

Aug. 7. 2013 2:32PM

No. 0519 P. 2

DOCKET NO. 2013-144

IN THE MATTER OF	§	TEXAS BOARD OF
THE LICENSE OF	§	VETERINARY
BYRON K. JONES, D.V.M.	§	MEDICAL EXAMINERS

AGREED ORDER

On this the 22 day of October 2013 came to be considered by the Texas Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (Board) the matter of the license of BYRON K. JONES, D.V.M. (Respondent). Pursuant to Section 801.408, Texas Occupations Code and Board Rule 575.27, an informal conference was held on July 17, 2013. Respondent waived his appearance at 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 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. Respondent, Byron K. Jones, D.V.M. of Denton, Texas, holds Texas veterinary license 4966.
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 August 15, 2012, Mason and Lynell LaBorde presented their two-year-old female Labrador Retriever mix dog named Martha to the Southridge Animal Hospital ("Hospital") in

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Denton, Texas for the second part of a three-part heartworm treatment protocol. Martha was to remain hospitalized for treatment until August 18, 2012.

4. Respondent is the owner of the Hospital, and employs the veterinary technicians who work at the Hospital.

5. On August 17, 2012, a veterinary technician, who was attempting to medicate Martha, failed to properly restrain her. Martha bolted out of the kennel door that had been propped open by another staff member acting in the course of his or her employment, and through a door to the outside that Martha opened by slamming herself into the emergency push bar. Martha escaped into the woods and neighborhood surrounding the Hospital, and was not found again.

6. Respondent refunded all of the costs of Martha's heartworm treatment to Mr. and Mrs. LaBorde, and made changes to hospital protocol to prevent any other animal from escaping again.

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 6, Respondent has violated Rule 573.22, PROFESSIONAL STANDARD OF CARE, by failing to ensure that animals in his care for veterinary medical treatment were safe and secure.

3. Based on Findings of Fact 1 through 6, Respondent has violated Section 801.351 of the Veterinary Licensing Act, Texas Occupations Code, by failing to establish and maintain a veterinarian-client-patient relationship by examining the animal prior to treatment.

4. Based on Findings 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:

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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 Respondent receive an FORMAL REPRIMAND.

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 his understanding of the Agreed Order, the notice, and Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law 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

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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, BYRON K. JONES, 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.

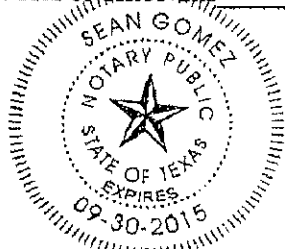
Byron K. Jones DVM
BYRON K. JONES, D.V.M.

8/7/13
DATE

STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF Denton §

BEFORE ME, on this day, personally appeared Bryon K. Jones, 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 7 day of August, 2013.



Sean Gomez
Notary Public

SIGNED AND ENTERED by the TEXAS BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS on this the 22nd of October, 2013.

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