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

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT OF	*	
THE STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICAL	*	
EXAMINERS AGAINST	*	DOCKET # 98-016
LINA BRAVO, D.V.M.	*	
LICENSE NO. 4317	*	

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

CONSENT ORDER

The State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (Board) charged that Lina Bravo, D.V.M., License No. 4317, violated certain laws and regulations governing the practice of veterinary medicine in this State (the " Veterinary Practice Act"). 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 $5000 (Md. Code Ann., Agric. Art., §2-310.1).

The Board's charge against Dr. Bravo alleged that she violated Agriculture Article §2-304.1, Annotated Code of Maryland and COMAR 15.14.03.01-1. Section 2-304.1 of the Agriculture Article, in its most pertinent part provides: "Every veterinary hospital shall be licensed by the Board"; and COMAR 15.14.03.01, in its more pertinent part provides: "A person... may not operate a veterinary hospital unless it has a valid hospital license." More specifically, in its charging document, the Board charged Dr. Bravo as follows:

From June 1996 to March 19, 1998, Dr. Lina Bravo operated a veterinary hospital known as Beltway Oncology Medicine Referral at 11660 Annapolis Road, Glenn Dale, Maryland 20769. During this time-period, the facility did not have a valid veterinary hospital license.

Dr. Bravo did not obtain a veterinary hospital license for this facility until March 20, 1998.

On May 7, 1998, Dr. Bravo received notice of the charges by certified mail. On June 4, 1998, the Administrative Prosecutor, Thomas F. Filbert, Assistant Attorney General, conducted settlement talks with Dr. Bravo in an effort to resolve this matter. Following these talks, Dr. Bravo agreed to enter into the following Consent Order according to the terms set forth below:

FINDINGS OF FACT

Pursuant to the stipulation entered into between the Administrative Prosecutor and Dr. Bravo, the Board's factual findings in this matter are as follows:

1. From June 1996 to March 19, 1998, Dr. Lina Bravo operated a veterinary hospital known as Beltway Oncology Medicine Referral at 11660 Annapolis Road, Glenn Dale, Maryland 20769;

2. During this time-period, the facility did not have a valid veterinary hospital license; and

3. Dr. Bravo obtained a veterinary hospital license for this facility on or about March 20, 1998.

4. Before June 1996, Dr. Bravo practiced at this location as an employee of Beltway Emergency Animal Hospital, and thus, before June 1996, did not need to obtain a separate veterinary hospital license for this facility.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Board concludes as a matter of law that Dr. Bravo is guilty of operating the above-noted facility as a veterinary hospital when it did not have a valid hospital license, a violation of Md. Code Ann., Agric. Art. §2-304.1 and COMAR 15.14.03.01-1.

ORDER

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, it is this 25th of June, 1998, by the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners:

ORDERED that Dr. Bravo pay a **CIVIL PENALTY** in the amount of Four Hundred Dollars ($400.00) within thirty (30) days from receipt of this Order (payable to the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners).

6/25/98
Date

Donald M. Carman, D.V.M.
President
State Board of Veterinary
Medical Examiners

CONSENT

I, Lina Bravo, D.V.M., acknowledge that I could have consulted with counsel before entering into and signing this document but that I have chosen to represent myself. By this Consent, I hereby acknowledge that the Board, by a preponderance of the evidence, could prove 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 Order, consisting of 4 pages.

I acknowledge the validity of this Consent Order 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 Order.

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

I sign this Consent Order without reservation as my voluntary act and deed, and I acknowledge that I fully understand and comprehend the language, meaning, and terms of this Consent Order.

6/22/98
Date

Lina Bravo, D.V.M.
Respondent

NOTARY

STATE OF Maryland

CITY/COUNTY OF Prince Georges

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 22nd day of June, 1998, before me, a Notary Public of the State and City/County aforesaid, personally appeared Lina Bravo, D.V.M. and made oath in due form of law that the foregoing Consent Order was her voluntary act and deed.

AS WITNESS my hand and notarial seal.

Michelle Stevenson

MICHELLE STEVENSON
NOTARY PUBLIC STATE OF MARYLAND
My Commission Expires March 4, 2000

My Commission expires:

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