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

IN THE MATTER OF:	*	
SCOTT A. THOMPSON, D.V.M. LICENSE NO. 6037	*	DOCKET NO. 14-08
	*	
EASTON VETERINARY CLINIC AND REHABILITATION CENTER HOSPITAL LICENSE NO. 20-015	*	

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CIVIL PENALTY FINAL ORDER

This Civil Penalty Order (Order), dated this 17th day of September, 2013, is issued by the Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (Board) to Scott A. Thompson, D.V.M. (Dr. Thompson), License No. 6037. This Order confirms the intention of Dr. Thompson to waive the right to contest the charge filed by the Board on August 23, 2013 in Docket No. 14-08, alleging that Dr. Thompson violated Agriculture Article Section 2-304.1, Md. Code Ann., of the Veterinary Practice Act and a certain related Code of Maryland Regulation (COMAR). Specifically, in Docket No. 14-08, the Board alleged that Dr. Thompson violated COMAR 15.14.03.01-1A Licensing Requirement, on or about June 1, 3, and 4, 2013, by operating a veterinary hospital, specifically, Easton Veterinary Clinic and Rehabilitation Center, Hospital License No. 20-015, located at 8942 Centreville Road, in Easton, Maryland 21601, without a valid hospital license from the Board for Fiscal Year (FY) 2013. On or about September 3, 2013, Dr. Thompson submitted a letter to the Board, conceding to a technical violation in this matter and voluntarily waived the right to a hearing and appeal on the charge in Docket No. 14-08. On or about September 6, 2013, Dr. Thompson submitted payment of the $300 civil penalty in Docket No. 14-08.

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 may 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. Thompson has waived the right to a hearing or appeal of the charge in Docket No. 14-08. After having the opportunity to seek advice of legal counsel, Dr. Thompson 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 Agriculture Article Section 2-304.1, Md. Code Ann., of the Veterinary Practice Act and a regulation adopted under the Veterinary Practice Act; specifically, COMAR 15.14.03.01-1A Licensing Requirement, by operating a veterinary hospital, Easton Veterinary Clinic and Rehabilitation Center, Hospital License No. 20-015, located at 8942 Centreville Road, Easton, Maryland 21601, on or about June 1, 3, and 4, 2013 without a valid hospital license for FY 2013 from the Board.

Taking all the facts and circumstances into consideration, including the nature of the violation, the veterinarian's lack of a prior disciplinary history with the Board, and the veterinarian's good faith effort to resolve this matter promptly by payment of the $300 civil penalty, 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 17th day of September, 2013, by the Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, **ORDERED** that for the violation of Section 2-304.1 of the Veterinary Practice Act and COMAR 15.14.03.01-1A Licensing Requirement, Dr. Thompson is assessed a civil penalty in the amount of $300. The Board acknowledges payment of the $300 civil penalty on or about September 6, 2013.

Chris H. Runde, DVM

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

