AGREED ORDER

On this, the 30th day of October, 2012, came on to be considered by the Texas State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners ("Board") the matter of the license of ERIN WEST, D.V.M. ("Respondent"). Pursuant to Section 801.2056, Texas Occupations Code, a committee of the Board’s staff met on September 24, 2012 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 801.2056 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. The Board has jurisdiction over the subject matter and Respondent. Respondent has received all notice which may be required by law and by the Board’s rules. All jurisdictional requirements have been satisfied.

2. In the course of an onsite inspection by the Board on August 14, 2012, Respondent could not show proof of current registration with DPS and told the Board that she had not registered with DPS since obtaining her license in April 2011. Respondent also admitted that she administered controlled substances while her DPS registration was expired. According to DPS, Respondent still did not have a registered license on September 10, 2012.

3. Respondent also admitted on August 14, 2012, that she was performing acupuncture on animals without the signed consent of the owner of the animal, acknowledging that acupuncture is an alternate therapy in veterinary medicine and approving its use in the treatment of animals. In her September 10, 2012 response to the Board she stated that she “was under the impression that a signed billing statement with acupuncture listed on the bill would suffice.”
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 and 2, Respondent has violated Rule 573.43, MISUSE OF DEA NARCOTICS REGISTRATION, of the Board’s Rules of Professional Conduct, which states that a licensee may not prescribe, dispense, deliver or order delivered, any controlled substance, unless he is currently registered with the DEA and the DPS.

3. Based on Findings of Fact 1 and 3, Respondent has violated Rule 573.16, ALTERNATIVE THERAPIES – ACUPUNCTURE, of the Board’s Rules of Professional Conduct, which states that “[b]efore acupuncture may be used in the treatment of an animal, the veterinarian must obtain a signed statement from the animal’s owner or caretaker acknowledging that acupuncture is an alternate therapy in veterinary medicine and approving its use in the treatment of the animal. Before signing the statement, the veterinarian shall inform the client of the conventional treatments available and their probable ability to cure the problem. The statement shall become a permanent part of the patient's record.”

4. Based on 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:

(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:

(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
6. 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 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.

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 Respondent shall take and pass the Texas veterinary jurisprudence examination within 90 days from 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 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.
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The date of this Agreed Order shall be the date it is adopted by the Texas Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners.

I, ERIN WEST, 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]
[Signature]
Erin West, D.V.M. 10-15-12 DATE

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF HAYS

BEFORE ME, on this day, personally appeared ERIN WEST, D.V.M., known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing Agreed Order, and acknowledged to me that she executed the same for the purposes stated therein.

Given under the hand and seal of office this 15th day of October, 2012.

DAWNIA HERRERA
Notary Public, State of Texas
My Commission Expires MARCH 10, 2014

SIGNED AND ENTERED by the TEXAS BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS on this the 30th day of October, 2012.

Bud E. Allredge, Jr., D.V.M.
President of the Board

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