

IN THE MATTER OF § TEXAS BOARD OF  
THE LICENSE OF § VETERINARY  
JOHN ALEXANDER, D.V.M. § MEDICAL EXAMINERS

**AGREED ORDER**

On this day the Texas Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (“Board”) considered the matter of the license of John Alexander, D.V.M. (“Respondent”).

Respondent, without admitting the truth of the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law set out in this Order, waived notice and hearing and agreed to the entry of this Order. Accordingly, the Board makes the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and enters this Order as set forth below.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. Respondent, John Alexander, D.V.M., of Laredo, Texas, holds Texas veterinary license 14089.
2. On October 9, 2017, Cristina Ceci and Carlos Escamilla presented their female, ten year-old Basset hound, Molly, to Laredo Animal Clinic, Laredo, Texas (“the facility”) to address loss of bladder control. Ms. Ceci provided a sample of Molly’s urine. Amanda Flores-Alexander, D.V.M., examined Molly and suspected that she had a urinary tract infection (UTI). Bloodwork was performed and the urine sample was tested. The bloodwork indicated mild leukocytosis, with low blood urea nitrogen levels, and elevated levels of ALT, ALKP, and GGT. Dr. Flores-Alexander prescribed 375mg Clavamox every 12 hours to treat the suspected UTI. Facility staff expressed concern that Molly might have Cushing’s disease, and advised that once Molly finished on the antibiotics, the facility would test for Cushing’s.
3. On October 19, 2017, Molly was lethargic, refused food and water, strained to defecate, and was vomiting water and sputum with red and brown spots. Ms. Ceci and Mr. Escamilla returned Molly to the facility where she was examined by Respondent. Ms. Ceci and Mr. Escamilla stated that they asked Respondent to perform an x-ray and bloodwork, and Respondent declined, stating that it was not necessary. Respondent’s medical records indicate that the physical exam was unremarkable. Respondent suspected that Molly could have Cushing’s due to her elevated liver enzymes. Respondent recommended the Low-Dose Dexamethasone Suppression Test (LDDST) but stated that a test could not be completed that day as it was an eight hour test process, and the results could be invalidated by Molly’s UTI treatment. Respondent did not make a referral to another veterinarian. Respondent recommended that Molly be returned to the facility the following Monday for LDDST diagnostics.

4. Later that afternoon, Mr. Escamilla observed that Molly had soiled her bedding, refused to walk and needed to be picked up to urinate outside. Ms. Ceci made a phone call to the facility, but it was unanswered. Ms. Ceci and Mr. Escamilla then presented Molly to Gaylon Wilmeth, D.V.M. at Critter Care, Laredo, Texas, at approximately 6:30 p.m. Upon examination, Molly appeared conscious, but she was unable to move and panting weakly. Dr. Wilmeth auscultated Molly and found that her lungs sounded clear and she had a normal heart rate, however her pupils were dilated, and her mucous membranes were very pale. Dr. Wilmeth performed bloodwork and radioagrpahs. Bloodwork showed elevated liver enzymes, as well as hyperglycemia. The CBC revealed anemia, thrombocytopenia and a stress leukogram. The thoracic radiographs revealed signs of fluid in Molly's abdomen and a mass near her heart. During the diagnostic procedure, Molly was placed on oxygen therapy and an intravenous (IV) catheter was placed. At this time, Molly began scurrying and coded. She was then stabilized with epinephrine, intubated, and CPR was initiated. However, Molly's breathing became more abnormal and she continued to decline. Subsequently, Molly experienced brain death, and Ms. Ceci and Mr. Escamilla consented to euthanize her.
5. On October 24, 2017, Ms. Ceci and Mr. Escamilla received the results of the necropsy done at Critter Care. Molly's cause of death was determined as renal failure and liver rupture. Lesions were found on her liver and spleen. On October 27, 2017 a pathology exam was done at Texas Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, which demonstrated multiple liver hemorrhages, presumably indicative of chronic hepatitis and anemia.

6.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

1. Pursuant to Texas Occupations Code, Chapter 801, the Board has jurisdiction over this matter. Respondent is required to comply with the provisions of the Veterinary Licensing Act, Chapter 801, Texas Occupations Code, and with the Board's Rules. Respondent received notice as required by law.
2. Respondent has violated Board Rule 573.22, Professional Standard of Care, of the Board's Rules of Professional Conduct.
3. Respondent has violated Section 801.402(6) of the Veterinary Licensing Act, Texas Occupations Code, prohibiting violations of the Board's Rules of Professional Conduct.
4. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Texas Occupations Code, Sections 801.401(a), and 801.451.
5. Pursuant to Board Rule 575.25, Respondent's violations are Class C violations, and Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under that Rule.

