

David Handel, D.V.M, President
Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, MD

RE: Surrender of License to Practice Veterinary Medicine –Gregory Burbelo, D.V. M.
License No. 3655
SBVME Docket No. 18-31

Dear Dr. Handel and Members of the Board,

Please be advised that pursuant to the terms of my guilty plea in *State of Maryland v. Gregory Burbelo*, Case No. 6B02366867, in the District Court of Maryland for Baltimore City, I hereby do surrender my license to practice veterinary medicine in the State of Maryland, License No. 3655, effective immediately.

I understand that upon surrender of my license, I may not give veterinary medical advice or treatment to any animal, with or without compensation, and cannot prescribe medications or otherwise engage in the practice of veterinary medicine as it is defined in the Maryland Veterinary Practice Act ("Veterinary Practice Act"), Agriculture Article, §§ 2-301, *et seq.*, Annotated Code of Maryland (2016 Repl. Vol.) and related COMAR regulations. I affirm that I presently have no veterinary medical practice in the State of Maryland.

I understand that this Letter of Surrender is a **PUBLIC DOCUMENT**, and upon acceptance by the Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners ("the Board"), becomes a part of a **FINAL ORDER** of the Board.

By way of background, criminal charges were filed against me in the District Court for Baltimore City, Case No. 6B02366867. Copies of the Application for Statement of Charges and Statement of Charges against me are attached to this letter, and are incorporated into this letter as though fully set forth herein.

On or about January 12, 2018, I pled guilty to one count of felony animal cruelty (Count 2 in the Statement of Charges) and one count of inhibiting witness testimony (Count 12). Pursuant to my guilty plea, I admitted and acknowledged that was deliberately cruel to animals in my care and committed felony animal cruelty in the course of my practice of veterinary medicine as specified in the criminal charges. I also admitted and acknowledged that I threatened to harm a witness to my acts of cruelty in an effort to inhibit the witness from coming forward to report my conduct and/or testify against me. I do not dispute the material facts as represented in the Application for Statement of Charges.

I understand that a complaint was filed with the Board on or about November 21, 2017 (Docket No. 18-31), alleging violations of the Veterinary Practice Act arising from the same conduct described in the criminal charges. In light of the outcome of the criminal trial, including my guilty plea, conviction, and the condition of my sentence requiring me to surrender my license to practice veterinary medicine, I have agreed to give up my license in the manner acceptable to the Board without need for the Board

to conduct further proceedings in Docket No. 18-31, including conducting its own investigation, filing formal charges, and holding a hearing.

I understand that pursuant to the Veterinary Practice Act, Agric. § 2-310, the Board may refuse, suspend, or revoke any application or license . . . after a hearing, if the veterinary practitioner:

(3) Is convicted of a felony, or a crime involving moral turpitude;

.....

(8) Fails to comply with Board rules and regulations after receiving a license;

.....

(9) Is grossly negligent or deliberately cruel to an animal.

Given the judgment in the criminal case, I have been convicted of a felony, which is grounds for discipline under Agriculture Article § 2-310(3). If the Board were to continue disciplinary proceedings, the undisputed facts to which I have admitted by virtue of my guilty plea in the criminal case support finding violations of §§ 2-310(8) and (9) of the Veterinary Practice Act. Specifically, by striking the animals as described in the criminal charges, I failed to conform to those minimal standards of care and treatment which are customary among veterinarians in this State in violation of COMAR 15.14.01.07A and was further deliberately cruel to an animal in my care on multiple occasions, which is additional grounds for discipline by the Board.

I acknowledge that I have consulted with an attorney before signing this letter surrendering my license to practice veterinary medicine in Maryland. I understand that by submitting this letter, I have no right to any further due process with respect to the surrender or revocation of my license, including a right to a hearing or an appeal.

I further acknowledge and agree that during the period in which I am on probation for the criminal conviction, I will not seek to have my license reinstated or reapply for a new license to practice veterinary medicine in Maryland.

