

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

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JAMES CASEY, DVM
LICENSE NO. 4477

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DOCKET NO. 21-41

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CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER

This Consent Agreement and Order (“Consent Agreement”), dated this 24th day of November 2025, is between the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (“SBVME” or “Board”) and James Casey, DVM (“Dr. Casey”), License No. 4477. This Consent Agreement resolves a case arising from a complaint filed on December 10, 2020, with the SBVME, which was assigned Docket No. 21-41, alleging that Dr. Casey did not satisfy the Veterinary Practice Act, Md. Code Ann., Agric. §§ 2-301 – 2-316 and related Code of Maryland Regulations (“COMAR”) 15.14.01 – 15.14.17, as set forth herein.

On October 24, 2024, the Board conducted a confidential resolution conference at which Dr. Casey appeared with his counsel. Following the conference and subsequent discussions between Dr. Casey’s counsel and Board counsel, Dr. Casey, having been advised in writing regarding his due process rights and acting through counsel, agreed to resolve this case under the terms and conditions of this Consent Agreement. By signing this Consent Agreement, Dr. Casey agrees to waive his right to formal proceedings in this case, including the issuance of charges and a hearing, and further agrees to the terms and conditions of this Consent Agreement.

Under Maryland law, the SBVME 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 the provisions of the Veterinary Practice Act and related COMAR regulations adopted under this law. As part of its authority, the SBVME "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 regulations after receiving a license." Md. Code Ann., Agric. § 2-310(8). The Board may also impose a civil penalty of not more than \$5,000 for a first offense or \$10,000 for a second or subsequent offense instead 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 the violation, the good faith of the violator, any history of prior violations, and the Board's civil penalty standards. Md. Code Ann., State Gov't. § 10-1001(b); COMAR 15.14.11 (Civil Penalty Standards for Veterinarians).

FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

By entering into and signing this Consent Agreement after having had the opportunity to seek the advice of legal counsel, James Casey, DVM, License Number 4477, agrees to the provisions of this Consent Agreement, acknowledging that the SBVME has sufficient evidence to find as fact and to conclude as a matter of law that Dr. Casey did not satisfy COMAR 15.14.01.04 (Professional Conduct) as described below:

1. Dr. Casey is a veterinarian licensed to practice in Maryland, where he has been licensed since 1995. Dr. Casey is an equine veterinary practitioner and owner of Equine Veterinary Service. Dr. Casey has no prior history of discipline by the Board.
2. Misty Manor Farm Ltd. ("MMF") is a horse farm, boarding, and stable operation located at 7621 Ridge Road, Marriottsville, MD 21104, in Carroll County, Maryland.
3. MMF was previously owned by Judith Anne Reinke ("Judi Reinke"), who passed away in January 2021. MMF is currently owned and operated by Judi Reinke's daughter, Nichole Catherine Reinke ("Nichole Reinke"), who operates it with her wife Gina Piellusch ("Ms. Piellusch").
4. MMF is a Maryland closed corporation. Incorporated in 2013, its articles of incorporation indicate that MMF's corporate purpose is: "[t]o provide boarding for horses, guided horseback trail rides, horseback riding lessons, and special horse events." MMF has never been licensed as a horse rescue or designated as a non-profit entity.

5. MMF is also licensed in Maryland as a stable (License No. HS-2170) under the authority of the Maryland Horse Industry Board (“MHIB”). The MHIB is charged with several tasks related to equine activities, including licensing and inspecting riding stables.
6. Dr. Casey provided veterinary services to the horses at MMF for many years. Dr. Casey asserts he was not the only veterinarian who provided services to MMF.
7. Over the years, MHIB staff have regularly inspected MMF. During these inspections, they have identified many issues of concern, including the failure of MMF’s owners and managers to keep appropriate records for the horses housed there.
8. Other ongoing issues with MMF’s operations identified through MHIB annual inspections include inadequate shelter, manure accumulation, fences in poor repair (which could potentially cause injury to the horses), other hazards in areas where the horses were confined, lack of adequate food (including the condition of fields where horses grazed, which were mostly weeds), horses in need of routine veterinary care, and multiple extremely thin horses and horses in need of care (hooves needed trimming, knotted manes).
9. When the MHIB inspectors identified problems, MMF’s operators were given specific recommendations to address them. For thin horses, these recommendations included obtaining veterinary examinations, asking the veterinarian to establish a written feeding and treatment plan on the veterinarian’s letterhead, and obtaining follow-up veterinary care every 30 days (with photos and updated plans) until the horses were healthy. Each time the MHIB directed MMF’s operators to obtain veterinary care for a horse, the farm’s operators arranged for Dr. Casey to examine the horse. No other veterinarian was involved with MHIB’s inspections or follow up recommendations.
10. In October 2020, Animal Control Officer (“ACO”) Mark Miller (“ACO Miller”) from Carroll County Animal Control, was dispatched to MMF to check on the welfare of several horses, including a draft horse in poor condition owned by Judi Reinke. ACO Miller instructed Judi Reinke and Nichole Reinke that some horses needed to be seen by a veterinarian and treated within 72 hours.

