

IN THE MATTER OF	§	TEXAS BOARD OF
THE LICENSE OF	§	VETERINARY
THOMAS BECKETT, D.V.M.	§	MEDICAL EXAMINER

**Received**  
**AUG 04 2016**  
 Texas State Board of  
 Veterinary Medical Examiners

**AGREED ORDER**

On this the 18 day of Oct, 2016 came to be considered by the Texas Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners ("Board") the matter of the license of Thomas Beckett, D.V.M. ("Respondent"). Pursuant to Section 801.408 of the Texas Occupations Code, and Board Rule 575.29, an informal conference was held on June 27, 2016. Respondent attended the informal conference. 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 understanding the alleged violations and the adequacy and sufficiency of the notice provided.

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, Thomas Beckett, D.V.M. of Austin, Texas, holds Texas veterinary license 1900.
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 11, 2015, the Board's Director of Enforcement, Karen Phillips, and Investigator Karen Hudson made telephone contact with Dr. Beckett following receipt of a complaint against him. DOE Phillips and Investigator Hudson confirmed Board database information regarding the

location of Dr. Beckett's veterinary practice. DOE Phillips and Investigator Hudson also advised that they would be conducting an unannounced inspection of his practice in the next few days.

4. Dr. Beckett advised DOE Phillips and Investigator Hudson that if a visit was made to his address, they would need to call him because the property gate was locked.

5. On June 12, 2015, DOE Phillips and Investigator Hudson went to Dr. Beckett's residence, the address designated as his practice address, to perform the inspection. Attempts to notify Dr. Beckett went unanswered. When DOE Phillips and Investigator Hudson telephoned Dr. Beckett at the number designated as his practice, a woman, later identified as Margaret Reeder, answered the phone explaining that Dr. Beckett was working with the rescue dogs he cared for.

6. Around 10:40 a.m. telephone contact was made with a representative, Liz White, of the rescue group that Dr. Beckett was working with. Dr. Beckett came to the phone and agreed to meet DOE Phillips and Investigator Hudson at his home at 11:30 a.m. However, Dr. Beckett did not come to his residence at the designated time, and instead they were met by Ms. Reeder.

7. DOE Phillips and Investigator Hudson drove to the address listed for Ms. White. When they arrived at the residence, Ms. White informed them that Dr. Beckett was no longer there and had left shortly after the phone conversation with them. DOE Phillips and Investigator Hudson returned to Dr. Beckett's residence. They were advised by Ms. Reeder that she had told Dr. Beckett to leave and have some lunch to stay out of the heat. DOE Phillips and Investigator Hudson then drove to the local diner to look for Dr. Beckett, but were unable to locate him.

### **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 paragraphs, Dr. Beckett has violated Rule 573.75, DUTY TO COOPERATE WITH BOARD, of the Board's Rules of Professional Conduct, which states that a licensee shall cooperate fully with any Board inspection or investigation, by failing to meet DOE Phillips and Investigator Hudson.

3. Based upon the above paragraphs, Dr. Beckett has violated Section 801.402(6) (prohibiting violations of Board rules) and (14) (requiring a licensee to admit a Board representative to the licensee's business premises during regular business hours) of the Veterinary Licensing Act and is subject to disciplinary action by the Board under Section 801.401 of the Act.

4. Based on Findings of Fact 1 through 7 and Conclusions of Law 1 through 3, Respondent

has violated Sections 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 practice 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.

6. 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.

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 a FORMAL REPRIMAND.

The Board ORDERS that Respondent pay, within 45 days of the date the Board approves this Order, an ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTY of ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,000.00). If Respondent fails to pay the administrative penalty within 45 days of the date the Board approves this Order, which is the date this Order is signed by the Board, the Board may apply any payment to the Board to renew a license to pay any outstanding administrative fee owed to the Board.

The Board further ORDERS that:

1. Respondent shall abide by the Rules of Professional Conduct, the Texas Veterinary Licensing Act, the laws of the State of Texas, and the laws of 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 understanding 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 acknowledges having understood 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.

**Signature page follows.**

I, THOMAS BECKETT, 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.

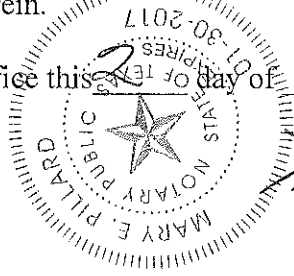
Thomas Beckett  
Thomas Beckett, D.V.M.

2 Aug 2016  
DATE

STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF Tarrant

BEFORE ME, on this day, personally appeared Thomas Beckett, D.V.M., known to me as the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing document, and acknowledged to me executing the same for the purposes stated therein.

Given under the hand and seal of office this 2 day of August, 2016.



Mary E. Pillard  
Notary Public

SIGNED AND ENTERED by the TEXAS BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS on this the 18 Oct., 2016.

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