

IN THE MATTER OF § TEXAS BOARD OF  
THE LICENSE OF § VETERINARY  
JOHN MORTON, 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 John Morton, 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, John Morton, D.V.M., of Athens, Texas, holds Texas veterinary license 2789.
2. On May 8, 2017, Esther Sims presented her five (5) year old, male feline, Max, to Respondent at Brookhollow Veterinary Clinic in Palestine, Texas. Ms. Sims stated that she presented Max for a yearly examination, vaccinations, and frequent urination. Respondent’s medical records indicate that Max was presented for vomiting.
3. Respondent examined Max and found his bladder to be very hard and enlarged. Respondent performed bloodwork which showed elevated kidney profiles and high potassium levels. Respondent diagnosed Max with a urinary blockage. Max’s condition appeared to be critical upon presentation.
4. Respondent recommended anesthesia and urinary plug removal and Ms. Sims consented. Respondent anesthetized and catheterized Max, then flushed the urinary bladder. Respondent did not stabilize Max or offer to administer intravenous (IV) fluids before administering anesthesia.
5. Max was found dead in his kennel approximately 15 minutes after extubation. Respondent’s medical records do not indicate that Max was monitored following extubation. Respondent stated that Max’s death was due to excessive kidney waste levels in the blood.

**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 informally reprimanded by the Board. This informal reprimand will not be published in the Board's newsletter and will not be routinely reported to the American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB) for inclusion in the national reporting database. A copy of this informal reprimand will be forwarded to the AAVSB if specifically requested by that organization.

#### 2. ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTY

- a. Respondent shall pay an administrative penalty of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) 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 feline urinary obstruction within one year of the date the Board approves this Order.

These hours shall be in addition to Respondent's annual continuing education requirements. Respondent shall submit documentation of the completed continuing education penalty and the required annual continuing education to the Board within one year and 30 days 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**

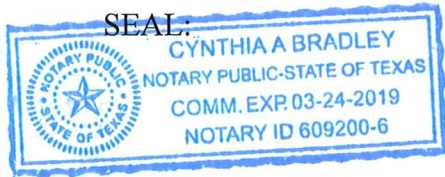
I understand that I have the right to legal counsel prior to signing this Order. I waive representation by counsel. I have reviewed this Order and understand the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of law set forth herein. I neither admit nor deny the violation(s) herein. I understand that this Order contains 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 19 day of July, 20 18.

John Morton  
John Morton, D.V.M.

Sworn and subscribed before me this 19 day of July, 20 18.



Cynthia A. Bradley  
Notary Public

THEREFORE, the Texas Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners does hereby adopt this Order. This Order is effective and final on this 23rd day of October, 20 18.

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