DOCKET NO. 2013-25

IN THE MATTER OF § TEXAS BOARD OF

THE LICENSE OF § VETERINARY

ROBERT SPITZ, D.V.M. § MEDICAL EXAMINERS

AGREED ORDER

On this the 25th day of March, 2013 came to be considered by the Texas Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners ("Board") the matter of the license of Robert Spitz, D.V.M. ("Respondent"). Pursuant to Section 801.408, Texas Occupations Code and Board Rule 575.27, an informal conference was held on September 27, 2012. Respondent attended the informal conference and was not represented by counsel. 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

1. Respondent, Robert Spitz, D.V.M. of Austin, Texas, holds Texas veterinary license 5612.

2. On December 15, 2010, John Ferguson left his 15-year old female Maltese named "Faye" with a pet sitter while he went out of town. That night, the pet sitter noticed blood in "Faye's" urine.

3. The next morning, December 16, 2010, the pet sitter presented "Faye" to Respondent at the Lake Austin Boulevard Animal Hospital in Austin, Texas for diagnosis and treatment of the blood in her urine.
4. Respondent examined “Faye,” and detected a heart murmur. Respondent’s patient record for “Faye” has portions that are not legible, and does not include information required under Rule of Professional Conduct 573.52, Veterinary Patient Record Keeping, including weight when required for diagnosis or treatment; temperature when required for diagnosis or treatment; immunization records; the results of laboratory analysis; diagnostic images or a summary of the results; differential diagnosis and/or treatment; names, dosages, concentration, and routes of administration of each drug prescribed, administered or dispensed; and other details necessary to substantiate or document the examination, diagnosis and treatment provided.

5. During the informal conference with the Board’s Enforcement Committee, Respondent admitted that he amended the patient record for his treatment of “Faye” on December 16, 2010 to add the words “new murmur” without indicating the date and time he made the amendment and without clearly indicating that he had amended the record.

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 573.52 PATIENT RECORD KEEPING, of the Board’s Rules of Professional Conduct, by failing to record required information, including but not limited to: weight when required for diagnosis or treatment; temperature when required for diagnosis or treatment; laboratory analysis; immunization records; diagnostic images or a summary of the results; differential diagnosis and/or treatment; names, dosages, concentration, and routes of administration of each drug prescribed, administered or dispensed; an amendment in a patient record not made contemporaneously with the act noted by indicating the time and date of the amendment and clearly indicating that there has been an amendment; and other details necessary to substantiate or document the examination, diagnosis and treatment provided.

3. Based on Findings of Fact 1 and 5 and 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.

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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)

(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 3, 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 an INFORMAL REPRIMAND.

In addition, the Board ORDERS that Respondent complete an additional THREE (3) hours of continuing education in recordkeeping within one year of the date of this Order. Documentation of the completion of the continuing education penalty shall be received within thirty (30) days after one year of the date of this Order. If Respondent fails to provide documentation of completion within forty-five (45) days of one year of the date of this Order, Respondent’s license may be suspended until the continuing education penalty is completed and documentation is received by the Board.

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.

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 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, ROBERT SPITZ, D.V.M., HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE FOREGOING AGREED ORDER. I UNDERSTAND 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 Spitz, D.V.M.

[Date]

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF Tarrant

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BEFORE ME, on this day, personally appeared Robert Spitz, 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 23rd day of October, 2012

[Signature]
Notary Public

SIGNED AND ENTERED by the TEXAS BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS on this the 25th of March, 2013

[B. O. Alldredge, Jr., D.V.M., President]

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