

TEXAS VETERINARY LICENSE #12437; COMPLAINT 22-059

IN THE MATTER	§	BEFORE THE EXECUTIVE
OF	§	DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE
THE LICENSE	§	OF THE TEXAS BOARD
OF	§	OF VETERINARY MEDICAL
ASHLEE WATTS, D.V.M.	§	EXAMINERS

**ORDER OF TEMPORARY SUSPENSION**

On this day the Executive Disciplinary Committee ("EDC") of the Texas Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners ("Board") considered the matter of the license of Ashlee Watts, D.V.M. ("Respondent").

The EDC convened without notice to Respondent, pursuant to Section 801.409 of the Veterinary Licensing Act, Texas Occupations Code, and Board Rule 575.35.

Based on the evidence and information submitted, the Board, through this panel, makes the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and enters this Order as set forth below.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. Respondent, Ashlee Watts, D.V.M., of College Station, Texas, holds Texas veterinary license #12437.
2. On October 21, 2021, the Respondent was indicted by a Brazos County Grand Jury for Felony Cruelty to Livestock Animals.
3. Respondent's continued practice of veterinary medicine constitutes a continuing of imminent threat to the public welfare.

**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.
2. Respondent has violated Board Rule 573.4, Adherence to Law, 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 acts that violate the Board's Rules of Professional Conduct.
4. Respondent is subject to temporary license suspension under Texas Occupations Code,

Sections 801.409 and Board Rule 575.35.

### TERMS OF ORDER

Now, therefore, the Board orders that Respondent comply with the following terms:

#### 1. TEMPORARY SUSPENSION

- a. Respondent's license shall be temporarily suspended, effective immediately upon signature by the EDC's presiding officer. The temporary suspension shall remain in effect until superseded by a subsequent Order or by operation of law. During the period of the suspension, the following terms shall apply:
  - i. Respondent shall not practice nor give the appearance of practicing veterinary medicine.
  - ii. Respondent shall not supervise nor give the appearance of supervising other licensees or unlicensed employees in the practice of veterinary medicine.
  - iii. Respondent's clinic and facilities may be used by Respondent for administrative purposes only. Administrative purposes include opening mail, referring patients, accepting payments on accounts, and general office tasks. Respondent shall exercise extreme caution and not be persuaded, coerced, or otherwise drawn by anyone to practicing or even giving the appearance of practicing veterinary medicine.

#### 2. NOTICE AND OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING

- a. The Board shall promptly provide a copy of this Order to Respondent's attorney of record. The Board shall also provide a copy of this Order to Respondent electronically or by facsimile, as necessary.
- b. Pursuant to Section 801.409, Texas Occupations Code, and Board Rule 575.35, an informal conference will be scheduled not later than the 14<sup>th</sup> day after the effective date of this Order to determine if formal disciplinary proceedings should be initiated against Respondent. The informal conference will be conducted pursuant to Board Rules 575.35 and 575.29. The Board shall notify Respondent of the informal conference at least 72 hours prior to the informal conference.

THEREFORE, the Texas Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, through the Executive Disciplinary Committee, does hereby adopt this Order. This Order is effective and final on this 10<sup>th</sup> day of November 2021.



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Keith Pardue, Presiding Board Member