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

IN THE MATTER OF:	*	
WILLIAM RIDDLE, VMD LICENSE NO. 1301 Responsible Veterinarian	*	DOCKET NO. 25-005
CECIL VETERINARY CLINIC HOSPITAL LICENSE NO. 07-001	*	
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CIVIL PENALTY FINAL ORDER

This Civil Penalty Final Order ("Order"), dated this 6th day of September, 2024, is issued by the Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners ("Board" or "SBVME") against William Riddle, VMD ("Dr. Riddle"), License No. 1301, the owner and responsible veterinarian at Cecil Veterinary Clinic ("Hospital"), License No. 07-001, located at 43 Gutman Lane, Port Deposit, MD 21904.

This Order confirms Dr. Riddle's agreement to resolve Docket No. 25-005 without the issuance of formal charges. By email to Board counsel on September 6, 2024, Dr. Riddle 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. Before agreeing to this Order, Dr. Riddle 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 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

Dr. Riddle, after having the opportunity to seek the advice of legal counsel, voluntarily waived her right to formal charges and a hearing and agreed to pay the civil penalty of $300. In so doing, Dr. Riddle 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. Riddle is a veterinarian who has been licensed to practice in Maryland since 1966. Dr. Riddle is the owner and responsible veterinarian at the Hospital and has no history of discipline by the Board.

2. On July 11, 2024, Board Inspector Ellen James ("Inspector James") conducted an annual inspection of the Hospital, during which she found seventeen expired medications mixed with the hospital's working stock of medications, with expiration dates ranging from 2008 through 2024, Some of the older medications included: one bottle of epinephrine that expired in January of 2008, two bottles of heparin that expired in March of 2014, and one bottle of Buscopan that expired in February of 2017.

3. Inspector James prepared a Veterinary Hospital Inspection Report reflecting her findings and issued a COMAR Violation Sheet noting that expired medications were 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. Riddle 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 hereby **ORDERED** by the Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners:

(a) That for the violation of Md. Code Ann., Agric. § 2-310(8) and COMAR 15.14.01.12-3C, William Riddle, VMD (License No. 1301), the responsible veterinarian at Cecil Veterinary Clinic (License No. 07-001), 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 25-005") 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

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