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

IN THE MATTER OF:	*	
NAVE S. DHILLON, D.V.M.	*	DOCKET NO. 03-005
LICENSE NO. 2322	*	

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CONSENT AGREEMENT

This Agreement, dated this 26 day of Feb, 2004, is between the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners ("Board") and Nave S. Dhillon, D.V.M., License No. 2322. The Agreement concerns the charges that the Board filed against Dr. Dhillon, alleging that he violated the Maryland Veterinary Practice Act (Md. Code Ann., Agric Art. §§2-301, *et seq.*), pertaining to his treatment of "Cassanova," a five month-old male feline, owned by Ms. Carolyn Manning.

Under the Veterinary Practice Act, 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 ... regulations after receiving a license" (Md. Code Ann., Agric. Art., §2-310(8)); and in lieu of, or in addition to, suspending a veterinarian's license, the Board may impose a civil penalty of not more than $5,000 (Md. Code Ann., Agric. Art., §2-310.1).

In this matter, the Board charged that Dr. Dhillon opted to perform an unnecessary and avoidable surgery (to wit: an orchidectomy of one testis), and thus failed to conform to the minimal standard of care customary among veterinarians in this State, a violation of COMAR 15.14.01.07.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Dr. Dhillon, by entering into and signing this document, acknowledges that the Board has made the following Findings of Fact:

1. At all times relevant to the charges, Dr. Dhillon was, and is, a veterinarian licensed

to practice veterinary medicine in the State of Maryland, and owned the Langley Animal Clinic, located at 6522 Sligo Parkway, West Hyattsville, Maryland 20782.

2. On or about October 24, 2002, Dr. Dhillon undertook the care of Cassanova, a five month-old male feline, weighing approximately 6.2 pounds, owned by Ms. Carolyn Manning, to perform an orchidectomy upon the animal.

3. While performing a pre-surgical examination on Cassanova, Dr. Dhillon discovered that one of the cat's testicles was undescended. Instead of postponing the procedure (to see whether the undescended testicle would descend) or obtaining the owner's permission to perform a more invasive surgery upon Cassanova (to remove both testicles), Dr. Dhillon performed a partial orchidectomy upon the cat, to wit: Dr. Dhillon removed the descended testicle, but left the potentially problematic testicle in place.

4. On January 3, 2003, Dr. Dhillon performed surgery upon Cassanova to remove the cat's remaining testicle. In one of two records of this procedure, Dr. Dhillon noted that Cassanova's testicle did not descend. After observing that Cassanova had "turned blue," Dr. Dhillon placed the cat on oxygen and administered 0.3 ml. of Atropine intracardially. Cassanova could not be resuscitated and died.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Board makes the following Conclusions of Law: On or about October 24, 2002, Dr. Dhillon performed a partial orchidectomy upon a cat (to wit: he removed the cat's descended testicle, but left the potentially problematic testicle in place), an unnecessary and avoidable surgery, and in so doing, failed to conform to the minimal standard of care customary among veterinarians in this State, a violation of COMAR 15.14.01.07 (instead, Dr. Dhillon either should have: (a) postponed the procedure to see whether the undescended testicle would descend, or (b) obtained the owner's permission to perform a more invasive surgery upon Cassanova to remove both testicles).

ORDER

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, finding that Dr. Dhillon violated COMAR 15.14.01.07, it is this 26 day of Feb., 2004, by the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, **ORDERED:**

1.) That Dr. Dhillon pay a civil penalty in the amount of five hundred dollars ($500.00) within 30 days from the date this Agreement is fully executed;

2.) That Dr. Dhillon reimburse Ms. Manning One Hundred Thirteen Dollars ($113.00), which sum represents certain veterinary fees Ms. Manning paid Dr. Dhillon, and that Dr. Dhillon forgive any outstanding bill Ms. Manning owes him; and

3.) That Ms. Manning's remaining complaint against Dr. Dhillon concerning the care provided to another feline (to wit: "Inky") is dismissed.

Feb 26, 2004
Date

John Paul O'Mara, D.V.M.
President
State Board of Veterinary
Medical Examiners

CONSENT

I, Nave S. Dhillon, D.V.M., acknowledge that I had an opportunity to consult with counsel before entering into and signing this document. By this Consent, I hereby acknowledge that the Board has made the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law contained herein. Accordingly, in order to resolve these matters, I agree to accept and submit to the foregoing Consent Agreement, consisting of 3 pages.

I acknowledge the validity of this Consent Agreement as if entered after the conclusion of a formal evidentiary hearing in which I would have had the right to counsel, to confront witnesses, to give testimony, to call witnesses on my own behalf, and to all other substantive and procedural protections provided by the laws of the

State of Maryland. I also affirm that I am waiving my right to appeal from this Consent Agreement.

I acknowledge the legal authority and the jurisdiction of the Board to initiate these proceedings and to issue and enforce this Consent Agreement.

I sign this Consent Agreement without reservation as my voluntary act and deed after having an opportunity to consult with counsel, and I acknowledge that I fully understand and comprehend the language, meaning, and terms of this Consent Agreement.

2/18/4
Date

Nave Dhillon
Nave S. Dhillon, D.V.M.
Respondent

NOTARY

STATE OF MARYLAND
CITY/COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 18th day of February, 2004, before me, a Notary Public of the State and City/County aforesaid, personally appeared Nave S. Dhillon, D.V.M., and made oath in due form of law that the foregoing Consent Agreement was his voluntary act and deed.

AS WITNESS my hand and notarial seal.

Nancy E. Blank
Notary Public

My Commission expires: 12-1-07