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 | * | |
| VICTORIA A. BANNERMAN, D.V.M. | * | DOCKET NO. 97-025 |
| LICENSE NO. 4561 | * | |

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

## DECISION AND ORDER

On September 18, 1997, Victoria A. Bannerman, D.V.M. appeared before the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners to answer the Charge that she practiced veterinary medicine in Maryland during a period in which she had not registered, and thus, was not licensed, a violation of COMAR 15.14.01.11. More specifically, the Board charged Dr. Bannerman as follows:

From July 1, 1996 until May 15, 1997, you practiced veterinary medicine in this State without a valid license because you failed to pay the required $80.00 registration fee. Your license remained invalid until May 16, 1997 when you took steps to register for the current licensing year.

At the September 18, 1997 hearing, the following members of the Board were present:

Donald M. Carman, D.V.M.
Willard L. Hawkins, D.V.M.
James R. McClellan, D.V.M.
John P. O'Mara, D.V.M.
Melvin D. Howard, D.V.M.
Ivan Rathbone

Thomas F. Filbert, Assistant Attorney General, presented the evidence in this case. Dr. Bannerman appeared without counsel.

## FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On or about September 27, 1995, the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners received Dr. Victoria A. Bannerman's application for a license to practice veterinary medicine. On her application, Dr. Bannerman listed the following address under both (1) "Mailing" and (2) "Home Address":

464 Chowning Place
Marietta, Georgia
30064

2. On or about December 12, 1996, the Board mailed Dr. Bannerman a certificate of license to practice veterinary medicine in this State. The Board had attached the certificate to a letter informing her that "all veterinarians who wish to maintain their Maryland license must register annually".

3. On or about February 9, 1996, the Board received Dr. Bannerman's "Application for Registration" and payment of her registration fee for the 1996 licensing year (July 1, 1995 - June 30, 1996). In her application under "Home Address", Dr. Bannerman again listed her Marietta, Georgia address. Under "New Mailing Address", Dr. Bannerman identified no change.

4. Some time thereafter, Dr. Bannerman moved to Maryland and began practicing veterinary medicine in this State. More specifically, Dr. Bannerman practiced at Brenner Animal Hospital located at 10100 Washington Boulevard, Laurel, Maryland.

5. During April, 1996, the Board mailed a registration renewal notice for the upcoming 1997 licensing year (July 1, 1996 - June 30, 1997) to each licensee at the address listed in its records for that licensee. During this time, the address that the Board had listed in its records for Dr. Bannerman was the Marietta, Georgia address noted on her applications for license and registration.

6. In May, 1997, Dr. Bannerman contacted the Board after noting that other veterinarians with whom she worked had received a registration renewal notice for the upcoming 1998 licensing year but that she had not. The Board informed Dr. Bannerman that she was not currently registered. Dr. Bannerman immediately took steps to remedy the situation - paying the requisite registration fee for both the 1997 and 1998 licensing years.

7. Although Dr. Bannerman failed to renew her registration for the 1997 licensing year, she continued to practice during this time.

## CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the findings of fact stated above, the Board finds that Dr. Bannerman practiced veterinary medicine in this state during a period in which she had not registered (to-wit: from July 1, 1996 through May 15, 1997) , and thus was not licensed, a violation of COMAR 15.14.01.11.

## ORDER

The State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, having found Victoria A. Bannerman, D.V.M., guilty of violating COMAR 15.14.01.11, it is this 18th day of September, 1997, **ORDERED** :

That Dr. Bannerman is hereby censured.

STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY
MEDICAL EXAMINERS

Donald M. Carman, D.V.M.

Donald M. Carman, D.V.M., President