

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

**AGREED ORDER**

On this day the Texas Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (“Board”) considered the matter of the license of David Helcel, D.V.M. (“Respondent”).

Respondent, without admitting the truth of the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law set out in this Order, waived notice and hearing and agreed to the entry of this Order. Accordingly, the Board makes the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and enters this Order as set forth below.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. Respondent, David Helcel, D.V.M., of Austin, Texas, holds Texas veterinary license 11365.
2. On August 10, 2017, Willie Powells presented his 12-year-old Pomeranian, Reeses, to Respondent at Banfield Pet Hospital in Sugarland, Texas, for an annual examination, dental cleaning, and rabies vaccine.
3. Reeses’s medical records indicated a history of mild BUN elevations in July and December of 2016. Respondent’s pre-anesthetic bloodwork revealed a BUN elevation of 51 (7-27) and a slight creatinine elevation. Respondent did not review Reeses’s history or bloodwork prior to anesthetizing Reeses for the dental procedure.
4. Reeses was premedicated using butorphanol 0.10mls (10mg/ml) and Midazolam 0.19mls (5mg/ml) intravenously. It is unclear from Respondent’s medical records whether Acepromazine was also used to premedicate Reeses.
5. Respondent performed the dental cleaning and removed two teeth. Respondent’s medical records indicate that Reeses’s systolic blood pressure fell below 90mmHG during the procedure. Respondent did not reduce the sevoflurane concentration or administer an intravenous fluid bolous.
6. Respondent stated that Reeses recovered from anesthesia uneventfully and was discharged with an NSAID for pain management.

7. On August 12 and 13, 2017, Mr. Powells and his wife, Janice Powells, called the facility to report that Reeses was not eating and would not take the prescribed oral medications. Respondent's staff did not inform him of these calls. On August 14, 2017, Reeses was again presented to Respondent. Respondent stated that Reeses's face seemed painful and he dispensed Metacam for pain. Respondent did not perform or offer to perform blood work.

8. On August 16, 2017, Mr. Powells took Reeses to an emergency facility where he was diagnosed with acute renal failure and given a poor prognosis. Mr. and Ms. Powells elected to euthanize Reeses.

9. Following these events, Respondent modified his appointment and records-review procedures to prevent future similar occurrences.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

1. Pursuant to Texas Occupations Code, Chapter 801, the Board has jurisdiction over this matter. Respondent is required to comply with the provisions of the Veterinary Licensing Act, Chapter 801, Texas Occupations Code, and with the Board's Rules. Respondent received notice as required by law.

2. Respondent has violated Board Rule 573.22, Professional Standard of Care, of the Board's Rules of Professional Conduct.

3. Respondent has violated Section 801.402(6) of the Veterinary Licensing Act, Texas Occupations Code.

4. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Texas Occupations Code, Sections 801.401(a), and 801.451.

5. Pursuant to Board Rule 575.25, Respondent's violations are Class B violations, and Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under that Rule.

### **TERMS OF ORDER**

Now, therefore, the Board and Respondent agree to the following terms:

1. REPRIMAND

- a. Respondent is hereby formally reprimanded by the Board. This formal reprimand may be published in the Board's newsletter and routinely reported to the American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB) for inclusion in the national reporting database.

2. ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTY

- a. Respondent shall pay an administrative penalty of two thousand and five hundred

dollars (\$2,500.00) within 30 days of the date the Board approves this Order. Payment shall be made directly to the Texas Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners at 333 Guadalupe Street, Suite 3-810, Austin, Texas 78701. Partial payments will not be accepted.

- b. If Respondent does not timely pay the administrative penalty, the Board may deny a request to renew Respondent's license until the outstanding administrative penalty is received, pursuant to Board Rule 573.62(b). Any monetary funds paid to the Board to renew a license shall first be applied to any outstanding unpaid administrative penalties, pursuant to Board Rule 571.57. Additionally, the matter may be referred to the Attorney General for collection, pursuant to Texas Occupations Code, Section 801.458.

### 3. CONTINUING EDUCATION

- a. In addition to the annual continuing education required for license renewal, Respondent shall complete three (3) hours of continuing education in the area of anesthesia and three (3) hours of continuing education in the area of renal disease within six months of the date the Board approves this Order. Respondent shall submit documentation of the completed continuing education penalty and the required annual continuing education to the Board within six months of the date the Board approves this Order. Documentation shall be submitted directly to the Texas Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners at 333 Guadalupe Street, Suite 3-810, Austin, Texas 78701.

### 4. ADHERENCE TO THE LAW AND BOARD RULES

- a. Respondent shall abide by the Board's Rules of Professional Conduct, the Texas Veterinary Licensing Act, and the laws of the State of Texas and the United States.
- b. Respondent shall cooperate with the Board's attorneys, investigators, compliance officers and other employees and agents investigating Respondent's compliance with this Order.
- c. Failure by Respondent to comply with the terms of this Order, or with any other provisions of the Veterinary Licensing Act or the Board Rules, may result in further disciplinary action.

The effective date of the terms of this Order shall be the date it is adopted by the Board, unless stated otherwise.

*Certification and signature page follows.*

RESPONDENT'S CERTIFICATION

I understand that I have the right to legal counsel prior to signing this Order. I have reviewed this Order and understand the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of law set forth herein. I understand that this Order contains the entire agreement, and there is no other agreement of any kind. I waive the right to any further proceedings, including a formal hearing, and the right to seek judicial review of this Order.

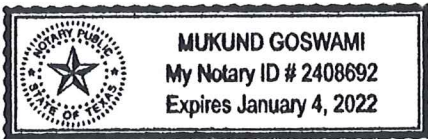
I understand that this Order is subject to approval by the Board. I understand that the terms and conditions of this Order become effective upon approval by the Board. A copy of the approved Order will be mailed to me. By signing this Order, I agree to satisfactorily comply with the terms and conditions of the Order in a timely manner. I understand that if I fail to comply with all terms and conditions of this Order, I will be subject to investigation and appropriate disciplinary action as a result of my noncompliance.

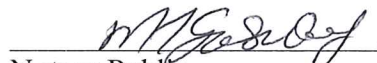
Signed this 7<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2018.

  
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David Helcel, D.V.M.

Sworn and subscribed before me this 7<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2018.

SEAL:



  
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Notary Public

THEREFORE, the Texas Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners does hereby adopt this Order. This Order is effective and final on this 29<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2019.

  
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Jessica Quillivan, D.V.M., Presiding Board Member