TEXAS VETERINARY LICENSE NO. 6921

IN THE MATTER § BEFORE THE EXECUTIVE
OF § DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE
THE LICENSE § OF THE TEXAS BOARD
OF § OF VETERINARY MEDICAL
JOEL AKIN, D.V.M. § EXAMINERS

ORDER OF TEMPORARY SUSPENSION
(WITHOUT NOTICE OF HEARING)

On November 16, 2015, came to be heard before the Executive Disciplinary Committee of
the Texas Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (the “Board”), composed of Bud E. Alldredge,
Jr., D.V.M., President/Chair, Janie Carpenter, D.V.M., and Chad Upham, members of the Board
(the “Panel”) duly in session, the matter of the Application for Temporary Suspension of the
license of Joel Akin, D.V.M. (“Respondent”). Respondent did not appear in person and Maggie
Griffith, General Counsel, represented Board Staff. Based on evidence submitted, the Board
through this panel makes the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and enters this
Order of Temporary Suspension:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent is a Texas veterinarian and holds Texas Veterinary License No. 6921, issued
by the Board on December 20, 1990, which was in full force and effect at all times material and
relevant to this Order. All jurisdictional requirements have been satisfied.

2. Bud E. Alldredge, Jr., D.V.M., President of the Board appointed himself Chair, as well as
Janie Carpenter, D.V.M., and Chad Upham, members of the Board to sit as the Executive
Disciplinary Panel in this matter, pursuant to the Veterinary Licensing Act, TEX. OCC. CODE ANN.
Title 4, (the “Act”) §801.409(a) and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 575.35.

3. The Panel convened without Notice, pursuant to §801.409(c) of the Act.

4. Frances Finley and Amy Taylor stated that they had they have received information about
Respondent being impaired at the City of Fort Worth Animal Care and Control Shelter, where he
works.

5. Tammy Chamness, a licensed veterinary technician at the City of Fort Worth Animal Care
and Control Shelter, stated that Respondent has smelled of alcohol while at work at the shelter.

6. Respondent’s Facebook page has two post from November 15, 2015, that contain suicidal
comments.
7. Texas Occupations Code, Chapter 801 and the Board’s Rules of Professional Conduct, 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE, Chapter 573, (Board’s Rules or Board Rule) govern the actions of licensed veterinarians when practicing veterinary medicine.

8. Texas Occupations Code §801.402(3) provides that a person is subject to disciplinary action if the person is "chronically or habitually intoxicated, chemically dependent, or addicted to drugs."

9. Board Rule 573.4, ADHERENCE TO THE LAW, states that "no licensee shall commit any act that is in violation of the laws of the State of Texas…”.

10. Based on the foregoing paragraphs, the Board alleges that Respondent has violated §801.402(3) of the Veterinary Licensing Act, Occupations Code, and is therefore subject to disciplinary action by the Board.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the above Findings of Fact, the Panel concludes the following:

1. Based on the above Findings of Fact, the Panel, including two veterinarians licensed to practice veterinary medicine in this state, finds that the Respondent is a continuing threat and real danger to the health of the Respondent’s patients and/or to the public from the acts or omissions of Respondent caused through Respondent’s repeated and continued violations of the Act.

2. Based on the above Findings of Fact, the Panel finds that the continued practice of veterinary medicine by Respondent constitutes a continuing or imminent threat peril to the public welfare that requires immediate effect of this Order of Temporary Suspension on the date rendered.

3. Section 801.409 of the Act authorizes the Panel to temporarily suspend or restrict the veterinary license of Respondent if the Panel determines from evidence presented to it that the Respondent’s continuation in the practice of veterinary medicine would constitute a continuing or imminent threat to the public welfare.

4. Section 801.409 of the Act authorizes the Panel to temporarily suspend or restrict the license of the Respondent in a proceeding without notice, if at the time the suspension is ordered, a hearing on whether disciplinary proceedings under this chapter should be initiated against the Respondent is scheduled to be held not later than the 14th day after the date of the suspension.

5. Based on the evidence presented and the Findings of Fact set forth herein, Respondent has violated Texas Occupations Code 801.402(3) and Board Rule 573.4

6. Based on the evidence presented and the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Panel determines that Respondent’s continuation in the practice of veterinary medicine would constitute a continuing threat to the public welfare.
ORDER

Based on the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Panel ORDERS that:

1. Respondent's Texas veterinary license is hereby TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED.

2. This Order of Temporary Suspension (WITHOUT NOTICE OF HEARING) is final and effective on the date rendered.

3. Notice of this Order of Temporary Suspension (WITHOUT NOTICE OF HEARING) shall be given immediately to Respondent.

4. A hearing on the Application for Temporary Suspension will be scheduled before the Board's Enforcement Committee to be held no later than fourteen (14) days from the date of suspension at the offices of the Board.

5. This Order of Temporary Suspension (WITHOUT NOTICE OF HEARING) shall remain in effect until such time as a hearing on the Application for Temporary Suspension is conducted and the Enforcement Committee enters an order or until superseded by an Order of the Board.

Signed and entered this November 16, 2015.

[Signature]

Bud B. Aldridge, Jr., D.V.M.
President
Texas Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners