

DOCKET NO. 2005-53

IN THE MATTER OF § TEXAS STATE BOARD OF
THE LICENSE OF §
LEON FREEMAN, D.V.M. § VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS

AGREED ORDER

On this the 13th day of October, 2005, came on to be considered by the Texas State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners ("Board") the matter of the license of LEON FREEMAN, D.V.M. ("Respondent"). Pursuant to Section 801.408, Texas Occupations Code and Board Rule 575.27, an informal conference was held on August 18, 2005. The Respondent waived his appearance. The Board was represented at the conference by the Board's Enforcement Committee.

Respondent, without admitting the truth of the findings and conclusions set out in this Agreed Order, wishes to waive a formal adjudicative hearing and thereby informally dispose of the issues without a formal adjudication. Respondent agrees to comply with the terms and conditions set forth in this Order. In waiving an adjudicative hearing, Respondent acknowledges his understanding of the alleged violations and the adequacy and sufficiency of the notice provided to him.

Upon the recommendation of the Enforcement Committee and with Respondent's consent, the Board makes the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and enters this Agreed Order as set forth below.

Findings of Fact

1. On January 24, 2005, Gary N. Huestis, Texas City, Texas, presented his golden retriever "Fred" to the Bellford Animal Clinic, Houston, Texas, for painful hips. Leon Freeman, D.V.M., examined the dog. Although the examination revealed no significant findings, Dr. Freeman noted that the dog was slightly favoring his hips. Dr. Freeman diagnosed mild osteoarthritis, gave the dog an injection of Depo-Medrol (a glucocorticoid) 60 mg IM, and prescribed Rimadyl (a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agent) 75 mg, 20 tablets, one tablet twice a day for seven days.
2. According to Mr. Huestis, "Fred" seemed to be doing fine until January 30, 2005, when his stomach seemed swollen and his extremities seemed cold. The dog urinated on the rug and vomited. The dog got worse during the night and died the next morning. Dr. Freeman suggested that the dog may have died from gastric torsion. A necropsy was not performed. Mr. Huestis expressed concern that Rimadyl could have been implicated in "Fred's" death, and that he should have been warned of the possible side effects of the drug.
3. Dr. Freeman's administration of Rimadyl and Depo-Medrol is medically contraindicated because of possible serious adverse effects on the gastrointestinal tract of dogs. The concurrent

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administration of these drugs does not represent the same degree of humane care, skill, and diligence in treating patients as is ordinarily used in the same or similar circumstances by average members of the veterinary medical community in Houston, Texas, or similar communities.

4. The patient records for "Fred" are disorganized and illegible in places and do not contain all the information required by the Board's Patient Record rule in readable form.

Conclusions of Law

1. Respondent is required to comply with the provisions of the Veterinary Licensing Act, Chapter 801, Texas Occupations Code, and with the Board's Rules.

2. Based on Finding of Fact 3, Respondent has violated Rule 573.22, PROFESSIONAL STANDARD OF HUMANE TREATMENT, of the Board's Rules of Professional Conduct, which requires veterinarians to exercise the same degree of humane care, skill and diligence in treating patients as is ordinarily used in the same or similar circumstances by average members of the veterinary medical profession in good standing in the locality or community in which they practice, or in similar communities.

3. Based on Finding of Fact 4, Respondent has violated Rule 573.52, PATIENT RECORD KEEPING, of the Board's Rules of Professional Conduct.

3. Based on Findings of Fact 3 and 4 and Conclusions of Law 1 and 2, Respondent has violated Section 801.402 (6) of the Veterinary Licensing Act, Texas Occupations Code, and is subject to disciplinary action by the Board:

801.402. GENERAL GROUNDS FOR LICENSE DENIAL OR DISCIPLINARY ACTION. A person is subject to denial of a license or to disciplinary action under Section 801.401 if the person:

(6) engages in practices or conduct that violates the board's rules of professional conduct.