I further understand that if more than 2 years have elapsed from the date the Board accepts my Letter of Surrender, I may obtain a license only by compliance with the same requirements that are imposed by Agriculture Article §§ 2-301 *et seq.* on other license applicants.

I understand that for the Board to reinstate my license or to grant me a new license, I must apply and appear before the Board with satisfactory evidence of my current fitness to practice veterinary medicine and that I bear the burden of demonstrating to the Board that I am competent to practice veterinary medicine in this State. I understand and agree that as part of the application process, if ordered by the Board to do so, I will consent to and report for mental or physical examination in accordance with Agriculture Article, § 2-307-1, Maryland Annotated Code, to demonstrate my current fitness to practice veterinary medicine.

By agreeing to this condition, I understand that the Board is not required to order a mental or physical examination and is not precluded from denying my application for licensure based upon other grounds, including, but not limited to, the facts giving rise to the criminal charges and the complaint in Docket 18-31. I also understand that the Board may consider the information obtained in this/these or any other investigations of my veterinary practice which may arise in the interim, when making a decision on any future application

I understand that the Board will advise the American Association of Veterinary State Boards and the National Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners of this Letter of Surrender.

I agree that I shall send by certified mail, return receipt required, my Drug Enforcement Administration Registration card to: Division Supervisor, Drug Enforcement Administration, 200 St. Paul Place, 22nd Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21202.

I acknowledge that the Board will send a copy of this Letter of Surrender and/or any final order of revocation entered by the Board to both the State of Maryland Division of Drug Control and the United States Drug Enforcement Administration ("DEA"), attesting that I am surrendering my privilege to prescribe controlled dangerous substances in the State of Maryland. I agree that I will not reapply for certifications for use in the State of Maryland with the United States DEA or the State of Maryland Division of Drug Control unless and until the Board reinstates my license to practice veterinary medicine.

I agree to surrender all active licenses to practice veterinary medicine that I have in any other states, and I agree not to apply for licensure or reactivation of any inactive license in any other state until such time as the Maryland Board reinstates my license to practice veterinary medicine or grants me a new license.

I understand the language, meaning, terms, and effect of this letter, as well as the consequences of the Board's acceptance of my surrender.

Sincerely,



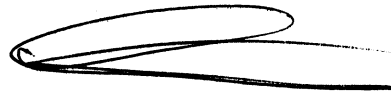
Gregory Burbelo, DVM

VERIFICATION

I solemnly swear and affirm under the penalties of perjury that the facts stated above are true and correct and based upon personal knowledge.

Dated: _____

2/15/18



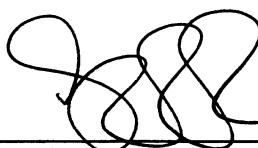
Gregory Burbelo, DVM

STATE OF MARYLAND

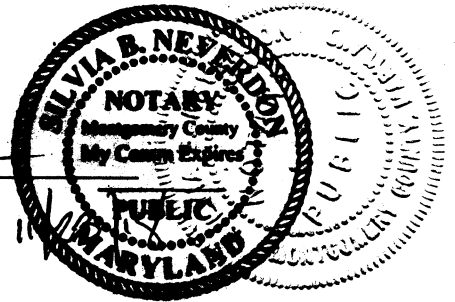
COUNTY OF

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 15th day of February, 2018, before me, a
Notary Public of the State and County aforesaid, personally appeared Gregory Burbelo,
D.V.M., and made oath in due form of law that the foregoing Letter of Surrender was his
voluntary act and deed.

AS WITNESS my hand and Notarial Seal.

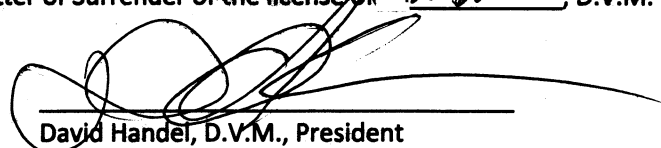


Notary Public
My Commission Expires: 11/1/18



On behalf of the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners this 12 day of

March 2018, I accept the Public Letter of Surrender of the license of Dr. Burbelo, D.V.M.



David Handel, D.V.M., President