DOCKET NO. 2014-124

IN THE MATTER OF § TEXAS BOARD OF
THE LICENSE OF § VETERINARY
JEANNE T. CHUCLE, D.V.M. § MEDICAL EXAMINERS

AGREED ORDER

On this the 3rd day of March, 2014, came on to be considered by the Texas Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners ("Board") the matter of the license of JEANNE T. CHUCLE, D.V.M. ("Respondent"). Pursuant to Section 801.2056, Texas Occupations Code, a committee of the Board's staff met on February 27, 2014, 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 her understanding of the alleged violations and the adequacy and sufficiency of the notice mailed to her.

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


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 August 27, 2013, the Board conducted an onsite compliance inspection at the 610 Pet Lodge and Veterinary Clinic ("Clinic") in Houston, Texas. At that time, Respondent was employed at and by the Clinic.

4. The inspection and the filings with the Texas Secretary of State’s office determined that the Clinic was owned by Minh “Holly” Tran. Ms. Tran is not a licensed veterinarian.

5. The Respondent did not maintain separate controlled substance records for each controlled substance and did not maintain a balance on hand for each controlled substance. The Respondent did not have any records for Somnusol (euthanasia solution), Telazol, Diazepam, and Phenobarbital tablets, which were all located in the safe with the other controlled substances.

6. A notice to advise the public on how to contact the Board in case of complaint was not posted in the Clinic.

7. Respondent’s license and most recent license renewal certificate were not posted in the Clinic.

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 Findings of Fact 1 through 4, Respondent has violated Rule 573.21, DIRECT RESPONSIBILITY TO CLIENT, of the Board’s Rules of Professional Conduct, which states that a veterinarian shall avoid all relationships which could result in interference or intervention in the licensee's practice by a non-licensed person or entity.

3. Based on Findings of Fact 1 through 3 and 6, Respondent violated Rule of Professional Conduct 573.29, COMPLAINT INFORMATION AND NOTICE TO CLIENTS, by failing to inform clients and other visitors how to file complaints with the Board, by including the Board’s address and telephone numbers on a written notice, brochure, or statement on each written bill, invoice or receipt.

4. Based on Findings of Fact 1 through 3 and 7, Respondent violated Rule of Professional Conduct 573.35, DISPLAY OF LICENSE, which requires each licensee to post or display at the licensee’s practice location, her Board license and the most recent license renewal certificate. These documents must be visible to the public.

5. Based on Findings of Fact 1 through 3 and 5, Respondent violated Rule of Professional Conduct 573.50, CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES RECORDS KEEPING FOR DRUGS ON HAND, which requires veterinarians to maintain records for each controlled substance in her
possession, including the balance on hand.

6. Based on Findings of Fact 1 through 4, Respondent has violated Section 801.352 of the Veterinary Licensing Act, which prohibits a veterinarian from being exploited by a person who is not a veterinarian and intervenes in the veterinarian’s practice of veterinary medicine or between the veterinarian and the veterinarian’s client.

7. Based on Findings of Fact 1 through 4, Respondent has violated Section 801.506 of the Veterinary Licensing Act, Texas Occupations Code, which prohibits a corporation, organization, partnership, association or other legal entity not owned exclusively by persons licensed to practice veterinary medicine from engaging in the practice of veterinary medicine, and forbids veterinarians from forming or continuing partnerships with persons who are not licensed to practice veterinary medicine if a part of the partnership employment consists of the practice of veterinary medicine.

8. Based on Conclusions of Law 1 and 2, Respondent has violated Section 801.402 (4) and (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:

(4) engages in dishonest or illegal practices in, or connected with, the practice of veterinary medicine or the practice of equine dentistry; ...

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

9. Based on Conclusions of Law 1 through 4, 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.

10. Based on Conclusions of Law 2 through 4, 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.

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

Based on the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Board ORDERS that JEANNE T. CHUCLE, D.V.M., be FORMALLY REPRIMANDED.

The Board ORDERS that Respondent pay, within 45 days of the date of this Order, an ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTY of two thousand five hundred dollars ($2500.00). If Respondent fails to pay the administrative penalty within 45 days of the date of this Order, Respondent’s license may be suspended until the penalty is paid.

The Board further ORDERS that Respondent shall take and pass the Texas jurisprudence examination within 90 days from the date of this Agreed Order.

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 her understanding of the Agreed Order, the notice, and Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law set forth herein, and agrees that she will 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 her right to a formal hearing and any right to seek judicial review of this Agreed Order. Respondent acknowledges that she 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

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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.

I, JEANNE T. CHUCLE, 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.

Jeanne T. Chucle, D.V.M.

March 25, 2014

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF Houston

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

Given under the hand and seal of office this 25th day of March, 2014.

TERESA ANN BURTON
Notary Public
STATE OF TEXAS
My Comm. Exp. 07-22-15

SIGNED AND ENTERED by the TEXAS BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS on this the 3rd day of June, 2014.

Bud E. Allredge, Jr., D.V.M.
President of the Board