

**STATE OF MARYLAND
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BEFORE THE STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS**

IN THE MATTER OF:

*

LESLIE K. TAYLOR, DVM

*

DOCKET NO. 16-70

LICENSE NO. 3154

*

* * * * *

ORDER OF CENSURE

This Order of Censure (Order), dated this 15th day of December, 2016, is by the Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (Board) against Leslie K. Taylor, DVM (Dr. Taylor), License No. 3154. On June 20, 2016, Roger and Susan Sekera, owners of a four-year-old neutered male West Highland Terrier, "Percy," filed a complaint with the Board concerning Dr. Taylor. This Order resolves the violation described by the Board in its Notice of Agency Action to Dr. Taylor on November 28, 2016, alleging that Dr. Taylor violated Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 15.14.01.04, pertaining to professional conduct, on or about March 9, 2016, by failing to act in relation to the public, her clients Roger and Susan Sekera, so as to merit their full confidence and respect, a violation of COMAR 15.14.01.04 Professional Conduct, in her handling of international travel preparations for the Sekera's dog "Percy," when, on or about March 9, 2016, Dr. Taylor failed to clearly advise the Sekeras of their responsibility to research the international travel requirements for taking the dog to the European Union (EU), or, in the alternative, Dr. Taylor did not undertake the research on behalf of the clients. By letter dated December 2, 2016, Dr. Taylor waived the right to a hearing and appeal of the Board's November 28, 2016 charging document in Docket No. 16-70. Dr. Taylor has a prior disciplinary history with the Board since her licensing in 2008 of operating a hospital without a license in Docket No. 00-67 and practicing without renewing registration in 07-31.

Under State law, the Board 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 provisions of the Maryland Veterinary Practice Act, Agriculture Article Sections 2-301 to 2-316, Annotated Code of Maryland, and related regulations. As part of its authority, the Board "may refuse, suspend, or revoke any application or license, and censure or place on probation any licensee . . . if the veterinarian or veterinary practitioner . . . [f]ails to comply with

Board rules and regulations after receiving a license[.]” Md. Code Ann., Agric. Art., Section 2-310(8). In addition, the Board may 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., Section 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. Section 10-1001(b); COMAR 15.14.11 Civil Penalty Standards for Veterinarians.

FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Leslie K. Taylor, DVM, License No. 3154, waived her right to a hearing and while generally and specifically denying liability in this case, consents to this Order of Censure, acknowledging that the Board has sufficient evidence to find as fact, and conclude as a matter of law that she violated COMAR 15.14.01.04, pertaining to professional conduct, regarding Roger and Susan Sekera’s four-year-old neutered male West Highland Terrier, “Percy”; specifically, on or about March 9, 2016, Dr. Taylor failed to act in relation to the public, her clients Roger and Susan Sekera, so as to merit their full confidence and respect, a violation of COMAR 15.14.01.04 Professional Conduct, in her handling of international travel preparations for the Sekera’s four-year-old neutered male West Highland Terrier, “Percy,” when, on or about March 9, 2016, Dr. Taylor failed to clearly advise the Sekeras of their responsibility to research the international travel requirements for taking the dog to the European Union, or, in the alternative, Dr. Taylor did not undertake the research on behalf of the clients.

Taking all the facts and circumstances into consideration, including the nature of the assertions, Dr. Taylor’s good faith effort in resolving this matter, and Dr. Taylor’s disciplinary history with the Board, the Board concluded that the most reasonable and appropriate resolution in this matter is as follows.

ORDER

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, it is this 15th day of December, 2016, by the Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, **ORDERED** that Dr. Taylor, License No. 3154, is **Censured**.



David L. Handel, DVM, President
Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners