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

IN THE MATTER OF:	*	
KRISTEN R. VANCE, DVM	*	DOCKET NO. 15-34
LICENSE NO. 6080	*	

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CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER

This Consent Agreement and Order (Consent Agreement), dated this 22 day of October, 2015, is between the Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (Board) and Kristen R. Vance, DVM (Dr. Vance), License No. 6080. This Consent Agreement resolves a charging document filed by the Board on May 27, 2015 in Docket Number 15-34. The charging document alleged that Dr. Vance violated certain Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) with respect to medical records relating to dental services provided to Laurie Higgins's five-year-old neutered male Tabby cat, "Romeo," on or about August 23, 2013. On June 2, 2015, Dr. Vance requested by email a hearing before the Board to dispute the charges. Thereafter, the parties entered into discussions and were able to reach a resolution. By entering into this Consent Agreement, Dr. Vance waives the right to a hearing and appeal on the charges in Docket Number 15-34. Dr. Vance 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 Maryland 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 . . . [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

Kristen R. Vance, DVM (Dr. Vance), License No. 6080, by entering into and signing this Consent Agreement, while generally and specifically denying liability in this case, agrees to this Consent Agreement, acknowledging that the Board has sufficient evidence to find as fact, and conclude as a matter of law, that she violated COMAR 15.14.01.04, pertaining to professional conduct relating to her August 23, 2013 dental surgery on Laurie Higgins's five-year-old neutered male Tabby, "Romeo," in that Dr. Vance belatedly amended the medical record on or before November 13, 2014, after Ms. Higgins filed a complaint with the Board on October 27, 2014.

Taking into account all of the facts and circumstances, including the severity of the violation, Dr. Vance's lack of a disciplinary history with the Board, and Dr. Vance's good faith effort to resolve this matter, the Board concluded that the following sanctions were reasonable and appropriate.

ORDER

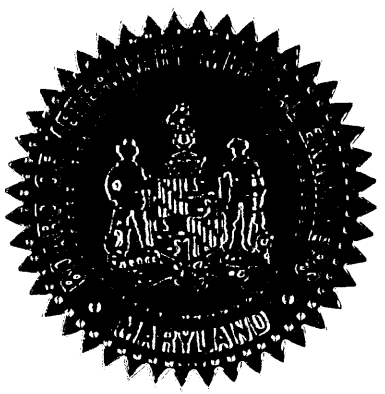
Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, it is this 22 day of October, 2015, by the Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, **ORDERED** that:

1. Dr. Vance is assessed a total civil penalty in the amount of $500 for the violation of COMAR 15.14.01.04 Professional Conduct, payment to be made within 30 days of the date of this Order by paper check payable to the "Maryland Department of Agriculture" sent to SBVME, 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Rm. 102, Annapolis, MD 21401, with the notation "SBVME – 15-34."

2. Dr. Vance shall serve a period of probation of six months from the date of this Order. 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 may result in further disciplinary action and sanctions.

3. As a condition of probation, Dr. Vance shall complete continuing education (CE) in Dr. James Wilson's on-line Veterinary Law and Ethics course. After completion of the full course, the veterinarian shall forward to the Board proof of completion of the CE credit hours required under this Order from the CE provider. Proof will include Dr. Vance's name, the number of credit (program) hours of CE completed, the topics covered, and the dates the CE course was completed. Completion of this CE condition of probation will not be counted toward the 18 credit hours of CE required annually for re-registration of the veterinary license.

Heather M. Hendler, VMD
Vice President
Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners



CONSENT

I, Kristen Vance, 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, and I acknowledge that I fully understand the language, meaning, and terms of this Consent Agreement.

10/6/15 Kristen Vance, DVM
Date

NOTARY

STATE OF Maryland

CITY/COUNTY OF Harford

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 7 day of October, 2015, before me, a Notary Public of the State and City/County aforesaid, personally appeared Kristen R. Vance, DVM, 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.

Notary Public

My Commission expires: May 19, 2019

Paul A. Bianchi, Sr.
Notary Public State of Maryland
My Commission Expires May 19, 2019