DOCKET NO. 2016-102

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

AGREED ORDER

On this the 18 day of Oct., 2016, came to be considered by the Texas Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners ("Board" or "TBVME") the matter of the license of Ovidiu Craciun, D.V.M. ("Respondent"). Pursuant to Section 801.408 of the Texas Occupations Code, and Board Rule 575.29, an informal conference was held on June 27, 2016. Respondent attended the informal conference. The Board was represented at the conference by the Board’s Enforcement Committee.

Respondent, without admitting the truth of the findings and conclusions set out in this Agreed Order, wishes to waive a formal adjudicative hearing and thereby informally dispose of the issues without a formal adjudication. Respondent agrees to comply with the terms and conditions set forth in this Order. In waiving an adjudicative hearing, Respondent acknowledges understanding the alleged violations and the adequacy and sufficiency of the notice provided.

Upon the recommendation of the Enforcement 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, Ovidiu Craciun, D.V.M. of Austin, Texas, holds Texas veterinary license 10800.

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. During an investigation, TBVME discovered that Beyond the Rainbow/Texas Pet Hospice (Texas Pet Hospice) was employing veterinarians for at-home euthanasia services. Texas Pet Hospice is not owned by a veterinarian.

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4. Texas Pet Hospice provided TBVME with a copy of a 1099 contract labor forms for Dr. Craciun. Dr. Craciun advised a Board investigator that his first home euthanasia for Texas Pet Hospice was October 20, 2013, and his last was February 16, 2014.

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 paragraphs, Dr. Craciun has violated Texas Occupations Code Section 801.352, PROHIBITION AGAINST INTERFERENCE OR INTERVENTION, by entering into an agreement that could have resulted in interference with Respondent’s practice of veterinary medicine by a person not licensed to practice veterinary medicine in Texas; and Section 801.506, PROHIBITED PRACTICES RELATING TO CERTAIN ENTITIES, by entering into an agreement with a legal entity to practice veterinary medicine when the legal entity was not owned exclusively by one or more persons licensed to practice veterinary medicine in Texas.

3. Based upon the above paragraphs, Dr. Craciun has violated Section 801.402(20) of the Veterinary Licensing Act (prohibiting assisting in the practice of veterinary medicine without a license) and 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:

(a) 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.

Mitigating Factor

In determining the appropriate sanction in this matter, the Board considered the following mitigating factor: Respondent performed only five euthanasias for Texas Pet Hospice.

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 receive an INFORMAL REPRIMAND.

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

The Board further ORDERS that:

1. Respondent shall abide by the Rules of Professional Conduct, the Texas Veterinary Licensing Act, the laws of the State of Texas, and the laws of 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 Agreed 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 the Agreed Order, the notice, and Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law 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 having understood 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. 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, OVIDIU CRACIUN, D.V.M., HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE FOREGOING AGREED ORDER. I UNDERSTAND THAT 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.

Ovidiu Craciun, D.V.M. 07/28/2016

STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF HARRIS

BEFORE ME, on this day, personally appeared Ovidiu Craciun, D.V.M., known to me as the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing document, and acknowledged to me executing the same for the purposes stated therein.

Given under the hand and seal of office this 29th day of JULY, 2016

KIMBERLY JOHNSON  
Notary Public  
STATE OF TEXAS  
My Comm. Exp. 10-04-19

SIGNED AND ENTERED by the TEXAS BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS on this the 9th day of OCTOBER, 2016.

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