DOCKET NO. 2002-18

IN THE MATTER § TEXAS STATE BOARD OF
OF THE LICENSE OF § VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS

VERLIN D. JONES, D.V.M. §

AGREED ORDER

On this, the 13th day of June, 2002 came on to be considered by the Texas State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners ("Board") the matter of the license of Verlin D. Jones, D.V.M. ("Respondent"). Pursuant to Section 801.408, Texas Occupations Code and Board Rule 575.27, Respondent was invited to an informal conference held on February 28, 2002. Respondent did not appear. 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 compliance issues set out below. Respondent agrees to comply with the terms and conditions set forth in this Order. In waiving an adjudicative hearing, Respondent acknowledges his understanding of the alleged violations and the adequacy and sufficiency of the notice mailed to him.

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 July 10, 2001 Board investigators conducted a compliance inspection at the Sam Houston Race Park, Houston, Texas. During the inspection, Verlin D. Jones, D.V.M., Southwest Veterinary Services, Weatherford, Texas was asked to produce his Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Controlled Substance Registration and Department of Public Safety (DPS) Controlled Substance Certificate. Dr. Jones was unable to produce his DPS certificate. The investigators determined from the DPS database that Dr. Jones was not currently registered.

2. On September 4, 2001 the Board received an e-mail from Dr. Jones stating that he had moved his practice from Austin to Houston. The old DPS registration showed the Austin address. Dr. Jones never received a renewal notice at his Houston practice location and he was unaware that his certificate had expired. His last registration expired on June 1, 1994, according to DPS records. He secured a current registration on September 24, 2001.
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. Jones has violated Rule 573.43, MISUSE OF DEA NARCOTICS REGISTRATION, of the Board’s Rules of Professional Conduct, which states that it is unprofessional conduct for a licensee to prescribe, dispense, deliver or order delivered, any controlled substance, unless he is currently registered with the DEA and the DPS.

3. Based on Conclusions of Law 1 and 2, Dr. Jones has violated Section 801.402 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 801.402 if the person:
   
   (6) engages in practices or conduct that violates the board’s rules of professional conduct.

4. Based on Conclusion of Law 3, Dr. Jones may be disciplined in the manner set out in Section 801.401, DISCIPLINARY POWERS OF BOARD, of the Veterinary Licensing Act, Texas Occupations Code, which may include revocation or suspension of a license, probation of a person whose license has been suspended, a reprimand, or a civil penalty.

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

The Board ORDERS that Respondent be officially REPRIMANDED.

The Board further ORDERS that Respondent pay within 45 days of the date of this Order, a CIVIL PENALTY of seven hundred and fifty dollars ($750.00).

The Board further ORDERS that the Respondent take and pass the Board’s Jurisprudence Examination within 45 days of the date of this 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
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order.

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

Respondent, by signing this Agreed Order, acknowledges his understanding of the Agreed Order, the notice, Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law herein set forth, and agrees that he 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 right to a formal hearing and any right to seek judicial review of this Order. Respondent acknowledges that he is entitled to be represented by an attorney of Respondent’s choice at his expense. Respondent has voluntarily represented himself.

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 date of this Agreed Order shall be the date it is adopted by the Texas Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners.

I, VERLIN D. JONES, 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.

Verlin D. Jones, D.V.M.

DATE

4/23/02
STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF Texas

BEFORE ME, on this day, personally appeared Verlin D. Jones, D.V.M., known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing Agreed Order, and acknowledged to me that he executed the same for the purposes stated therein.

Given under the hand and seal of office this 23rd day of April, 2002

[Notary Public Seal]

Stephanie McRain
Notary Public

SIGNED AND ENTERED by the TEXAS STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS on this the 13 day of June, 2002

[Signature]

Martin E. Garcia, D.V.M.
President of the Board