DOCKET NO. 2017-083

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

AGREED ORDER

On this the 6th day of December 2016, came to be considered by the Texas Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners ("Board") the matter of the license of John Williams, D.V.M. ("Respondent"). Pursuant to Section 801.2056, Texas Occupations Code, a committee of the Board's staff met on October 24, 2016, 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 801.408 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 an understanding of the alleged violations and the adequacy and sufficiency of the notice provided by mail.

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. Respondent, John Williams, D.V.M. of Arlington, Texas, holds Texas veterinary license 12567.

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 March 30, 2016, Board investigators conducted an on-site inspection of Respondent at the I-20 Animal Medical Center in Arlington, Texas. Respondent was unable to provide proof of the minimum required continuing education hours for 2013. Respondent completed 4.5 of the required continuing education hours, leaving a 12.5 hour deficiency. Respondent failed to request a hardship exemption for that year. Respondent reported to the Board on the license renewal form that all 17 hours of continuing education had been completed for the year.
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 the above Findings of Fact, Respondent has violated Rule 573.64, CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS, of the Board's Rules of Professional Conduct, which requires a veterinarian to annually acquire seventeen (17) hours of acceptable continuing education.

3. Based on the above Conclusions of Law, 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.

4. Based on the above Conclusions of Law, 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.

   ....

   (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 the above Conclusions of Law, 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.

6. Based on the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and given the nature and severity of the violations, Respondent's violations are Class B violations under Rule 575.25, RECOMMENDED SCHEDULE OF SANCTIONS, and Respondent is subject to discipline under that Rule.

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

Agreed Order 2017-083
John Williams, D.V.M.
The Board ORDERS that Respondent pay, within 45 days of the date of this Order, an ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTY of ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS ($1,500.00). If Respondent fails to pay the administrative penalty within 45 days of the date that the Board approves this Agreed Order, Respondent’s license may be suspended until the penalty is paid.

In addition, the Board ORDERS that Respondent complete TWELVE AND A HALF (12.5) hours of continuing education within one year of the date that the Board approves this Order in addition to the 17 hours already required by Rule 573.64. Documentation of the completion of the continuing education penalty shall be received within forty-five (45) 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 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 an understanding of the Agreed Order, the notice, and Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law set forth herein, and agrees to 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 the right to a formal hearing and any right to seek judicial review of this Agreed Order.

**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.

Signature page follows.
I, JOHN WILLIAMS, 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.

John Williams, D.V.M.

11/10/16

DATE

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF Tarrant

BEFORE ME, on this day, personally appeared John Williams, D.V.M., known to me as the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing document, and acknowledged to me that it was executed the same for the purposes stated therein.

Given under the hand and seal of office this 10 day of NOVEMBER, 2016.

Notary Public

SIGNED AND ENTERED by the TEXAS STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS on this the 8 day of DECEMBER, 2016.

Roland Lenarduzzi, D.V.M., Board President