

IN THE MATTER OF § TEXAS BOARD OF
THE LICENSE OF § VETERINARY
HOWARD BLATT, D.V.M. § MEDICAL EXAMINERS

Received
NOV 30 2016

Texas State Board of
Veterinary Medical Examiners

AGREED ORDER

On this the 8 day of December 2016 came to be considered by the Texas Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners ("Board") the matter of the license of Howard Blatt, D.V.M. ("Respondent"). Pursuant to Section 801.2056, Texas Occupations Code, a committee of the Board's staff met on October 24, 2016, to consider alleged violations of the Veterinary Licensing Act and the Board's rules by Respondent.

Respondent, without admitting the truth of the findings and conclusions set out in this Agreed Order, wishes to waive a conference under Section 801.2056 and thereby dispose of the compliance issues set out below. Respondent agrees to comply with the terms and conditions set forth in this Order. In waiving the right to a conference, Respondent acknowledges understanding of the alleged violations and the adequacy and sufficiency of notice.

Upon the recommendation of the Staff Committee and with Respondent's consent, the Board makes the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and enters this Agreed Order as set forth below.

Findings of Fact

1. Respondent, Howard Blatt, D.V.M., of Austin, Texas, holds Texas veterinary license 3679.
2. The Board has jurisdiction over the subject matter and Respondent. Respondent received notice, which may be required by law and by the rules of the Board. All jurisdictional requirements have been satisfied under Tex. Occ. Code Ann. Title 4 (Act). By entering into this Agreed Order, Respondent waives any defect in the notice and any further right to notice and hearing under the Act; Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §§ 2001.051-.054; and the Rules of the Texas Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (Board Rules) (22 Tex. Admin. Code, Chapter 575).
3. On July 6, 2015, Board investigators conducted an on-site inspection of Respondent at Feather and Fur Animal Hospital in Austin, Texas. The inspection revealed that Respondent did not have an accurate balance on hand for morphine, tramadol, and hydrocodone.
4. The controlled substance log showed a recorded balance of 129.15mls for morphine, but the actual balance on hand was 107mls. This means that the facility was missing 22.15mls of morphine. The controlled substance log showed a recorded balance of 7,200 tablets for tramadol, but the actual balance on hand was 2,500. This means that the facility was missing 4,700 tablets of tramadol. The controlled substance log showed a recorded balance of 426 tablets for hydrocodone, but the actual balance on hand

was 395 tablets. This means that the facility was missing 31 tablets of hydrocodone. Because of these inaccuracies, Respondent could not adequately monitor whether diversion was occurring.

5. At the time of the inspection, Respondent held a DEA registration. At the time of the inspection, Respondent ordered controlled substances for the facility.
6. Respondent does not have prior violations of a similar nature.

Conclusions of Law

1. Respondent is required to comply with the provisions of the Veterinary Licensing Act, Chapter 801, Texas Occupations Code, and with the Board's Rules.
2. Based on the above Findings of Fact, Respondent has violated Rule 573.50, CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES RECORDS KEEPING FOR DRUGS ON HAND, of the Board's Rules of Professional Conduct, by failing to maintain a correct log balance for controlled substances on hand.
3. Based on the above Conclusions of Law, Respondent has violated Section 801.402(6) of the Veterinary Licensing Act, Texas Occupations Code, and is subject to disciplinary action by the Board:

801.402. GENERAL GROUNDS FOR LICENSE DENIAL OR DISCIPLINARY ACTION. A person is subject to denial of a license or to disciplinary action under Section 801.401 if the person:

(6) engages in practices or conduct that violates the board's rules of professional conduct.

4. Based on the above Conclusions of Law, Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Section 801.401 of the Veterinary Licensing Act, Texas Occupations Code:

801.401. DISCIPLINARY POWERS OF BOARD. (a) If an applicant or license holder is subject to denial of a license or to disciplinary action under Section 801.402, the Board may:

- (1) refuse to examine an applicant or to issue or renew a license;
- (2) revoke or suspend a license;
- (3) place on probation a license holder or person whose license has been suspended;
- (4) reprimand a license holder; or
- (5) impose an administrative penalty.

5. Based on the above Conclusions of Law, Respondent may be disciplined in the manner set out in Section 801.451, IMPOSITION OF ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTY, of the Veterinary Licensing Act, which authorizes an administrative penalty for violations of the Act and Board rules.

