



Maryland Department of Agriculture

Agriculture | Maryland's Leading Industry

Office of the Secretary

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MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS

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www.mda.state.md.us

October 20, 2009

Snehalatha Parna, D.V.M.
18618 Black Kettle Drive
Boyd's, MD 20841

Re: *Notice of Agency Action --Docket # 10-11*
(Dismissal of Complaint and Letter of Censure)

Dear Dr. Parna:

The State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners ("Board") recently investigated a complaint filed against you by Ms. Carol Ledbetter concerning your care and treatment of her dog, "Saba," in June and July of 2009. After reviewing the owner's complaint, and your response and medical records, the Board has concluded that the allegations in the owner's complaint require no further action, and the complaint will be dismissed.

In investigating this matter, however, the Board carefully reviewed the medical records that were submitted and found that you had overdosed this patient with prednisone, thus giving the Board a good faith basis to find you in violation of the applicable regulations governing veterinarians in the State of Maryland. Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 15.14.01.07 requires veterinarians to conform to those minimal standards of care and treatment which are customary among veterinarians in this state. Specifically, the dose of prednisone was more than twice the recommended dose of .25mg per pound of body weight. "Saba" weighed about 15 pounds and you prescribed 10mg prednisone to be given twice daily.

Although you have a prior disciplinary history before the Board, and you were on probation at the time of this incident, the Board has concluded that it is appropriate at this time to issue this **LETTER OF CENSURE** so that you may take steps to rectify the deficiency noted. You are also hereby **ORDERED TO CEASE AND DESIST** from all further acts that would violate COMAR 15.14.01.07, a copy of which is enclosed. Please be advised that if the Board were to invoke the terms of the probation from a prior case, it may have resulted in more severe sanctions in the current case. There is **no civil penalty or license suspension or revocation for the violation identified herein**, although this Letter of Censure is subject to disclosure under Maryland's Public Information Act, Annotated Code of Md., State Gov't Article §§ 10-611 *et seq.* and may be taken into account by the Board in any future proceedings regarding your practice.

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Please be advised that, in order to ensure that you take steps to address the above deficiencies, the Board requires that you complete a minimum of 6 hours of continuing education in clinical pharmacology by March 31, 2010. The program must be approved by the Board, and please note that these hours do not count towards the current requirement of 18 hours annually to maintain your registration.

If you wish to be heard on this matter before the Board, please contact the Board in writing within ten (10) days from the receipt of this letter. If we do not hear from you during this ten-day period, this Letter of Censure is final. You may appeal this determination, however, pursuant to the Annotated Code of Md., Agriculture Article §§ 2-401 *et seq.*

If you have any questions, please contact Laura Downes, Executive Director of the Board, at 410-841-5862.

This is an Order of the Board.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris H. Runde, D.V.M." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Chris H. Runde, D.V.M.
Board President

Encl.

cc: Board file