11. On November 12, 2020, Senior ACO Michael Keiner (“ACO Keiner”) responded to an animal welfare call at MMF. He spoke with Judi Reinke, who informed him that Dr. Casey had euthanized the draft horse identified during the October 2020 visit. Judi Reinke also reported that she had 120 horses still on the property.
12. In early December of 2020, staff from the Humane Society of Carroll County (“HSCC”), led by HSCC’s Executive Director, Karen Baker (“Ms. Baker”), visited MMF, along with a veterinarian retained by HSCC, Eric Wiles, DVM (“Dr. Wiles”) (License No. 4543), to evaluate the horses boarded at and owned by MMF.
13. On December 8 and 9, 2020, Dr. Wiles examined the horses at MMF and found nineteen emaciated horses in immediate need of veterinary care for dental issues, oral ulcers, laminitis, and abscesses. Two of those horses were euthanized, and seventeen were removed by HSCC and taken to Days End Farm Horse Rescue (“Day’s End”) for rehabilitation.
14. In addition to the seized horses, Dr. Wiles determined that other horses found at MMF needed to be reexamined within thirty days by a veterinarian of MMF’s choosing. For most horses on the farm, Dr. Wiles also ordered that they be examined and treated by an equine dentist, as they needed dental care.
15. Day’s End arranged for the seventeen horses taken from MMF to be examined by a veterinarian from Monocacy Equine Veterinary Associates, P.A. (License No. 15-107) (“MEVA”). On December 12, 2020, MEVA veterinarian Alisha Bretz, DVM (“Dr. Bretz”) (License No. V-08126), examined the seventeen seized horses and established critical care and rehabilitation plans for each horse. MEVA veterinarians performed follow-up visits to detail each horse’s progress. Unfortunately, due to the severity of their conditions or poor prognoses, five more horses were euthanized. None of the euthanized horses were or had been Dr. Casey’s patients.
16. As part of the ongoing investigation, Ellen James (“Ms. James”), an MHIB inspector, inspected MMF.
17. MMF failed the MHIB inspection due to the following: ongoing failure to meet the nutritional needs of the horses, failure to provide appropriate veterinary, hoof, and dental care for the horses, feeding

hay with excessive toxic weeds, failure to provide enough water trough locations for horses that have difficulty walking, and failure to provide fencing and gates in areas where horses were kept or allowed to be ridden. Photographs taken by Ms. James document broken fences clearly visible to any visitor driving up the driveway toward the barn. At the request of MMF's operators, Dr. Casey became involved in the HSCC investigation and seizure of the horses at MMF. Those who were familiar with MMF's operations, including Ms. Baker, the MHIB inspectors, and ACOs, had always believed, based on communications with MMF's owners, that Dr. Casey was the farm's veterinarian.

18. On December 20, 2020, Ms. Baker of HSCC filed a complaint with the Board against Dr. Casey.

19. The Board opened a case, investigated it, and reviewed the materials gathered. These materials included but were not limited to statements and medical records provided by Dr. Casey and statements from various witnesses.

20. As part of its investigation, the Board obtained a written statement from Ms. Baker detailing conversations she had with Dr. Casey in December 2020 and January 2021. According to Ms. Baker, in the weeks leading up to the removal of the horses from MMF, representatives of HSCC and Dr. Casey had multiple phone conversations, during which Dr. Casey defended the owners' care of the horses at MMF.

21. Ms. Baker described a call she received from Dr. Casey on December 3, 2020. HSCC planned to have Dr. Wiles, the veterinarian retained by HSCC, survey and examine horses. Ms. Baker told Dr. Casey that due to Judi Reinke's request and as a professional courtesy, HSCC would try to coordinate with him to schedule the visit for a date and time that worked for him, but she made no promises.

22. During this call, Dr. Casey allegedly told Ms. Baker that he treated a limited number of horses living at MMF at that time. He also claimed that he had not provided extensive veterinary services at MMF over the years, other than Coggins tests, an occasional teeth float, and euthanasia. Dr. Casey told Ms. Baker that Judi Reinke had limited financial resources, so he sometimes looked at one of her horses as a favor. Dr. Casey acknowledged that MMF obtained horses from auctions that were thin, implying that any malnourished horses found on the property had been recently acquired in poor condition. He claimed that

Judi Reinke saved hundreds of horses yearly, and he told Ms. Baker that MMF was trying to get these horses healthier and rehomed.