6. Based on the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and given the nature and severity of the violations, Respondent's violations are Class B violations under Rule 575.25, RECOMMENDED SCHEDULE OF SANCTIONS, and Respondent is subject to discipline under that Rule.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD AND RESPONDENT AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

Based on the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Board ORDERS that Respondent, be FORMALLY REPRIMANDED.

The Board ORDERS that Respondent pay, within 45 days of the date the Board approves this Order, an ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTY of ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,000.00). If Respondent fails to pay the administrative penalty within 45 days of the date the Board approves this Order, the Board may apply any payment to the Board to renew a license to pay any outstanding administrative fee owed to the Board.

The Board further ORDERS that:

1. Respondent shall abide by the Rules of Professional Conduct, the Texas Veterinary Licensing Act, and the laws of the State of Texas and the United States.

2. Respondent shall cooperate with the Board's attorneys, investigators, compliance officers and other employees and agents investigating Respondent's compliance with this Order.

3. Failure by Respondent to comply with the terms of this Agreed Order or with any other provisions of the Licensing Act or the Board Rules, may result in further disciplinary action.

Respondent, by signing this Agreed Order, acknowledges understanding of the Agreed Order, the notice, and Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law herein set forth herein, and agrees to satisfactorily comply with the mandates of the Agreed Order in a timely manner or be subject to appropriate disciplinary action by the Board.

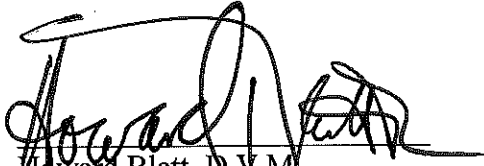
Respondent, by signing this Agreed Order, waives the right to a formal hearing and any right to seek judicial review of this Agreed Order. Respondent acknowledges that Respondent had the right to be represented by legal counsel in this matter.

RESPONDENT WAIVES ANY FURTHER HEARINGS OR APPEALS TO THE BOARD OR TO ANY COURT IN REGARD TO ALL TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THIS AGREED ORDER. NOTHING IN THIS ORDER SHALL BE DEEMED A WAIVER OF RESPONDENT'S RIGHTS UNDER STATUTE OR UNDER THE UNITED STATES OR TEXAS CONSTITUTIONS TO APPEAL AN ORDER OR ACTION OF THE BOARD SUBSEQUENT TO THIS AGREED ORDER EXCEPT AS RESPONDENT MAY HAVE OTHERWISE AGREED TO HEREIN. RESPONDENT AGREES THAT THIS IS A FINAL ORDER.

The effective date of this Agreed Order shall be the date it is adopted by the Board.

Signature page follows.

I, HOWARD BLATT, D.V.M., HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE FOREGOING AGREED ORDER. I UNDERSTAND BY SIGNING IT, I WAIVE CERTAIN RIGHTS. I SIGN IT VOLUNTARILY. I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS ORDER CONTAINS THE ENTIRE AGREEMENT AND THERE IS NO OTHER AGREEMENT OF ANY KIND, VERBAL, WRITTEN OR OTHERWISE.

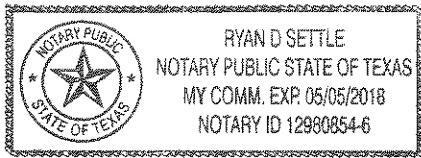

Howard Blatt, D.V.M.

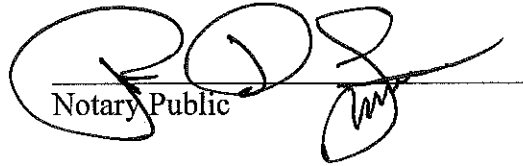
NOV 28, 2016
Date

STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF TARRANT §

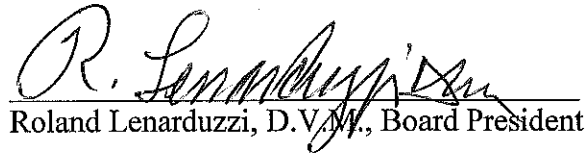
BEFORE ME, on this day, personally appeared Howard Blatt, D.V.M., known to me as the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing document, and acknowledged to me that it was executed the same for the purposes stated therein.

Given under the hand and seal of office this 28 day of November, 2016.




Notary Public

SIGNED AND ENTERED by the TEXAS STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS on this the 8 day of December, 2016.


Roland Lenarduzzi, D.V.M., Board President