requested a hearing. Subsequently, the parties entered into discussions and were able to reach a resolution. By entering into this Consent Agreement, Dr. Voskerchian waives the right to a hearing and appeal on the charges in Docket No. 14-01.

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 COMAR 15.14.01 through 15.14.17. 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

Petros Voskerchian, D.V.M. (License No. 6131), 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 at his hospital, Montgomery Village Veterinary Center, located at 9144 Rothbury Drive in Gaithersburg, Maryland 20886, on or about January 4, 2013, he violated COMAR 15.14.01.07, a regulation adopted under the Veterinary Practice Act pertaining to Professional Judgment and Practice. Specifically:

A. Dr. Voskerchian failed to properly perform an ovariohysterectomy on Deborah Dangay's 11-month-old Domestic-shorthaired cat, "Mocha," by leaving an adhered portion of the right ovary and uterine horn in the patient; and

B. Dr. Voskerchian inappropriately dispensed more than one dose of Metacam, for pain, to be administered following surgery to Ms. Dangay's cat, "Mocha."

Taking all of the facts and circumstances into consideration, including the severity of the violation, Dr. Voskerchian's past disciplinary history with the Board, and his good faith efforts to resolve this matter with the client and the Board, the Board concluded that the most reasonable and appropriate resolution in these matters includes the following sanctions.

ORDER

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, it is this 26 day of June, 2014, 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. Voskerchian is assessed a civil penalty in the total amount of $1,000 ($500 for each violation), payable to the "Maryland Department of Agriculture" with the notation "SBVME – 14-01." Payment shall be made not later than 30 days from the date of this Order.

b. Dr. Voskerchian's License, No. 6131, shall be suspended for two weeks, with one week stayed. Dr. Voskerchian shall notify the Board in writing 30 days before beginning the week of suspension. The stay of suspension of the license is contingent upon compliance with the conditions of probation in this Consent Agreement.

c. Dr. Voskerchian shall serve a period of probation of two years, consecutive to the current period of probation which expires on September 2, 2014 under the Consent Agreement and Order in Docket Nos. 12-01, 12-16, and 12-20A & B. The Board expressly agrees that it will not act to violate the probation ordered in that earlier Consent Agreement and Order based on the charges in Docket No. 14-01. 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. Within **six** months of the date of this order, Dr. Voskerchian shall complete 12 credit hours of continuing education (CE); specifically, 6 credit hours in small animal surgery and 6 credit hours in small animal internal medicine, as **preapproved** by the Board. Within **30** days of completion of this CE, Dr. Voskerchian 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. Voskerchian'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.

David L. Handel, D.V.M.
Vice President
State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners

CONSENT

I, Petros Voskerchian, D.V.M., License No. 6131, 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.

6-11-14
Date

_____, D.V.M.

NOTARY

STATE OF Maryland

CITY/COUNTY OF Montgomery

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 11 day of June, 2014, before me, a Notary Public of the State and City/County aforesaid, personally appeared Petros Voskerchian, D.V.M., and made oath in due form of law that the foregoing Consent Agreement and Order was his voluntary act and deed.

AS WITNESS my hand and notarial seal.

_____
Notary Public

My Commission expires:

ANGELICA M GIRALDO
Notary Public
Montgomery County
Maryland
My Commission Expires Jan. 14, 2016