



State of New Jersey  
DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY  
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS  
124 HALSEY STREET, 6TH FLOOR, NEWARK NJ

CHRISTINE TODD WHITMAN  
Governor

PETER VERNIERO  
Attorney General  
MARK S. HERR  
Director

April 14, 1997

VIA REGULAR AND CERTIFIED  
MAIL RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mailing Address:  
P.O. Box 45020  
Newark NJ 07101  
(201) 504-6500

Sam Castimore, V.M.D.  
Animal General Veterinary Hospital  
112 Route 206  
Augusta, New Jersey 07822

Re: Case Number 96-80 and 97-3  
Valerie Taylor & Janet Wecht

Dear Dr. Castimore:

This is to advise you that the New Jersey State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners has had the opportunity to complete its review of the above-referenced matters.

Upon review of all of the information presented in both cases, the Board found that you engaged in professional misconduct pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e) as follows:

(1) With regard to your treatment of Ms. Taylor's dog, "Piglet", you failed to maintain adequate and complete patient records in violation of N.J.A.C. 13:44-4.9. Specifically, you failed to record the rabies vaccination you administered to the dog in January 1996, resulting in an increase in the dog's confinement from three months to six months when the dog was subsequently exposed to rabies.

(2) With regard to your treatment of Ms. Wecht's kitten, "Nitches", you failed to properly communicate with the client. Specifically, you did not inform her that the spay surgery had to be terminated due to rupture of an arterial bleeder. As a result, subsequent visits to other veterinarians had to be made to determine why the cat appeared to be in heat, and a second surgery--at additional cost to Ms. Wecht--was necessary to reveal the incomplete spay.

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At this juncture, the Board has determined that the above violations warrant initiation of formal disciplinary proceedings against you. Notwithstanding that finding, however, the Board has determined that it will first offer you an opportunity to settle these matters, and thereby avoid the initiation of formal disciplinary proceedings, should you consent to:

1. Pay a total civil penalty of \$1,600.00 as follows:
  - (a) \$800.00 for failure to maintain adequate and complete patient records; and
  - (b) \$800.00 for failure to properly communicate with the client.
2. Pay restitution to Ms. Wecht in the amount of \$468.01.

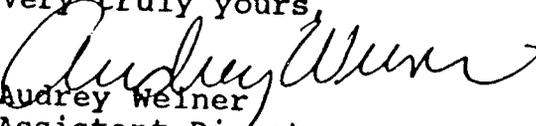
If you are willing to settle this matter on the offered settlement terms, you may do so by executing the attached form and returning it to the Board within ten (10) days together with your remittance made payable to the Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners in the amount of \$1,600.00 for the civil penalty and a check made payable to Janet Wecht in the amount of \$468.01 for restitution.

If you wish a formal hearing in this matter, you may request same within ten (10) days of the date of this letter. At the time of hearing, you may appear with counsel of your choice and with witness and documentary evidence. At that time, the Board will not be bound to the terms stated in this letter and may impose any of the sanctions contained in N.J.S.A. 45:1-22 and N.J.S.A. 45:1-25, which include revocation or suspension of licensure and assessment of penalties up to \$2,500.00 per violation. Additionally, the Board may, if the facts warrant, enter an order requiring the restoration of any monies acquired by unlawful acts and the payment of all costs in this matter.

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If you do not reply to this letter within the required ten (10) day period, then the Board will make its determination on the evidence in the record and will take such action as may be allowed by law, which may include additional penalties pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.1 based on your failure to respond to official Board correspondence.

Very truly yours,

  
Audrey Weiner  
Assistant Director

AW:jf  
Enclosures  
c Brenda Lewis, DAG

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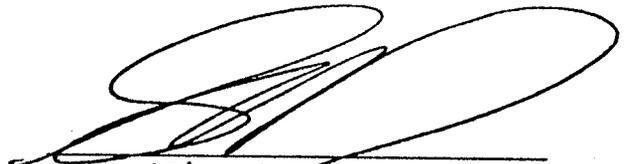
CERTIFICATION

BOARD OF VETERINARY  
MEDICAL EXAMINERS

*I have received the Board's letter dated April 14, 1997 regarding alleged violations of the Board's enabling act and/or Board regulations.*

PLEASE CHECK ONE:

- The allegations set forth therein are acknowledged, and I enclose herewith a check of \$1,600.00 payable to the Veterinary Medical Examiners Board and restitution to Ms. Wecht in the amount of \$468.01.
- I hereby waive any right which I may have to a hearing in this matter and submit a written statement for the Board's final consideration in this matter.
- A hearing on this matter before the Board is hereby requested.

  
(Signature)

Dated: 5-1-97

Ernest Casman, Jr.  
(Print Name)