4. Based on Conclusions of Law 1 through 3, Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Section 801.401 of the Veterinary Licensing Act, Texas Occupations Code:

801.401. DISCIPLINARY POWERS OF BOARD. (a) If an applicant or license holder is subject to denial of a license or to disciplinary action under Section 801.402, the Board may:

- (1) refuse to examine an applicant or to issue or renew a license;
- (2) revoke or suspend a license;
- (3) place on probation a license holder or person whose license has been suspended;

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- (4) reprimand a license holder; or
- (5) impose a civil penalty.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD AND RESPONDENT AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

Based on the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Board ORDERS that LEON FREEMAN , D.V.M., be FORMALLY REPRIMANDED.

The Board further ORDERS that Respondent pay, within forty-five (45) days of the date of this Order, an administrative penalty of FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$500.00). If Respondent fails to pay the administrative penalty within 45 days of the date of this Order, Respondent's license shall be suspended until the administrative penalty is paid.

The Board further ORDERS that Respondent shall, over a four-month period, submit to the Board copies of five patient records of the Respondent's choosing, beginning the month after the date of this Order.

The Board further ORDERS that:

- 1 Respondent shall abide by the Rules of Professional Conduct, the Texas Veterinary Licensing Act, and the laws of the State of Texas and the United States.
2. Respondent shall cooperate with the Board's attorneys, investigators, compliance officers and other employees and agents investigating Respondent's compliance with this Order.
3. Failure by Respondent to comply with the terms of this Agreed Order or with any other provisions of the Licensing Act or the Board Rules, may result in further disciplinary action.

Respondent, by signing this Agreed Order, acknowledges his understanding of the Agreed Order, the notice, and Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law herein set forth herein, and agrees that he will satisfactorily comply with the mandates of the Agreed Order in a timely manner or be subject to appropriate disciplinary action by the Board.

Respondent, by signing this Agreed Order, waives his right to a formal hearing and any right to seek judicial review of this Agreed Order. Respondent acknowledges that he is represented by legal counsel in this matter.

RESPONDENT WAIVES ANY FURTHER HEARINGS OR APPEALS TO THE BOARD OR TO ANY COURT IN REGARD TO ALL TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THIS AGREED ORDER. NOTHING IN THIS ORDER SHALL BE DEEMED A WAIVER OF RESPONDENT'S RIGHTS UNDER STATUTE OR UNDER THE UNITED STATES OR

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TEXAS CONSTITUTIONS TO APPEAL AN ORDER OR ACTION OF THE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS
SUBSEQUENT TO THIS AGREED ORDER EXCEPT AS RESPONDENT MAY HAVE OTHERWISE AGREED TO HEREIN. RESPONDENT AGREES THAT THIS IS A FINAL ORDER.

The effective date of this Agreed Order shall be the date it is adopted by the Board.

I, LEON FREEMAN, D.V.M., HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE FOREGOING AGREED ORDER. I UNDERSTAND BY SIGNING IT, I WAIVE CERTAIN RIGHTS. I SIGN IT VOLUNTARILY. I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS ORDER CONTAINS THE ENTIRE AGREEMENT AND THERE IS NO OTHER AGREEMENT OF ANY KIND, VERBAL, WRITTEN OR OTHERWISE.

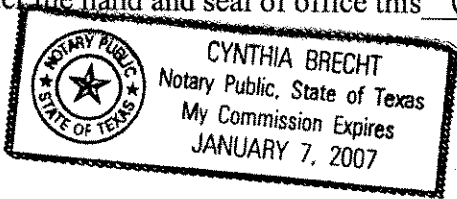
Leon Freeman, DVM
Leon Freeman, D.V.M.

9-6-05
Date

STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF BROZORIG §

BEFORE ME, on this day, personally appeared LEON FREEMAN, D.V.M., known to me as the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing document, and acknowledged to me that he executed the same for the purposes stated therein.

Given under the hand and seal of office this 6 day of September, 2005.



Cynthia Brecht
Notary Public

SIGNED AND ENTERED by the TEXAS STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS on this the 13th day of October, 2005.

Gary C Brantley DVM
Gary C. Brantley, D.V.M., President