DOCKET NO. 2002-20

IN THE MATTER § TEXAS STATE BOARD OF

OF THE LICENSE OF §

ROBERT P. REIGLE, D.V.M. § VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS

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 Robert P. Reigle, D.V.M. ("Respondent"). Pursuant to Section 801.408, 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 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 November 1, 2001, based on information received pertaining to a complaint in another case, the Board initiated a complaint against Robert P. Reigle, D.V.M., Animal Clinic of Watauga, Fort Worth, Texas for allowing the unauthorized practice of veterinary medicine by non-licensed individuals under his supervision.

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

3. On October 25, 2001 Dr. Reigle signed a written statement acknowledging that in August 1996 he had witnessed a non-licensed employee, Hiral Boal, performing a cat neuter. On less than 10 occasions he observed Ms. Boal performing cat neuters. Dr. Reigle did not instruct Ms. Boal to cease the procedures nor did he ask Mark O’Gorman, D.V.M., an owner of the clinic, to stop the practice. On at least two occasions, Dr. Reigle authorized Maria Munoz, a non-licensed
employee, to perform cat neuters.

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 3 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 3 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.

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 one thousand dollars ($1000.00) 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 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 Agreed 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, ROBERT P. REIGLE, 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.

[Signature]
Robert P. Reigle, D.V.M.
Respondent

DATE  15 02

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF Tarrant

BEFORE ME, on this day, personally appeared Robert P. Reigle, 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 15 day of April  2002

[Seal and Signature]
SHELLEY ALLRED
Notary Public
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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