DOCKET NO. 2013-93

IN THE MATTER § TEXAS STATE BOARD OF
OF THE LICENSE OF § VETERINARY
LAUREN PERUFFO, D.V.M. § MEDICAL EXAMINERS

AGREED ORDER

On this, the 14th day of July, 2013, came on to be considered by the Texas State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners ("Board") the matter of the license of Lauren Peruffo, D.V.M. ("Respondent"). Pursuant to Section 801.2056, Texas Occupations Code, a committee of the Board’s staff met on April 9, 2013 to consider alleged violations of the Veterinary Licensing Act and the Board’s rules by Respondent.

Respondent, without admitting the truth of the findings and conclusions set out in this Agreed Order, wishes to waive a conference under Section 801.408 and thereby dispose of the compliance issues set out below. Respondent agrees to comply with the terms and conditions set forth in this Order. In waiving the right to a conference, Respondent acknowledges her understanding of the alleged violations and the adequacy and sufficiency of the notice mailed to her.

Upon the recommendation of the staff 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. Respondent, Lauren Peruffo, D.V.M. of Houston, Texas, holds Texas veterinary license 12708.

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. The Board determined that Respondent failed to notify the Board that her practice address had changed within 60 days of the change. On February 12, 2013, a board investigator visited the Banfield Pet Hospital at 25829 Northwest Freeway 290, Cypress, Texas, which was Respondent’s practice address according to the Board’s records. The board investigator was informed that Respondent was not practicing at the Banfield Pet Hospital at 25829 Northwest Freeway 290.

4. Respondent stated to the Board that she had been assigned to work at the Banfield Pet Hospital location at 17712 Texas 249 in Houston, Texas from July 11, 2012 until
August 31, 2012. Then Respondent was transferred to the Banfield Pet Hospital location at 9718 Old Katy Freeway in Houston, Texas, where she has worked from August 31, 2012 to the present.

5. Board records do not show any notification of a change of address from Respondent prior to February 12, 2013.

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 Rule 573.76, NOTIFICATION OF LICENSEE ADDRESSES, of the Board’s Rules of Professional Conduct, which requires a veterinarian to notify the Board of a change of practice address within 60 days of the change.

3. Based on Conclusions of Law 1 and 2, 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.

4. Based on Conclusions of Law 1 through 3, 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)(5) impose an administrative penalty.

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 Board rules, and in the manner set out in Section 801.401 DISCIPLINARY POWER OF BOARD.

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

The Board ORDERS that Respondent pay, within 45 days of the date of 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 of this Order, Respondent’s license may be suspended until the penalty is paid, and any payment by the Respondent
to the Board to renew her 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:

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 provision 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.

Respondent, by signing this Agreed Order, waives her right to a hearing and any right to seek judicial review of this Order. Respondent acknowledges that she is entitled to be represented by an attorney of Respondent’s choice at her expense in any hearing before the Board.

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

I, LAUREN PERUFFO, 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.

Lauren Peruffo, D.V.M.  

Date 5/3/13
STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF Harris

BEFORE ME, on this day, personally appeared Lauren Peruffo, 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 03 day of May, 2013.

[Signature]

MARIA FERNANDA NAVA
Notary Public
Notary Public, State of Texas
My Commission Expires
June 17, 2014

SIGNED AND ENTERED by the TEXAS STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS on this the 16 day of July, 2013.

[Signature]
Bud E. Alldredge, Jr., D.V.M.
President of the Board