

DOCKET NO. 2010-32

IN THE MATTER OF § TEXAS BOARD OF  
THE LICENSE OF § VETERINARY  
GEORGE B. HILL, D.V.M. § MEDICAL EXAMINERS

**AGREED ORDER**

On this the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of March, 2010, came to be considered by the Texas Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners ("Board") the matter of the license of George B. Hill, D.V.M. ("Respondent"). Pursuant to Section 801.408, Texas Occupations Code and Board Rule 575.27, an informal conference was held on November 30, 2009. The Respondent was not represented by counsel. 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 his understanding of the alleged violations and the adequacy and sufficiency of the notice provided to him.

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. On May 5, 2009, Candace Maldonado of Floresville, Texas, noticed her two year-old Chihuahua, "Bo Jon" appeared to have a swollen nose. Mrs. Maldonado suspected a possible copperhead snake bite as a copperhead snake had been found near the backyard fence earlier that day. Mrs. Maldonado called George B. Hill, D.V.M., Floresville, Texas, of Oak Hills Animal Hospital.
2. Dr. Hill recommended the dog be brought in immediately. Mrs. Maldonado stated the dog was doing fine. Dr. Hill and Mrs. Maldonado agreed for her to bring in "Bo Jon" the next morning, May 6, 2009, as the dog did not have any serious symptoms. An hour later, Mrs. Maldonado noticed the swelling had increased, and left a message with Dr. Hill's clinic. An hour later, Crystal Anders, an RVT in Dr. Hill's clinic called Mrs. Maldonado back and agreed to meet them at the clinic. Dr. Hill called Ms. Anders and directed her to administer Dexamethasone 1.25 cc IV, Banamine 0.4cc SQ, Disal 0.4cc IV, Azimycin 1.0cc SQ, Baytril

Agreed Order 2010-32  
George B. Hill, D.V.M.

**RECEIVED**  
DEC 29 2009

Page 1

1.5cc SQ, Prednisone 20 mg PO, Rimadyl 0.5 cc SQ. No IV fluids were started. The dog was then hospitalized. The following morning, May 6, 2009, Mrs. Maldonado was told that "Bo Jon" was doing well, but that the dog's nose was still swollen. Dr. Hill later that morning recommended further hospitalization. The medications were continued, but still no IV fluids were started. According to Dr. Hill that morning "Bo Jon" was reclusive and refusing food and water. Throughout the day "Bo Jon" stayed lying in the corner of his kennel and vomited in the evening. On the morning of May 7, 2009, "Bo Jon" was found recumbent with a low temperature of less than ninety one degrees. "Bo Jon" experienced four seizures between 7:30 am and 8:30 am when aroused. Treatment for the snake bite was stopped in order to treat the seizures. Dr. Hill administered Valium 0.5 cc IV, Epinephrine 0.35cc SQ, Atropine 0.5cc SQ, Recover 0.5cc SQ and oral Karo Syrup. IV fluids were started around 2pm. Dr. Hill made a differential diagnosis of hepatic-encephalopathy, diabetic coma, or adverse drug reactions. "Bo Jon's" temperature returned to 98.4 degrees within one hour. Dr. Hill gave "Bo Jon" a 40/60 chance of survival. Mrs. Maldonado decided to take "Bo Jon" to another veterinarian for a second opinion.

3. The afternoon of May 7, 2009, Mrs. Maldonado presented "Bo Jon" in a recumbent and comatose state to Stephanie Collins, D.V.M. of Deason Animal Hospital, Floresville, Texas for a second opinion. Dr. Collins examined "Bo Jon" and was concerned that the dog was overmedicated, based on the receipt from Dr. Hill's clinic stating what medications had been administered to the dog. Dr. Collins noted that "Bo Jon's" temperature was low and recommended a blood profile. IV fluids were started. Dr. Collins was concerned with the combinations of medications administered by Dr. Hill and the dog's comatose state. Mrs. Maldonado and her husband requested the medical records from Dr. Hill. Dr. Hill had not completed his notes within the medical records, so Mrs. Maldonado returned to Dr. Collins's clinic while her husband waited for the medical records. According to Dr. Collins, the blood profile on "Bo Jon" showed that his kidneys were in poor shape and many of the other levels showed that he had not eaten in several days. Dr. Collins believed that "Bo Jon" was severely over-medicated. Mrs. Maldonado then went back to Dr. Hill's clinic to wait for the medical records. Mrs. Maldonado returned to Dr. Collins's clinic with the medical records. Dr. Collins reviewed the medical records and diagnosed hypoglycemia, renal failure, liver inflammation, and gastrointestinal bleeding. Dr. Collins hospitalized "Bo Jon." The evening of May 7, 2009, Dr. Collins informed Mrs. Maldonado that the sedation administered by Dr. Hill was wearing off, but "Bo Jon" was not responding positively neurologically. Dr. Collins stated that the dog appeared disoriented and it was apparent that the dog's condition was not improving or even stabilizing. Dr. Collins noted that the dog's glucose levels were back up and she was monitoring him. Mrs. Maldonado declined to have the dog transferred to a twenty-four hour clinic. Dr. Collins checked on "Bo Jon" every three hours throughout the night. Dr. Collins stated that the dog never became coherent and continued to thrash about whenever the Valium wore off. "Bo Jon" passed away at 3:00 am, May 8, 2009. No necropsy was done.

