AGREED ORDER 2009-17

IN THE MATTER § TEXAS BOARD
OF THE LICENSE OF § OF VETERINARY
CONRAD C. WHITFIELD, D.V.M. § MEDICAL EXAMINERS

AGREED ORDER

On this, the 12th day of February, 2008, came on to be considered by the Texas Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners ("Board") the matter of the license of CONRAD C. WHITFIELD, D.V.M. ("Respondent"). Pursuant to Section 801.2056, Texas Occupations Code, a committee of the Board’s staff met on December 4, 2008 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 his understanding of the alleged violations and the adequacy and sufficiency of the notice mailed to him.

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 that may be required by law and by the Board’s rules. All jurisdictional requirements have been satisfied.

2. On August 31, 2006, Respondent executed Agreed Order 2006-56 with the TBVME allowing him to acquire licensure in Texas by taking and passing the State Board Examination, and completing a three year probationary period whereby he must practice under the general supervision of a Texas veterinarian. A condition of his probationary employment was that his supervising veterinarian was required to submit quarterly progress reports on Respondent’s performance of duties.

3. On May 14, 2008, information was received indicating that Respondent failed to submit quarterly reports for the first and second quarters of calendar year 2008 as required by his probated licensure. Respondent responded that he believed the reports were not required, as he did not practice veterinary medicine in Texas after January 2008.
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 2 & 3, Respondent has violated Board Rule 573.62 and is subject to disciplinary action by the Board:

RULE §573.62 VIOLATION OF BOARD ORDERS/NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENTS

(a) All persons that are subject of a Board order shall abide by the terms of the order. The Board may open a complaint against a person who violates a Board order and/or refer the person to the Attorney General for prosecution under the Veterinary Licensing Act, Texas Occupations Code, Chapter 801, and the Administrative Procedure Act, Government Code, §2001.202.

3. Based on Conclusions of Law 1 and 2, Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Sections 801.401 & 801.402 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.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD AND RESPONDENT AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

The Board ORDERS that Respondent receive a FORMAL REPRIMAND and pay, within 45 days of the date of this Order, an ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTY of two-hundred and fifty dollars ($250.00). If Respondent fails to pay the administrative penalty within 45 days of the date of this Order, Respondent’s license shall be suspended until said 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 provision 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 hearing and any right to seek judicial review of this Order. Respondent acknowledges that he is entitled to be represented by an attorney of Respondent’s choice at his 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. 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, CONRAD C. WHITFIELD, 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.

CONRAD C. WHITFIELD, D.V.M.  

Date 1-8-09

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF

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

Given under the hand and seal of office this 8th day of January, 2009.

Notary Public

SIGNED AND ENTERED by the TEXAS BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS on this the 12th day of February 2009.

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

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TEXAS STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS