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STATE OF MARYLAND
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICLTURE
BEFORE THE STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS

IN THE MATTER OF:	*	
DR. SALIFOU BISHOP LICENSE NO. 6953	*	DOCKET NO. 16-28
	*	

* * * * * * * * * * * * * *

CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER

This Consent Agreement and Order ("Consent Agreement"), dated this 23 day of June, 2017, is between the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners ("SBVME") and Dr. Salifou Bishop (License No. 6953). This Consent Agreement resolves the charges filed by the SBVME filed on March 30, 2017, in Docket No. 16-28 alleging that Dr. Bishop violated the Code of Maryland Regulations ("COMAR"), specifically COMAR 15.14.01.10 by failing to record the treatment provided to the cat, Zeytuna, owned by Alex Jansen and Anastasia Poulos, for three separate categories of information required to be kept in his records: (1) the physical exam prior to surgery in violation of COMAR 15.14.01.10A(7); (2) the anesthesia log, in violation of COMAR 15.14.01.10A(10); and (3) a surgery log, in violation of COMAR 15.14.01.10A(10).

On April 5, 2017, Dr. Bishop asked to resolve the charges informally. On May 18, 2017, Dr. Bishop and the SBVME reached an agreement to resolve the charges. By entering into this Consent Agreement, Dr. Bishop waives the right to a hearing and an appeal on the charges in Docket No. 16-28.

Under Maryland law, the SBVME is the licensing authority responsible for regulating the practice of veterinary medicine in this State, which includes filing disciplinary actions against veterinarians charged with violating the provisions of the Veterinary Practice Act, Agriculture

Article, §§ 2-301 through 2-316, Annotated Code of Maryland ("Veterinary Practice Act") and related COMAR regulations adopted pursuant to this law. *See* COMAR 15.14.01 through 15.14.17. As part of its authority, the SBVME "may refuse, suspend, or revoke any application or license, and censure or place on probation any licensee ... if the veterinarian ... [f]ails to comply with Board rules and regulations after receiving a license." Md. Code Ann., Agric. Art., §2-310(8). The Board may also impose a civil penalty of not more than $5,000 for a first offense, or $10,000 for a second or subsequent offense, in lieu of or in addition to suspending or revoking a veterinarian's license, respectively. Md. Code Ann., Agric. Art., § 2-310.1 In setting the amount of a civil penalty, the Board shall consider the severity of the violation, the good faith of the violator, and any history of prior violations, as well as the Board's regulatory civil penalty standards. Md. Code Ann., State Gov't Art. § 10-1001(b); COMAR 15.14.11 (Civil Penalty Standards for Veterinarians).

FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Salifou Bishop, D.M.V. (License No. 6953) by entering into and signing this Consent Agreement, while generally and specifically denying liability in this case, agrees to the provisions of this Consent Agreement, acknowledging that the SBVME has sufficient evidence to find, as fact, and to conclude as a matter of law that Dr. Bishop violated COMAR of COMAR 15.14.01.10 by failing to record the treatment provided to the cat for three separate categories of information required to be kept in his records: (1) the physical exam prior to surgery in violation of COMAR 15.14.01.10A(7); (2) the anesthesia log, in violation of COMAR 15.14.01.10A(10); and (3) a surgery log, in violation of COMAR 15.14.01.10A(10). Specifically,

1. At all times relevant to this charge, Dr. Salifou Bishop was a licensed veterinarian (License No. 6953) and the owner of Loving Pet Mobile Care, a veterinary house call practice in this State.

2. On or about December 2013 through August 2015, Dr. Bishop treated a cat named "Zeytuna" at various locations, including treating Zeytuna in the owners' home via Dr. Bishop's mobile house call practice. Zeytuna is owned by Alex Jansen and Anastasia Poulos, ("the Complainants") and was treated for various conditions, including a fibrosarcoma and gastrointestinal issues and weight loss.

3. The Complainants filed a complaint with the SBVME arising from the care Dr. Bishop provided to Zeytuna. As part of its investigation of the complaint, the SBVME obtained copies of Dr. Bishop's records reflecting Zeytuna's treatment.

4. Overall, Dr. Bishop's records are disorganized, not in clear chronological order, and often fail to reflect important information required under the Veterinary Practice Act and related COMAR regulations.

5. For companion animals, such as cats, COMAR regulations adopted under the Veterinary Practice Act and require that for each animal a veterinarian treats, the veterinarian prepare a legibly written record that accurately and thoroughly reflects the treatment provided. COMAR 15.14.01.10A (Record Keeping).

6. During the time Zeytuna was in Dr. Bishop's care, Dr. Bishop performed surgery on the cat. Specifically, on or about December 27, 2013, Dr. Bishop performed a lumpectomy.

7. For the December 2013 surgery, Dr. Bishop's records are deficient. Specifically, Dr. Bishop's records do not contain:

(1) Documentation reflecting that a physical examination was conducted prior to the surgery;

(2) An anesthesia log;
(3) A surgery log.

Based on the foregoing findings of fact, the SBVME concludes that Dr. Salifou Bishop, License No. 6953, violated the Veterinary Practice Act and related COMAR regulations by failing to keep appropriate medical records. Taking the facts and circumstances into consideration, including the nature of the violation, Dr. Bishop's lack of a disciplinary history with the Board, and his good faith efforts to resolve this matter promptly, the Board concluded that the most reasonable and appropriate resolution includes the following sanctions.

ORDER

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, it is this 23 day of June, 2017, by the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, ORDERED that:

(a) For the violations of COMAR 15.14.01.10A (Record Keeping), Dr. Bishop is assessed a Civil Penalty in the amount of $500, payable to the "Maryland Department of Agriculture" with the notation "SBVME – 16-28." Payment shall be made not later than 30 days from the date of this Order.

(b) Within six months of the date of this Order, Dr. Bishop shall complete, as continuing education ("CE"), Dr. James F. Wilson's online Veterinary Medical Records module, available through Iowa State University, College of Veterinary Medicine. Within 30 days of completion of this CE, Dr. Bishop shall forward to the Board documentation from the CE provider showing proof of completion of the CE credits under this Order. Proof from the CE provider shall include Dr. Bishop's' name, the number of CE hours completed, the topics covered, and the dates the CE was given. Completion of this CE will not be counted towards the 18 credit hours of CE required annually for re-registration of the veterinary license.

WITNESS the hand of the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, State of Maryland, this 27 day of June, 2017.

STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY
MEDICAL EXAMINERS

David L. Handel, D.V.M.
President
State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners
Maryland Department of Agriculture

CONSENT

I, Salifou Bishop, D.V.M., acknowledge that I have had an opportunity to consult with counsel before entering into and signing this document. By this Consent, I hereby acknowledge the legal authority and jurisdiction of the Board over this matter and to issue and enforce this Consent Agreement. In order to resolve this matter, I agree to accept and submit to the foregoing Consent Agreement, consisting of 6 pages. I sign this Consent Agreement without reservation as my voluntary act and deed after having had an opportunity to consult with counsel, and I acknowledge that I fully understand and comprehend the language, meaning, and terms of this Consent Agreement.

6/23/2017
Date

Salifou Bishop, D.V.M.