

IN THE MATTER OF § TEXAS BOARD OF
THE LICENSE OF § VETERINARY
STACY SMITHERMAN, D.V.M. § MEDICAL EXAMINERS

AGREED ORDER

Received
DEC 13 2017

On this day the Texas Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners ("Board") considered the matter of the license of Stacy Smitherman, 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, Stacy Smitherman, D.V.M., of Centerville, Texas, holds Texas veterinary license 8418.
2. Respondent works as an independent contractor for Trans Ova Genetics, L.C., ("Trans Ova") providing services including embryo transfer, ultrasound-guided transvaginal oocyte aspiration, non-surgical embryo flushing, and ultrasound pregnancy checking and processing of recipients. Respondent agreed to provide the necessary level of supervision and follow up care for these procedures.
3. Respondent provided his veterinary license number to Trans Ova to be used for the ordering of prescription drugs.
4. Trans Ova is not owned solely by veterinarians licensed in the State of Texas.
5. On December 3, 2015, Carlos Garcia; a non-licensed employee of Trans Ova, performed an epidural and oocyte aspiration procedure on a Beefmaster Cow (hereinafter "Donor 37"). Respondent was present on the property when this procedure was performed, but did not examine Donor 37 or supervise the procedure.
6. Donor 37 had difficulty recovering from the epidural and exhibited hind end ataxia and difficulty rising when moving from the chute to the holding pen. Respondent was not asked to examine or treat Donor 37 until the following day, December 4, 2015. Respondent provided medical care and treatment, and referred Donor 37 to another veterinarian for further diagnostics and treatment. Donor 37 was later transported to Texas A&M, where radiographs were taken and multiple ruptured stifle ligaments were observed. Donor 37's owner made the decision to euthanize

the cow. Donor 37's owner was not aware that a veterinarian was not providing the services for which she hired Trans Ova.

7. On January 11, 2016, Mr. Garcia performed an oocyte collection on a cow (hereinafter "Donor 9141"). Respondent was not present on the property when this procedure was performed. Donor 9141 was transported home by trailer following the procedure. Donor 9141 exhibited lameness upon returning to the owner's property. Respondent discussed possible differentials with Donor 9141's owner by telephone and recommended the cow be transferred to a local veterinarian. Donor 9141 was later transferred to another veterinarian and euthanized. Respondent did not create medical records for Donor 9141.

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 573.10 of the Board's Rules of Professional Conduct.
3. Respondent has violated Board Rule 573.21 of the Board's Rules of Professional Conduct.
4. Respondent has violated Board Rule 573.52 of the Board's Rules of Professional Conduct.
5. Respondent has violated Section 801.352 of the Veterinary Licensing Act, Texas Occupations Code.
6. Respondent has violated Section 801.402(6) of the Veterinary Licensing Act, Texas Occupations Code.
7. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Texas Occupations Code, Sections 801.401(a), and 801.451.
8. 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 formally reprimanded by the Board. This formal reprimand may be published in the Board's newsletter and routinely reported to the American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB) for inclusion in the national reporting database.

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 recordkeeping within one year of the date the Board approves this Order. 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.~~ ^{SS} 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.

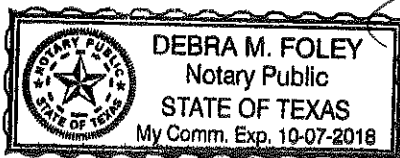
I understand that this Order is subject to approval by the Board. I understand that the terms and conditions of this Order become effective upon approval by the Board. A copy of the approved Order will be mailed to me. By signing this Order, I agree to satisfactorily comply with the terms and conditions 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 4 day of December, 2017.

Stacy Smitherman
Stacy Smitherman, D.V.M.

Sworn and subscribed before me this 4th day of December, 2017.

SEAL:



Debra M. Foley
Notary Public

THEREFORE, the Texas Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners does hereby adopt this Order. This Order is effective and final on this 16 day of January, 2018

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