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

IN THE MATTER OF:	*	
MARSHA B. DIXON, D.V.M. LICENSE NO. 3653	*	DOCKET NO. 14-46
	*	
LONESTAR ANIMAL HOSPITAL, P.A. HOSPITAL LICENSE NO. 22-017	*	

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CIVIL PENALTY FINAL ORDER

This Civil Penalty Order (Order), dated this 15th day of April, 2014, is issued by the Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (Board) to Marsha B. Dixon, D.V.M. (Dr. Dixon). This Order confirms the intention of Dr. Dixon to waive the right to contest the charge filed by the Board on March 21, 2014 in Docket No. 14-46, alleging that Dr. Dixon violated the Veterinary Practice Act and a certain related Code of Maryland Regulation (COMAR). Specifically, in Docket No. 14-46, the Board alleged that Dr. Dixon violated COMAR 15.14.03.01-1 Licensing Requirement at C, on or about October 2005 until February 7, 2013, by operating a veterinary hospital; specifically, Lonestar Animal Hospital, P.A., Hospital License No. 22-017, located at 10211 Sharptown Road, Mardela Springs, Maryland 21837, without a valid hospital license from the Board for approximately 10 years. On or about April 2, 2014, Dr. Dixon submitted payment of the $3,000 civil penalty in Docket No. 14-46. The Owner has no disciplinary history with the Board.

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, Agric. Art., Sections 2-301 – 2-317, Annotated Code of Maryland and related regulations, COMAR 15.14.01 – 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., Section 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., Section 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., Section 10-1001(b); COMAR 15.14.11 Civil Penalty Standards for Veterinarians.

FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Marsha B. Dixon, D.V.M. (Dr. Dixon), owner of Lonestar Animal Hospital, P.A., a veterinary hospital, License No. 22-017, has waived the right to a hearing or appeal of the charge in Docket No. 14-46. After having the opportunity to seek advice of legal counsel, Dr. Dixon 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 COMAR 15.14.03.01-1 Licensing Requirement at C, by operating a veterinary hospital, Lonestar Animal Hospital, Hospital License No. 22-017, located at 10211 Sharptown Road, Mardela Springs, Maryland 21837, from October 2005 until February 6, 2013 without a valid hospital license from the Board. The Board issued Hospital License No. 22-017 for Lonestar Animal Hospital on February 7, 2014.

Taking all the facts and circumstances into consideration, including the nature of the violation, Dr. Dixon's lack of a prior disciplinary history with the Board, and her good faith effort to resolve this matter promptly by payment of the $3,000 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 15th day of April, 2014, by the Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, **ORDERED** that for the violation of COMAR 15.14.03.01-1 Licensing Requirement at C, Dr. Dixon is assessed a civil penalty in the amount of $3,000. The Board acknowledges payment of the $3,000 civil penalty on or about April 2, 2014.

Chris H. Runde, DVM

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