DOCKET NO. 2014-242

IN THE MATTER OF  §  TEXAS BOARD OF

THE LICENSE OF  §  VETERINARY

GEORGE W. MCKIRAHAN, D.V.M.  §  MEDICAL EXAMINERS

AGREED ORDER

On this the __13__ day of October, 2015, came to be considered by the Texas Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners ("Board") the matter of the license of GEORGE W. MCKIRAHAN, D.V.M. ("Respondent"). Pursuant to Section 801.408, Texas Occupations Code, and Board Rule 575.29, an informal conference was held on November 17, 2014. Respondent attended the informal conference and was represented by counsel, Mr. Pete Laney. 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 his understanding of the alleged violations and the adequacy and sufficiency of the notice provided 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


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. Respondent works as the veterinarian for Happy Endings Dog Rescue ("HEDR") in Hewitt, Texas. HEDR includes both a dog rescue facility (the “Rescue”) and a separate clinic for paying

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clients (the “Clinic”). Respondent provides veterinary medical care to both the Rescue and the Clinic. The Rescue and Clinic further share a building, equipment, and employees. HEDR is owned by Linda Robinson-Pardo, who is not licensed by the Board. The Clinic served animals that were previously owned by HEDR and later adopted out to the public, animals adopted by the public from other shelters or rescue groups, and from the general public. If the Clinic’s client made a payment to the Clinic, it was in the name of the Clinic and not in the name of the Rescue. The Clinic was a for-profit entity.

4. An employee who worked for both the Rescue and the Clinic stated that she was instructed by Ms. Robinson-Pardo to vaccinate animals and order drugs using Respondent’s veterinary license and Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) number. That employee later resigned but was in the process of being terminated by Ms. Robinson-Pardo.

5. On March 19, 2014, during a phone conversation between Respondent and the Board’s Director of Enforcement and a Board Investigator, Respondent admitted that he was employed at the Clinic. Respondent further explained that he was not the owner of the Clinic and was employed by Ms. Robinson-Pardo.

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 through 5, Respondent has violated Section 801.352 of the Veterinary Licensing Act, which prohibits a veterinarian from being exploited by a person who is not a veterinarian and intervenes in the veterinarian’s practice of veterinary medicine or between the veterinarian and the veterinarian’s client and which requires a veterinarian to avoid a relationship that may result in interference with or intervention in the veterinarian’s practice of veterinary medicine by a person who does not hold a license to practice veterinary medicine.

3. Based on Findings of Fact 1 through 5 and Conclusions of Law 1 through 2, Respondent has violated Sections 801.402 (4) 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:

(4) engages in dishonest or illegal practices in, or connected with, the practice of veterinary medicine or the practice of equine dentistry;...
4. Based on Conclusions of Law 1 through 5, Respondent 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)

(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.

.... (d) In addition to other disciplinary actions authorized by this subchapter, the board may require a license holder who violates this chapter to participate in a continuing education program.

5. Based on Conclusions of Law 1 through 4, Respondent may be disciplined in the manner set out in Section 801.451, IMPOSITION OF ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTY, of the Veterinary Licensing Act, which authorizes an administrative penalty for violations of the Act and Board rules.

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 a FORMAL REPRIMAND.

The Board ORDERS that Respondent pay, within 45 days of the date the Board approves this Order, an ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTY of FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS ($500.00). If Respondent fails to pay the administrative penalty within 45 days of the date the Board approves this Order, Respondent’s license may be suspended until the penalty is paid, and any payment by the Respondent to the Board to renew his license will be applied toward the payment of any administrative fee owed to the Board, and further enforcement action may be taken.

The Board further 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 his understanding of the Agreed Order, the notice, and Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law set forth herein, 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 Agreed Order. Respondent acknowledges that he 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. 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, GEORGE W. MCKIRAHAN, 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.

GEORGE W. MCKIRAHAN, D.V.M. 08/06/2015

STATE OF TEXAS §

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COUNTY OF Bell §

BEFORE ME, on this day, personally appeared GEORGE W. MCKIRAHAN, D.V.M., known to me as the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing document, and acknowledged to me that he executed the same for the purposes stated therein.

Given under the hand and seal of office this 6th day of August, 2015.

THERESA SCHUETZE
Notary Public, State of Texas
My Commission Expires
SEPTEMBER 19, 2016

Notary Public

SIGNED AND ENTERED by the TEXAS BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS on this the 13th of October, 2015.

Bud E. Allredge, Jr., D.V.M., President