DOCKET NO. 2013-146

IN THE MATTER OF § TEXAS BOARD OF

THE LICENSE OF § VETERINARY

JACKIE VALERIUS, D.V.M. § MEDICAL EXAMINERS

AGREED ORDER

On this the 22nd day of October 2013, came to be considered by the Texas Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (Board) the matter of the license of JACKIE VALERIUS, D.V.M. (Respondent). Pursuant to Section 801.408, Texas Occupations Code and Board Rule 575.27, an informal conference was held on July 17, 2013. Respondent did not attend 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, Jackie Valerius, D.V.M. of Mercedes, Texas, holds Texas veterinary license 2224.

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. On June 15, 2012, Juan Sanchez presented his three-year-old male Cocker Spaniel named Bruno to Respondent at Rio Rico Veterinary Services (“Clinic”) in Mercedes, Texas for surgery to correct cherry eyes.

4. During surgery to correct the cherry eyes, Respondent completely removed the glands in both eyes.

5. Under these conditions, the standard of care in Respondent’s community and similar communities for surgery to treat cherry eye is to tack the prolapsed gland back into a normal position so that it stays functional, producing tears to lubricate the eye.

6. The patient record for Respondent’s treatment of Bruno on June 15, 2012 does not contain required information, including but not limited to: address and telephone number for the client; name and species of patient; names, dosages, concentration and routes of administration of each drug prescribed, administered and/or dispensed; and details necessary to substantiate the treatment provided and surgical procedure performed.

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 573.22, PROFESSIONAL STANDARD OF CARE, by completely removing the entire prolapsed gland of the third eyelid to correct cherry eyes, rather than by tacking the gland back into a normal position so that the gland can continue to produce tears and lubricate the eye.

3. Based on Findings of Fact 1 through 6, Respondent has violated Rule 573.52, PATIENT RECORDKEEPING, of the Board’s Rules of Professional Conduct, by failing to record required information in a patient record, including but not limited to: address and telephone number for the client; name and species of patient; names, dosages, concentration and routes of administration of each drug prescribed, administered and/or dispensed; and details necessary to substantiate the treatment provided and surgical procedure performed.

4. Based on Findings of Fact 1 through 6 and Conclusions of Law 1 through 3, 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:

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(6) engages in practices or conduct that violates the board’s rules of professional conduct.

5. Based on Conclusions of Law 1 through 4, 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.

6. Based on Conclusions of Law 1 through 5, 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 FORMAL REPRIMAND.

In addition, the Board ORDERS that Respondent complete an additional SIX (6) hours of continuing education, with THREE (3) hours in RECORDKEEPING and THREE (3) hours in SURGERY, 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, and any payment by the Respondent to the Board to renew his 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 Agreed 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, JACKIE VALERIUS, 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.
BEFORE ME, on this day, personally appeared Jackie Valerius, 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 21st day of August, 2013.

JANIE RODRIGUEZ
Notary Public
STATE OF TEXAS
My Comm. Exp. 11-29-2015

SIGNED AND ENTERED by the TEXAS BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS on this the 22 October, 2013.

Bud E. Alldredge, Jr., D.V.M., President