

DOCKET NO. DK2019-019

IN THE MATTER OF    §        TEXAS BOARD OF  
THE LICENSE OF     §        VETERINARY  
ALISSA ST. BLANC, D.V.M.                                        §        MEDICAL EXAMINERS

**AGREED ORDER**

On this day the Texas Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (“Board”) considered the matter of the license of Alissa St. Blanc, D.V.M. (“Respondent”).

Respondent, without admitting the truth of the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law set out in this Order, waived notice and hearing and agreed to the entry of this Order. Accordingly, the Board makes the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and enters this Order as set forth below.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. Respondent, Alissa St. Blanc, D.V.M., of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, holds Texas veterinary license 14352.
2. On July 27, 2017, the owners of five-year-old female Labrador Retriever, Bailey, took her to Dallas Veterinary Surgical Center (“DVSC”) to address lameness of her left pelvic limb. Bailey was examined by other providers at DVSC and underwent a Tibial Plateau Leveling Osteotomy by one of those providers. Bailey was discharged the next day on July 28th.
3. On July 29th, the owners brought Bailey back to DVSC due to concerns with Bailey’s breathing. Another provider at DVSC examined Bailey and found that while she had “noisy breathing,” her oxygen saturation levels were 100% and she was not dyspneic. A chest radiograph showed findings consistent with aspiration lobar pneumonia. Bailey’s owners authorized treatment, and care was transferred to Respondent at that time. At the time of the care at issue, Respondent was an intern at DVSC.
4. Respondent discussed Bailey’s plan of treatment with the surgeon on call who agreed with the plan. Her treatment included IV fluids, coupage, nebulization, injectable antibiotics, nasal cannula oxygen administration. Because Bailey responded well, this treatment was continued for several hours. Bailey was hospitalized overnight.
5. Despite initial improvement that included a walk outside, Bailey’s oxygen saturation dipped below 90% for the first time during the morning hours of July 30th. Bailey also began to appear uncomfortable, so she was placed into the ICU’s oxygenated cage as a precaution, which initially improved her oxygen saturation.

6. At approximately 1:00 p.m., Bailey's oxygen saturation did not read above 75% and she was noted to be pale with a large amount of brown, foul smelling liquid coming from her nostrils. Respondent, who was on call, was notified and ordered IV medications to be administered.

7. Unfortunately, Bailey's condition continued to decline, and Respondent was contacted and immediately began traveling to the facility. In addition, Respondent ordered chest radiographs. While attempting to flip Bailey to her right side to complete the radiographs, Bailey stopped breathing.

8. When Respondent arrived at the facility, Bailey still had a heart rate and was breathing on her own. However, shortly after, she went into cardiac arrest. Chest compressions were immediately started along with two rounds of low-dose epinephrine, as well as an atropine IV. Attempts at resuscitation were unsuccessful.

### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Pursuant to Texas Occupations Code, Chapter 801, the Board has jurisdiction over this matter. Respondent is required to comply with the provisions of the Veterinary Licensing Act, Chapter 801, Texas Occupations Code, and with the Board's Rules. Respondent received notice as required by law.

2. Respondent has violated Board Rule 573.22, Professional Standard of Care, of the Board's Rules of Professional Conduct.

3. Respondent has violated Section 801.402(6) of the Veterinary Licensing Act, Texas Occupations Code, prohibiting violations of Board rule.

4. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Texas Occupations Code, Sections 801.401(a) & (d), and 801.451.

5. Pursuant to Board Rule 575.25, Respondent's violations are Class B violations, and Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under that Rule.

## TERMS OF ORDER

Now, therefore, the Board and Respondent agree to the following terms:

### 1. REPRIMAND

- a. Respondent is hereby informally reprimanded by the Board. This informal reprimand will not be published in the Board's newsletter and will not be routinely reported to the American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB) for inclusion in the national reporting database. A copy of this informal reprimand will be forwarded to the AAVSB if specifically requested by that organization.

### 2. ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTY

- a. Respondent shall pay an administrative penalty of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) within 30 days of the date the Board approves this Order. Payment shall be made directly to the Texas Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners at 333 Guadalupe Street, Suite 3-810, Austin, Texas 78701. Partial payments will not be accepted.
- b. If Respondent does not timely pay the administrative penalty, the Board may deny a request to renew Respondent's license until the outstanding administrative penalty is received, pursuant to Board Rule 573.62(b). Any monetary funds paid to the Board to renew a license shall first be applied to any outstanding unpaid administrative penalties, pursuant to Board Rule 571.57. Additionally, the matter may be referred to the Attorney General for collection, pursuant to Texas Occupations Code, Section 801.458.

### 3. CONTINUING EDUCATION

- a. In addition to the annual continuing education required for license renewal, Respondent shall complete six (6) hours of continuing education in the area of critical care/emergency care, within six months of the date the Board approves this Order. Respondent shall submit documentation of the completed continuing education penalty and the required annual continuing education to the Board within six months of the date the Board approves this Order. Documentation shall be submitted directly to the Texas Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners at 333 Guadalupe Street, Suite 3-810, Austin, Texas 78701.

### 4. ADHERENCE TO THE LAW AND BOARD RULES

- a. Respondent shall abide by the Board's Rules of Professional Conduct, the Texas Veterinary Licensing Act, and the laws of the State of Texas and the United States.
- b. Respondent shall cooperate with the Board's attorneys, investigators, compliance officers and other employees and agents investigating Respondent's compliance with this Order.

- c. Failure by Respondent to comply with the terms of this Order, or with any other provisions of the Veterinary Licensing Act or the Board Rules, may result in further disciplinary action.

The effective date of the terms of this Order shall be the date it is adopted by the Board, unless stated otherwise.

*Certification and signature page follows.*

**RESPONDENT'S CERTIFICATION**

I understand that I have the right to legal counsel prior to signing this Order. I waive representation by counsel. I have reviewed this Order and understand the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of law set forth herein. I neither admit nor deny the violation(s) herein. I understand that this Order contains the entire agreement, and there is no other agreement of any kind. I waive the right to any further proceedings, including a formal hearing, and the right to seek judicial review of this Order.

I understand that this Order is subject to approval by the Board. I understand that the terms and conditions of this Order become effective upon approval by the Board. A copy of the approved Order will be mailed to me. By signing this Order, I agree to satisfactorily comply with the terms and conditions of the Order in a timely manner. I understand that if I fail to comply with all terms and conditions of this Order, I will be subject to investigation and appropriate disciplinary action as a result of my noncompliance.

Signed this 17 day of April, 2023.

Alissa St. Blanc  
Alissa St. Blanc, D.V.M.

Sworn and subscribed before me this 17 day of April, 2023.

SEAL:

Virginia Watson Guttner  
Notary Public, Notary ID #84321  
East Baton Rouge Parish  
State of Louisiana  
Commission expires with life

Virginia Watson Guttner  
Notary Public

THEREFORE, the Texas Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners does hereby adopt this Order. This Order is effective and final on this 18<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2023

Jessica Quillivan DVM, MS  
Jessica Quillivan, D.V.M., Presiding Board Member  
Steven C. Kolla DVM, MS