AGREED ORDER NO. 2009-20

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

AGREED ORDER

On this the 12th day of February, 2009, came to be considered by the Texas Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners ("Board") the matter of the license of Gail Funk, D.V.M. ("Respondent"). Pursuant to Section 801.408, Texas Occupations Code and Board Rule 573.22 an informal conference was held on December 12, 2008. The Respondent was present. 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 her understanding of the alleged violations and the adequacy and sufficiency of the notice provided to him/her.

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. On September 16, 2006, Teresa Mello of Pearland, Texas, adopted "Punky," an eighteen month-old female Yorkshire Terrier mix from the Brazoria County SPCA. Before "Punky" was taken home, "Punky" was spayed by Gail Funk, D.V.M., Rosharon, Texas, of Hoof & Paws Animal Hospital on September 18, 2006. On approximately January 14, 2007, "Punky" began swelling and bleeding, and diagnostics from the Claws and Paws Veterinary Hospital confirmed "Punky" was in estrus, despite having been spayed by Respondent. Respondent offered to perform the spay procedure for "Punky" again, free of charge, but Ms. Mello declined. Ms. Mello indicated that Respondent's clinic was confused about the procedures performed on "Punky," and the records maintained by Respondent with regard to the spay procedure do not adequately reflect the protocol used to spay "Punky."

2. The patient records failed to meet the minimum standards of the Board’s rules. The patient records did not reflect the date of visit, weight of patient, name, amount, strength and route of
administration of pre-anesthetics/anesthesia that were used in the spay surgery.

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 and 2, Dr. Funk has violated Rule of Professional Conduct §573.52(4), (6) and (10) PATIENT RECORD KEEPING, which requires date of visit, weight and name, dosages, concentration and routes of administration of each drug prescribed, administered and/or dispensed.

3. Based on Findings of Fact 1-2 and Conclusion of Law 2, Respondent has violated §801.402(6) of the Veterinary Licensing Act, Occupations Code, which prohibits practices which violate Board rules of professional conduct and subjects a veterinarian to disciplinary action under §801.401:

§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.

§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.

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

Based on the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Board ORDERS that Gail Funk, D.V.M., be INFORMALLY REPRIMANDED.

The Board further ORDERS that:

Agreed Order 2009-20
Gail Funk, D.V.M.
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 his/her understanding of the Agreed Order, the notice, and Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law herein set forth herein, and agrees that he/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 his/her right to a formal hearing and any right to seek judicial review of this Agreed Order. Respondent acknowledges that he/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 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, GAIL FUNK, 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.

Gail Funk, D.V.M.  

1-20-2009  
Date

STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF Fort Bend

BEFORE ME, on this day, personally appeared GAIL FUNK, 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 20 day of January, 2009

Monica Awasthi  
Notary Public

SIGNED AND ENTERED by the TEXAS BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS on February 12, 2009.

Agreed Order 2009-20  
Gail Funk, D.V.M.