

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

LISA HOFFMAN, DVM
LICENSE NO. 3611
Responsible Veterinarian

HOFFMAN ANIMAL HOSPITAL
HOSPITAL LICENSE NO. 02-00417

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DOCKET NO. 24-09

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CIVIL PENALTY FINAL ORDER

This Civil Penalty Final Order ("Order") dated this 1st day of November 2023, is issued by the Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners ("Board" or "SBVME") against Lisa Hoffman, DVM ("Dr. Hoffman"), License No. 3611, who at times relevant to this case was the responsible veterinarian at Hoffman Animal Hospital ("Hospital"), License No. 02-00417, located at 15 Old Mill Bottom Road N, Annapolis, MD 21409.

This Order confirms Dr. Hoffman's agreement to resolve Docket No. 24-09 without the issuance of formal charges. By email to Board counsel on September 19, 2023, Dr. Hoffman accepted the terms and conditions of this Order, including the findings that she 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 as set forth herein. Before agreeing to this Order, Dr. Hoffman was advised in writing regarding her due process rights, including the right to receive formal notice of charges, request a hearing, retain legal counsel, and all other rights under Section 2-311 of the Veterinary Practice Act.

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

After having the opportunity to seek the advice of legal counsel, Dr. Hoffman waived her right to formal charges and a hearing and agreed to pay the civil penalty of \$600. In so doing, Dr. Hoffman acknowledged that the Board has sufficient evidence to find, as fact, and conclude as a matter of law that she violated COMAR 15.14.01.12-3C (Expired Medications) as follows:

1. Dr. Hoffman is a veterinarian licensed to practice in Maryland since 1989. Dr. Hoffman has no prior Board disciplinary action involving expired medications.
2. On July 25, 2023, Board Inspector Pegeen Morgan ("Inspector Morgan ") conducted a routine annual inspection of the Hospital, during which she found a significant number of expired medications in the working stock of medications in the surgical area, among other non-expired medications.
3. Inspector Morgan prepared a Veterinary Hospital Inspection Report reflecting her findings and issued a COMAR Violation Sheet noting that expired medications were found. The expired medications included three boxes (25 bottles each) of potassium chloride that expired in January 2023, Phenylephrine Hydrochloride 1% that expired in October of 2021, and Vetericyn VF plus (anti-microbial wound and skin cleaner) that expired in May of 2021.
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. Hoffman 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 she served as the responsible veterinarian. There is no evidence that expired medications were administered to any patients.

Taking all the facts and circumstances into consideration, including the nature of the violation, the veterinarian's lack of prior discipline, 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 1st day of November, 2023, by the Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, hereby **ORDERED:**

- (a) For the violation of Md. Code Ann., Agric. § 2-310(8) and COMAR 15.14.01.12-3C, Lisa Hoffman, DVM (License No. 3611), as the responsible veterinarian at Hoffman Animal Hospital (License No. 02-00417), is assessed a civil penalty of \$600;
- (b) The Board acknowledges that the civil penalty has been paid in full as of this date of this Order; and
- (c) This Civil Penalty Final Order is a public document.

STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY
MEDICAL EXAMINERS



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