4. Dr. Collins stated that the doses and frequency of medication and the combination of multiple non-steroidal and steroidal drugs administered to "Bo Jon" were extremely excessive. Dr. Collins

also noted that Dr. Hill administered a diuretic and antibiotics, which stress the kidneys and can cause renal side effects. Dr. Collins notes that "Bo Jon" was not administered IV fluids while receiving these medications, which further stressed the kidneys when the dog stopped eating and drinking. Dr. Collins stated that she believes Dr. Hill's treatment of "Bo Jon" fell below the standard of care for Floresville, Texas.

5. Dr. Hill's medical records regarding "Bo Jon" did not have sufficient details to substantiate the examination, diagnosis, and treatment provided, including a lack of temperatures taken, except for one time, a lack of description and placement of the swelling as well as the condition of the mucous membranes.

6. Dr. Hill's dosage and frequency of medications and combinations of drugs in his treatment of "Bo Jon" without IV fluids does not represent 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 Floresville, Texas, or similar communities. However, at this time, there is a lack of agreement of the exact standard of care in the treatment of snakebites in the veterinary profession, and thus is a mitigating factor in this case.

#### **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 through 4, 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 and 5, Respondent has violated Rule 573.52 PATIENT RECORD KEEPING, which requires veterinarians to provide details necessary to substantiate the examination, diagnosis, and treatment provided by the veterinarian.

4. Based on Finding of Fact 1 through 6 and 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: (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.

.... (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.

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

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

In addition, the Board ORDERS that George B. Hill, D.V.M. complete an additional THREE (3) hours of continuing education in recordkeeping within one year of the date of this order. Documentation of the completion of the continuing education penalty shall be received within thirty (30) days from the end of the period to complete the continuing education. If Respondent fails to provide documentation of completion within forty-five (45) days from the end of the period to complete the continuing education, Respondent's license shall 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 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.

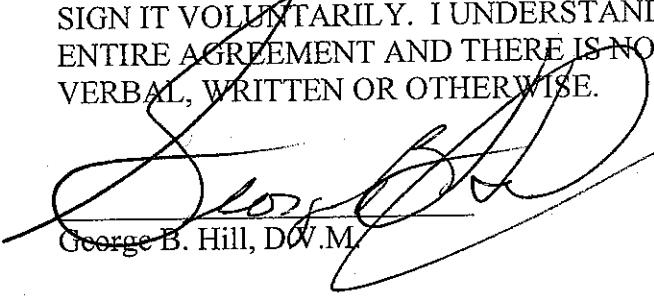
Respondent, by signing this Agreed Order, acknowledges his understanding of the Agreed Order, the notice, and Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law herein set forth herein, and agrees that he will satisfactorily comply with the mandates of the Agreed Order in a timely manner or be subject to appropriate 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. 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, **GEORGE B. HILL**, 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.

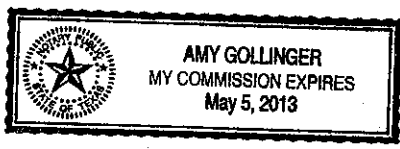
  
George B. Hill, D.V.M.

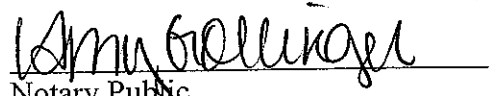
12-24-09  
Date

STATE OF TEXAS §  
COUNTY OF Wilson §

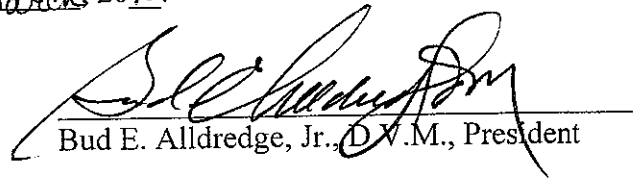
BEFORE ME, on this day, personally appeared **GEORGE B. HILL**, D.V.M., known to me as the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing document, and acknowledged to me that he executed the same for the purposes stated therein.

Given under the hand and seal of office this 24th day of December, 2009



  
Notary Public

SIGNED AND ENTERED by the TEXAS BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS on this the 22nd day of March, 2010.

  
Bud E. Alldredge, Jr., D.V.M., President