23. Ms. Baker explained that the HSCC was responsible for enforcing the law, so if horses at MMF were suffering and not receiving necessary veterinary care, the HSCC would protect them.

24. Ms. Baker also described events on December 8, 2020, when Ms. Baker and Dr. Wiles were surveying the horses at MMF. Dr. Casey arrived at the property in an agitated state. Ms. Baker claims Dr. Casey called her a liar and said she was unprofessional for not working with him to schedule the visit when he was available. Ms. Baker reminded Dr. Casey that she made no promises about scheduling and was working to enforce the law.

25. Ms. Baker pointed out the emaciated horses on the farm that needed care, and Dr. Casey responded, “Well, I admit that.” Dr. Casey admitted the horses were thin to Ms. Baker, as Dr. Casey contends that was their condition when they were acquired by MMF. He further contended that MMF “rehomed” numerous horses that would have otherwise been shipped out of the country to be slaughtered. Dr. Casey accused Ms. Baker of being unprofessional and told her that HSCC would be responsible for the death of one hundred horses per year. Ms. Baker told Dr. Casey that, in her opinion, he should have reported cruelty on the farm and not allowed animals to suffer.

26. Ms. Baker had an additional encounter with Dr. Casey on January 8, 2021, when she was at MMF to discuss a horse named Marshal, owned by Henry Will (“Mr. Will”).

27. Marshal had an ocular abscess. If left untreated, the abscess could have ruptured. Ms. Baker had determined that Marshal should be euthanized and threatened to seize the horse if the owner refused.

28. Dr. Casey was upset at Ms. Baker for recommending euthanasia because he did not believe it was warranted. Dr. Casey contends that he was advocating for Marshal, who he did not believe needed to be put down, as a horse can live with one eye. Dr. Casey passionately reiterated that Judi Reinke saved over one hundred horses each year and told Ms. Baker, “This horse does NOT have to die; any horse can live with one eye. The Blood of this horse is on your hands. You are the Queen of Death.” Dr. Casey then stated that the horses at MMF were fine living the remainder of their lives, and without Judi Reinke, Nichole

Reinke, and Ms. Piellusch rescuing them, they would be dead. Ms. Baker stated again that she could not allow the animals to continue to suffer.

29. The Board also obtained a written statement from ACO Keiner as part of the investigation. He detailed his interactions with Dr. Casey while attempting to coordinate a time for Dr. Wiles and HSCC staff to evaluate the horses at MMF. ACO Keiner authorized a staff member at Dr. Wiles' practice to contact Dr. Casey to schedule the visit. Shortly after Dr. Wiles' staff member contacted Dr. Casey, according to ACO Keiner, Dr. Casey called him and used irate and profane language. Dr. Casey denies this. ACO Keiner contends that Dr. Casey told him that law enforcement should leave the farm alone and accused HSCC of harassing Judi Reinke. These conversations gave the impression that Dr. Casey was acting in a professional capacity as an advocate for MMF and its operators defending the farm's operations.

30. ACO Keiner also described his recollection of the farm visit on December 8, 2020, when Dr. Casey arrived on the scene and began to use profanity. ACO Keiner alleges that Dr. Casey called him an "[expletive] liar" and other expletives, apparently for not working with him to schedule the appointment. ACO Keiner found Dr. Casey's behavior unprofessional and disrespectful to Ms. Baker and Dr. Wiles. While Dr. Casey acknowledges the interaction was strained, he does not recall using profanity during this exchange. Dr. Casey denies acting in an unprofessional manner towards anyone other than Ms. Baker.

31. Dr. Casey responded to the complaint by providing documents and a written statement detailing his knowledge of MMF's operations, his treatment of horses owned by or boarded at MMF, and his interaction with HSCC staff.

32. In his written response to the SBVME, Dr. Casey expressed his frustrations with HSCC staff and explained that MMF was a "rescue facility" that saved many horses over the years. Dr. Casey stated that he did not see or treat the bulk of the horses at MMF, only those presented to him by Judi Reinke, Nichole Reinke, Ms. Piellusch, or boarders. According to Dr. Casey, he never walked through the fields on the farm; instead, he would only go in the barn if he needed a stall to treat a horse. Dr. Casey noted that Judi Reinke often treated her own horses and did not always follow his recommendations regarding the care and feeding

of the horses. However, he believed that she was doing her best to allow unwanted horses to live out their lives.

