DOCKET NO. 2006-56

IN THE MATTER § TEXAS STATE BOARD OF

OF THE LICENSE OF §

CONRAD WHITFIELD, D.V.M. § VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS

AGREED ORDER

On this, the 12th day of October, 2006, came on to be considered by the Texas State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners ("Board") the matter of the license of CONRAD WHITFIELD, D.V.M. ("Respondent"). Pursuant to Section 801.2056, Texas Occupations Code, a committee of the Board's staff met on August 9, 2006, to consider alleged violations of the Veterinary Licensing Act and the Board's rules by Respondent.

Respondent, without admitting the truth of the findings and conclusions set out in this Agreed Order, wishes to waive a conference under Section 801.2056 and thereby dispose of the compliance issues set out below. Respondent agrees to comply with the terms and conditions set forth in this Order. In waiving the right to a conference, Respondent acknowledges his understanding of the alleged violations and the adequacy and sufficiency of the notice mailed to him.

Upon the recommendation of the staff 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. The Board has jurisdiction over the subject matter and Respondent. Respondent has received all notice which may be required by law and by the Board's rules. All jurisdictional requirements have been satisfied.
- 2. On October 15, 2005, the Board, upon the petition of Conrad Whitfield, D.V.M., agreed to allow Dr. Whitfield to acquire licensure in Texas by taking and passing the State Board Examination. The Board ordered placed certain conditions on the license: (1) The license would be probationary for three years from date of issuance; (2) Dr. Whitfield must practice under the general supervision of a Texas veterinarian, and said veterinarian must file a letter with the Board agreeing to supervise Dr. Whitfield; (3) During the probationary period, the supervising veterinarian must file quarterly reports on Dr. Whitfield's performance of his duties. The Board further ordered that failure to meet these requirements would result in disciplinary action.
- 3. On January 26, 2006, Ina Franz, Director of Licensing and Examination of the Board, wrote Dr. Whitfield a letter informing him that he had not complied with the requirement that the supervising veterinarian file notice with the Board that he was indeed acting as Dr. Whitfield's

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supervisor.

- 4. On February 7, 2006, Jessica Todia, D.V.M. and Tommy Wilson, D.V.M., faxed a statement to the Board indicating that they were Dr. Whitfield's employers and they understood the conditions of Dr. Whitfield's licensure.
- 5. The exact date of Dr. Whitfield's employment with Drs. Todia and Wilson is unknown, but the Board believes he was employed in late December, 2005. No quarterly reports were ever sent by the supervising veterinarians. On July 14, 2006, the Board received a letter from Drs. Todia and Wilson apologizing for not filing the quarterly reports, and indicating that as of July 7, 2006, Dr. Whitfield was no longer employed by them. Dr. Whitfield is currently employed by another veterinarian, Robert C. Boyd, Midland, Texas.

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 and orders.
- 2. Based on Findings of Fact 2, 3 and 5, Respondent has violated Rule 573.62, VIOLATION OF BOARD ORDER/NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENTS of the Board's Rules of Professional Conduct, which states that a veterinarian who is the subject of a Board order shall abide by the terms of the order.
- 3. Based on 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 2 and 3, Respondent may be disciplined in the manner set out in Section 801.401, DISCIPLINARY POWERS OF BOARD, of the Veterinary Licensing Act, Texas Occupations Code, for violations of the Act and Board rules.

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

The Board ORDERS that Respondent be formally REPRIMANDED.

The Board further ORDERS that Respondent pay, within 45 days of the date of this Order, an ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTY of FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$500.00). If Respondent

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fails to pay the administrative penalty within 45 days of the date of this Order, Respondent's license shall be suspended until the penalty is paid.

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 provision of the 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, Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law herein set forth, 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 hearing and any right to seek judicial review of this Order. Respondent acknowledges that he is entitled to be represented by an attorney of Respondent's choice at his expense in any hearing before the Board.

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

The date of this Agreed Order shall be the date it is adopted by the Texas Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners.

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I, CONRAD WHITFIELD, D.V.M., HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE FOREGOING AGREED ORDER. I UNDERSTAND THAT 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.

Conrad Whitfield, D.V.M.

DATE

STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF Widand

BEFORE ME, on this day, personally appeared Conrad Whitfield, D.V.M., known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing Agreed Order, and acknowledged to me that he executed the same for the purposes stated therein.

Given under the hand and seal of office this-

SIGNED AND ENTERED by the TEXAS STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS on this the 12th day of October, 2006.

Robert L. Lastovica, D.V.M.

President of the Board