DOCKET NO. 2002-22

IN THE MATTER

§

TEXAS STATE BOARD OF

§

OF THE LICENSE OF

§

VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS

KATHRYN B. 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 Kathryn B. Jones, D.V.M. ("Respondent"). Pursuant to Section 201.408, Texas Occupations Code and Board Rule 575.27, Respondent appeared without counsel at an informal conference on March 21, 2002 in response to a letter of invitation from the Board. The Board was represented at the informal conference by the Board's Enforcement Committee.

Respondent, without admitting to 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. Respondent agrees to comply with the terms and conditions set forth in this Agreed Order. In waiving an adjudicative hearing, Respondent acknowledges her understanding of the alleged violations and the adequacy and sufficiency of the notice mailed to 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 November 1, 2001, based on information received pertaining to a complaint in another case, the Board initiated a complaint against Kathryn B. Jones, D.V.M., Animal Clinic of Watauga, Fort Worth, Texas for allowing the unauthorized practice of veterinary medicine by non-licensed individuals under her supervision.

2. On October 25, 2001 Maria Munoz, a non-licensed employee at the clinic, signed a written statement acknowledging that she had performed about 15 cat neuters at the clinic. Ms. Munoz stated that she was asked to perform cat neuters on several occasions by Dr. Jones, an associate veterinarian at the clinic.

3. On several occasions Dr. Jones observed Ms. Munoz performing cat neuters, but she did not ask Ms. Munoz to cease the procedures when they were being conducted.

4. On October 25, 2001, Dr. Jones signed a written statement acknowledging that in January, 2000, she had witnessed a non-licensed employee of the clinic, Hiral Boal, performing a cat...
neuter. On more than one occasion she observed Ms. Boal performing cat neuters. Dr. Jones did not instruct Ms. Boal to cease the procedures when they were being conducted.

5. On at least one occasion Dr. Jones met with the office manager of the clinic and other non-licensed employees and expressed her concerns about neutering of cats by non-licensed persons, and as a result the practice was eventually stopped.

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. The practice of veterinary medicine under §801.002, Veterinary Licensing Act, Veterinary Licensing Act, Texas Occupations Code, includes surgery.

3. Based on Findings of Fact 1 through 5 and Conclusion of Law 2, Respondent has violated Rule 573.10, SUPERVISION OF NON-LICENSED EMPLOYEES, of the Board’s Rules of Professional Conduct, paragraphs (e) and (f), which states:

   (e) Responsibility for Acts of Non-Licensed Employees. A licensee may determine a non-licensed employee’s qualifications necessary to perform routine patient care and treatment. The licensee is directly responsible for all actions of non-licensed employees acting under his/her directions or authorization. A licensee failing to properly supervise a non-licensed employee or improperly delegating care and/or treatment responsibilities may be subject to disciplinary action by the Board.

   (f) Prohibited Services. An unlicensed individual shall not perform the following health care services: surgery; invasive dental procedures; diagnosis and prognosis of animal diseases and/or conditions; or prescribing drugs and appliances.

4. Based on Findings of Fact 1 through 5 and Conclusions of Law 2 and 3, Respondent has violated Rule 573.11, DISCOURAGEMENT OF UNAUTHORIZED PRACTICE, of the Board’s Rules of Professional Conduct, which states:

   A licensed veterinarian shall be professionally and legally responsible for the unauthorized practice of veterinary medicine by unlicensed employees within the scope of their employment. An employee’s unauthorized practice of veterinary medicine without a license constitutes grounds for the Texas State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners to take action against the licensed veterinarian.
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5. Based on Conclusions of Law 1 through 4, Respondent has violated Section 801.402 (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:

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

6. Based on Conclusions of Law 1 through 5, Respondent may be disciplined by the Board in the manner provided for in Sec. 801.401 of the Veterinary Licensing Act, Texas Occupations Code.

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

The Board ORDERS that the Respondent be officially REPRIMANDED.

The Board further ORDERS that a CIVIL PENALTY of five hundred dollars ( $500.00) be assessed against Respondent, said CIVIL PENALTY being payable within forty-five (45) days of the Board's approval of this Agreed Order.

The Board further ORDERS that the Respondent take and pass the Board's JURISPRUDENCE EXAMINATION within 45 days of 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 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, Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law herein set forth, 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.
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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 is entitled to be represented by an attorney of Respondent’s choice at her expense. Respondent has voluntarily represented herself.

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, KATHRYN B. JONES, 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.

Kathryn B. Jones, D.V.M. Respondent

DATE

STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF TAHOE ¶

BEFORE ME, on this day, personally appeared Kathryn B. 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 she executed the same for the purposes stated therein.
Given under the hand and seal of office this ___ day of ___ , 2002

DAVID S BABER
NOTARY PUBLIC
State of Texas
Comm. Exp. 11-06-2003

Notary Public

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

Martin E. Garcia, D.V.M.
President