33. Dr. Casey also offered his perspective regarding his communication with Ms. Baker and ACO Keiner. According to Dr. Casey, Mr. Will felt that Ms. Baker was pressuring him into euthanizing Marshal without providing other options. From Dr. Casey's perspective, Ms. Baker was not acting in Marshal's best interest by insisting that Mr. Will have Dr. Casey euthanize the horse rather than considering other options. Dr. Casey contends that Mr. Will was denied the opportunity to have a licensed veterinarian evaluate and, if necessary, surgically remove the horse's eye. Dr. Casey asserts that he called Ms. Baker "the Queen of Death" in the heat of the moment as he was "very upset with Ms. Baker" and he felt it was inappropriate of Ms. Baker, who is not a licensed veterinarian, to overrule the medical decision making of at least one veterinarian. While Dr. Casey does not apologize for advocating for Marshall's life, Dr. Casey acknowledges that his choice of language in this moment of significant distress was not appropriate and he expresses his remorse over his comment.

34. The Veterinary Practice Act, Md. Code Ann., Agriculture Article, Section 2-310(8) authorizes the Board to discipline a veterinarian for failing to comply with its regulations. COMAR 15.14.01.04B(Professional Conduct) provides, in part, that "[a] veterinarian may not act in an unprofessional or immoral manner in the practice of veterinary medicine."

35. Dr. Casey's behavior and communications with individuals investigating MMF in December 2020 and January 2021, including Ms. Baker and ACO Keiner, were unprofessional.

36. Dr. Casey justified his tone and emotion by claiming that the investigation would prevent MMF from "rescuing" hundreds of animals each year, giving the impression that MMF was a legitimate rescue, and that the animal cruelty investigation was unwarranted.

37. However, when questioned about his role in providing veterinary services at MMF, Dr. Casey claimed to have no knowledge about the physical conditions on the farm and the care (or lack of care) the horses living there received beyond his encounters with the specific horses he was asked to treat.

38. The Board finds that it was unprofessional for Dr. Casey to adopt inconsistent and contradictory positions about MMF, challenging the need for an animal control investigation and inserting himself as an advocate for MMF's operators, yet claiming to have no meaningful knowledge of the farm's operations and animal care.

Considering the facts and circumstances, including the nature of the violation(s), the veterinarian's disciplinary history, and his acceptance of responsibility and good faith cooperation in resolving this matter, the Board concluded that the most reasonable and appropriate resolution includes the sanctions set forth below, which include a charitable donation by Dr. Casey.

ORDER

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, it is ORDERED by the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners that:

- (a) For not satisfying COMAR 15.14.01.04 (Professional Conduct) through his unprofessional interactions with staff from Carroll County Humane Society and Animal Control of Carroll County as part of the seizure process and by making inconsistent and inaccurate statements during the animal cruelty investigation, in lieu of a civil penalty, Dr. Casey shall make a \$6,000 donation to a charitable organization of his choice. This payment must be made within sixty (60) days after the date of this agreement, and the charitable organization must provide documentation to the SBVME verifying its receipt of the donation using a form approved by the SBVME. Dr. Casey may not use this donation as a tax deduction on his personal or business tax returns;
- (b) As an additional requirement of this Consent Agreement, Dr. Casey shall complete eighteen (18) hours of continuing education ("CE"), with a focus on forensic veterinary medicine and equine nutrition. One of the CE courses shall be the VAEP Equine Forensics Program (Veterinary Forensics and Crime Scene Investigation Program), which provides eleven (11) CE credits. To obtain approval for other courses, Dr. Casey shall submit the proposed CE to the Board before completion by emailing Nathaniel

Boan, Executive Director, at Nathaniel.boan@maryland.gov with descriptive information about each course proposed. Descriptive information may be provided through a link to each course or by attaching a syllabus to the email;

- (c) CE shall be completed, and verification of completion shall be provided to the Board within ninety (90) days from the date of this Order. Verification should be emailed to Nathaniel Boan, Executive Director, at nathaniel.boan@maryland.gov. Proof from the CE provider shall include the veterinarian's name, the number of hours of CE completed, the topics covered, and the date(s) the CE was given. This CE will not count toward the eighteen (18) credit hours required annually for re-registration of the veterinary license. To verify completion of the annual CE requirements and the CE required by this Consent Agreement, the Board may conduct an audit of the veterinarian's CE records for relevant years; and

- (d) This Consent Agreement is a public order.

WITNESS the hand of the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, State of Maryland, this 24th day of November, 2025.

STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY
MEDICAL EXAMINERS



Patricia Crankshaw-Quimby
Vice-President
State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners
Maryland Department of Agriculture

CONSENT

I, James Casey, DVM, acknowledge that I have had an opportunity to consult with counsel before entering into this Consent Agreement. To resolve this matter, I agree to accept and submit to the foregoing Consent Agreement, consisting of eleven (11) pages, including this Consent. By this Consent, I acknowledge the Board's legal authority and jurisdiction over this matter to issue and enforce this Consent Agreement. I sign this Consent Agreement without reservation as my voluntary act and deed after having had an opportunity to consult with counsel, I fully understand this Consent Agreement's language, meaning, and terms.

Nov. 22, 2025
Date:

James M. Casey D.V.M.
James Casey, DVM