### **TERMS OF ORDER**

Now, therefore, the Board and Respondent agree to the following terms:

1. REPRIMAND

- a. Respondent is hereby informally reprimanded by the Board. This informal reprimand will not be published in the Board's newsletter and will not be routinely reported to the American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB) for inclusion in the national reporting database. A copy of this informal reprimand will be forwarded to the AAVSB if specifically requested by that organization.

2. ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTY

- a. Respondent shall pay an administrative penalty of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) within 30 days of the date the Board approves this Order. Payment shall be made directly to the Texas Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners at 333 Guadalupe Street, Suite 3-810, Austin, Texas 78701. Partial payments will not be accepted.
- b. If Respondent does not timely pay the administrative penalty, the Board may deny a request to renew Respondent's license until the outstanding administrative penalty is received, pursuant to Board Rule 573.62(b). Any monetary funds paid to the Board to renew a license shall first be applied to any outstanding unpaid administrative penalties, pursuant to Board Rule 571.57. Additionally, the matter may be referred to the Attorney General for collection, pursuant to Texas Occupations Code, Section 801.458.

3. CONTINUING EDUCATION

- a. In addition to the annual continuing education required for license renewal, Respondent shall complete three (3) hours of continuing education in the area of clinical pathology within six months of the date the Board approves this Order. Respondent shall submit documentation of the completed continuing education penalty and the required annual continuing education to the Board within six months of the date the Board approves this Order. Documentation shall be submitted directly to the Texas Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners at 333 Guadalupe Street, Suite 3-810, Austin, Texas 78701.

4. ADHERENCE TO THE LAW AND BOARD RULES

- a. Respondent shall abide by the Board's Rules of Professional Conduct, the Texas Veterinary Licensing Act, and the laws of the State of Texas and the United States.
- b. Respondent shall cooperate with the Board's attorneys, investigators, compliance officers and other employees and agents investigating Respondent's compliance with this Order.
- c. Failure by Respondent to comply with the terms of this Order, or with any other

provisions of the Veterinary Licensing Act or the Board Rules, may result in further disciplinary action.

The effective date of the terms of this Order shall be the date it is adopted by the Board, unless stated otherwise.

*Certification and signature page follows.*

Received

DEC 03 2019


Texas State Board of  
Veterinary Medical Examiners

RESPONDENT'S CERTIFICATION

I understand that I have the right to legal counsel prior to signing this Order. I have reviewed this Order and understand the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of law set forth herein. I neither admit nor deny the violation(s) herein. I understand that this Order contains the entire agreement, and there is no other agreement of any kind. I waive the right to any further proceedings, including a formal hearing, and the right to seek judicial review of this Order.

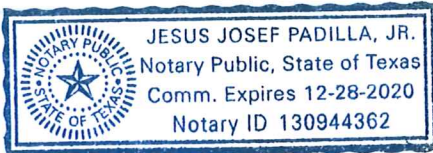
I understand that this Order is subject to approval by the Board. I understand that the terms and conditions of this Order become effective upon approval by the Board. A copy of the approved Order will be mailed to me. By signing this Order, I agree to satisfactorily comply with the terms and conditions of the Order in a timely manner. I understand that if I fail to comply with all terms and conditions of this Order, I will be subject to investigation and appropriate disciplinary action as a result of my noncompliance.

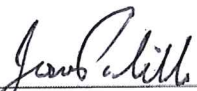
Signed this 18 day of November, 2019.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John Alexander, D.V.M.

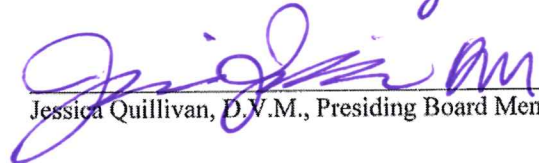
Sworn and subscribed before me this 18 day of November, 2019.

SEAL:



  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

THEREFORE, the Texas Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners does hereby adopt this Order. This Order is effective and final on this 27th day of January, 2020

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jessica Quillivan, D.V.M., Presiding Board Member