





the surgery. NAC did not perform any blood work or urinalysis because the clinic veterinarian incorrectly assumed that these tests had previously been performed by Dr. Esslinger when examining the dog.

4. During April, 2001 the urinary problems persisted and Mr. Winters returned the dog to Dr. Esslinger on May 2, 2001. Dr. Esslinger performed rectal palpation and found continued prostate enlargement. No laboratory work was performed because Dr. Esslinger incorrectly assumed that the NAC had performed pre-surgery lab work. Dr. Esslinger again prescribed antibiotics.

5. Because "Tex" was unable to eat, appeared sluggish and had lost weight, Mr. Winters on May 7, 2001 presented "Tex" to Laurie Kutch, D.V.M., Creekside Animal Hospital, Arlington, Texas. Dr. Kutch examined the dog and conducted a physical examination which included a urinalysis. The prostate was found to be normal for a dog the size of "Tex." The urinalysis revealed a blood glucose level of 405 mg/dL. Dr. Kutch diagnosed diabetes mellitus and "Tex" was started on insulin.

6. The acts and/or failures to act alleged in paragraphs 1, 2, 4 and 5, and more specifically, Dr. Esslinger's failure to suggest diagnostic work (urinalysis) that would have revealed the medical condition of the dog, do not constitute the same degree of humane care, skill and diligence in treating patients as is ordinarily used in the same or similar circumstances by average members of the veterinary medical profession in McKinney, Texas or similar community.

### **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, 2, 4, 5 and 6, Respondent has violated Rule 573.22, PROFESSIONAL STANDARD OF HUMANE TREATMENT, of the Board's Rules of Professional Conduct, which requires veterinarians to exercise the same degree of humane care, skill and diligence in treating patients as is ordinarily used in the same or similar circumstances by average members of the veterinary medical profession in good standing in the locality or community in which they practice, or in similar communities.

3. Based on Findings of Fact 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 and Conclusions of Law 1 and 2, 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 Conclusions of Law 1 through 3, 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 a civil penalty.

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

Based on the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Board ORDERS that David Esslinger, D.V.M., be INFORMALLY REPRIMANDED.

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 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, 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 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. 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 effective date of this Agreed Order shall be the date it is adopted by the Board.

I, DAVID ESSLINGER, 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.

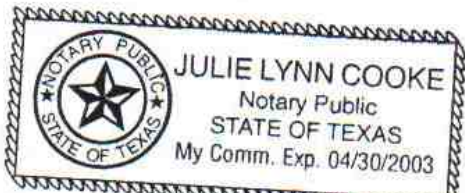
  
David Esslinger, D.V.M.

8-28-02  
Date

STATE OF TEXAS §  
COUNTY OF Collin §


BEFORE ME, on this day, personally appeared David Esslinger, 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 28<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2002.



  
Notary Public

SIGNED AND ENTERED by the TEXAS STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS on this the 17<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2002.

  
Martin Garcia, D.V.M., President