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

IN THE MATTER OF:	*	
AHMAD SAEED A SHAH, DVM LICENSE NO. 5266 Responsible Veterinarian	*	DOCKET NO. 22-105
GLEN BURNIE ANIMAL HOSPITAL HOSPITAL LICENSE NO. 02-00518	*	

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CIVIL PENALTY FINAL ORDER

This Civil Penalty Final Order ("Order"), dated this 16th day of June 2022, is issued by the Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners ("Board" or "SBVME") against Ahmad Saeed A Shah, DVM ("Dr. Shah"), License No. 5266, the responsible veterinarian at Glen Burnie Animal Hospital ("Hospital" or "GBAH"), License No. 02-00518, located at 408 North Crain Highway, Glen Burnie, MD 21061.

This Order confirms Dr. Shah's agreement to resolve Docket No. 22-105 without the issuance of formal charges. By email to Board counsel on June 15, 2022, Dr. Shah accepted the terms and conditions of this Order, including the findings that he violated the Maryland Veterinary Practice Act, Md. Code Ann., Agric. §§ 2-301 - 2-316, ("Veterinary Practice Act") and related Code of Maryland Regulations ("COMAR") 15.14.01 – 15.14.17. Before agreeing to this Order, Dr. Shah was advised in writing regarding his due process rights, including the right to receive formal notice of charges, request a hearing, retain legal counsel, and all other rights under Agric. § 2-311.

Under State law, the Board is the licensing body responsible for regulating the practice of veterinary medicine in this State. Its authority includes filing disciplinary actions against veterinarians charged with violating provisions of the Veterinary Practice Act and related COMAR 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. § 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. Agric. § 2-310.1. In setting the amount of a civil penalty, the Board shall consider the severity of these violations, the good faith of the violator, and the history of prior violations, as well as the Board's 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

Dr. Shah, after having the opportunity to seek the advice of legal counsel, voluntarily waived his right to formal charges and a hearing and agreed to pay the civil penalty of $300. In so doing, Dr. Shah acknowledges that the Board has sufficient evidence to find, as fact, and conclude as a matter of law that he violated COMAR 15.14.01.12-3C (Expired Medications) as follows:

1. Dr. Shah is a veterinarian who has been licensed to practice in Maryland since 2001. Dr. Shah is the responsible veterinarian at the Hospital and was formerly the Hospital's owner. He has no disciplinary history with the Board involving expired medications.

2. On April 13, 2022, Dr. Shah sold the Hospital to VetCor of Maryland LLC, which is based at 141 Longwater Drive, Suite 108, Norwell, MA 02061. After the sale, Dr. Shah continued as the responsible veterinarian at the Hospital. Due to the change of ownership, on April 14, 2022, Board Inspector, Pegeen Morgan ("Inspector Morgan") conducted an inspection of the Hospital, during which she found at least twenty-four expired medications mixed with the working stock of medications. The oldest of these expired in May 2021.

3. Inspector Morgan prepared a Veterinary Hospital Inspection Report reflecting her findings on April 14, 2022, and issued a COMAR Violation Sheet reflecting the expired medications found.

4. COMAR 15.14.01.12-3A prohibits veterinarians from administering expired medications to an animal, and COMAR 15.14.01.12-3C requires that expired medications be packaged and kept separate and apart from unexpired medications until disposal of such medications to prevent such administration. Dr. Shah violated COMAR 15.14.01.12-3C by allowing expired medications to be stored with non-expired medications in the working stock of the Hospital at which he serves as the responsible veterinarian.

Taking all the facts and circumstances into consideration, including the nature of the violation, the veterinarian's lack of prior discipline for expired medications, and the veterinarian's good faith effort to resolve this matter promptly, the Board concluded that the most reasonable and appropriate resolution in this matter was a civil penalty only.

ORDER

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, it is this 16th day of June 2022, by the Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, **ORDERED:**

(a) That for the violation of Md. Code Ann., Agric. § 2-310(8) and COMAR 15.14.01.12-3C, Ahmad Saeed A Shah, DVM (License No. 5266), the responsible veterinarian at Glen Burnie Animal Hospital (License No. 02-00518), is assessed a civil penalty of $300;

(b) The civil penalty shall be paid within thirty (30) days from the date of this Order by check payable to the Maryland Department of Agriculture ("MDA") with the notation ("SBVME 22-105") and mailed to MDA at the address below; and

(c) This Civil Penalty Final Order is a public document.

STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY
MEDICAL EXAMINERS

/NEB

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