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

IN THE MATTER OF:	*	
MICHAEL E. JACOBS, D.V.M.	*	**DOCKET NO. 10-29**
LICENSE NO. 2755	*	

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MODIFIED ORDER

This Modified Order, dated this 23rd day of February, 2012, is filed by the Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (Board) in Docket No. 10-29, concerning Michael E. Jacobs, D.V.M. (Dr. Jacobs), License No. 2755. This Modified Order resolves the charges filed by the Board on September 7, 2010, asserting that Dr. Jacobs violated Agriculture Article §§ 2-301, *et seq.*, Annotated Code of Maryland (Veterinary Practice Act), and related Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR); specifically, Code of COMAR 15.14.01.04 Professional Conduct and COMAR 15.14.01.10 Record Keeping, from October 23 to 25, 2009, by making misrepresentations to the owners, Jeff and Debbie Fields (Owners), concerning the circumstances of the death of their dog, "Muffin," a 7-year-old Pomeranian, and by altering the medical record the day after the dog's death, respectively. On September 17, 2010, Dr. Jacobs requested a hearing before the Board to dispute the charges. Thereafter, the parties entered into discussions and reached a resolution, evidenced by Consent Agreement and Order (Original Order), dated January 20, 2011. Based upon the terms of the Original Order and upon Dr. Jacobs's successful completion of all conditions of probation in that Original Order, Dr. Jacobs filed a request on January 24, 2012, for a Modified Order and abrogation of the Original Order under COMAR 15.14.02.10 Rehearings.

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 Veterinary Practice Act 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 ... [f]ails to comply with Board rules and regulation after receiving a license." Md. Code Ann., Agric. Art., § 2-310. In addition, the Board may impose a civil penalty of not more than $5,000.00 for a first

offense or $10,000.00 for a second or subsequent offense in lieu of or in addition to suspending a veterinarian's license. Md. Code Ann., Agric. Art., § 2-310.1. Under COMAR 15.14.02.10 Rehearings, at C, the Board may consider facts not presented in the original hearing, including facts arising after the date of the original hearing, and may, by new order, abrogate, change, or modify the original order.

FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Board has sufficient evidence to find, as fact, and conclude, as a matter of law, that Dr. Jacobs violated the Veterinary Practice Act and related regulations; specifically, COMAR 15.14.01.10 Record Keeping, and COMAR 15.14.01.04 Professional Conduct, by making misrepresentations to the owners, Jeff and Debbie Fields (Owners), concerning the circumstances of the death of their dog, "Muffin," a 7-year-old Pomeranian, and by altering the medical record the day after the dog's death, respectively. After entering into a Consent Agreement and Order on January 20, 2011, Dr. Jacobs proceeded to comply with all conditions of probation by January 19, 2012, including: paying a $3,000 civil penalty; completing a one-year period of probation; sending a written apology to "Muffin's" Owners, Jeff and Debbie Fields, and reimbursing the Owners in the amount of $237.00 for the fee they paid on October 26, 2009, for the dog's care and treatment, with a copy of the apology and payment sent to the Board; and obtaining professional counseling to assist him to more appropriately handle the emotional needs of pet owners. Taking all of the original and additional facts and circumstances into account, the Board concluded that the most reasonable and appropriate resolution in this matter includes this Modified Order and the abrogation of the Original Order, as described below.

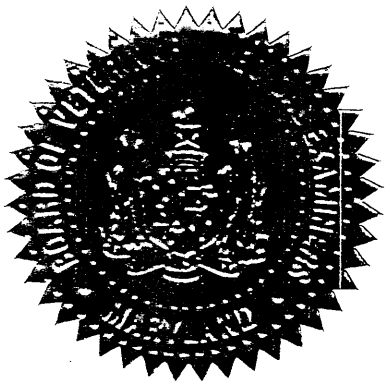
ORDER

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, it is this 23rd day of February, 2012, by the Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, **ORDERED** that:

a. The Board acknowledges that Dr. Jacobs has timely and successfully satisfied all conditions of probation of the Board's Original Order in Docket No. 10-29, dated January 20, 2011; and, therefore,

b. The Board abrogates the Original Order, dated January 20, 2011, and directs the Board's Executive Director, Laura Downes, to indicate the filing of this Modified Order and the abrogation of the Original Order, dated January 20, 2011, from Dr. Jacobs' disciplinary history in all of the Board's

records in Docket No. 10-29.



Chris H. Runde, D.V.M.
President
Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners