



State of New Jersey

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NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF  
VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS  
on this date of: Sept. 21, 2004

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY  
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS  
124 HALSEY STREET, 6TH FLOOR, NEWARK NJ

JAMES E. MCGREEVEY  
Governor

PETER C. HARVEY  
Attorney General  
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Director

August 17, 2004

**By Certified and Regular Mail**

Mailing Address:  
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Gregory S. Staller, D.V.M.  
Equine Veterinary Services  
118 Fairmount Road West  
Califon, New Jersey 07830

Re: **I/M/O GREGORY S. STALLER, D.V.M.**  
**Complaint Number: 03-082**

**Letter of Admonishment In Lieu of Disciplinary Proceeding**

Dear Dr. Staller:

This letter is to advise you that the New Jersey State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (hereinafter referred to as the "Board") has had an opportunity to review a complaint it received, filed by Judith H. Wright, concerning the treatment which you rendered to her eight (8) year old quarter horse, "Gillian," in November 1998 until March 1999.

Specifically, the information reviewed by the Board included, but is not limited to, the following documents:

1. A complaint filed, on or about October 22, 2003, by Judith H. Wright, as well as any and all attachments and exhibits;
2. A correspondence, dated November 30, 2003, from Gregory S. Staller, D.V.M., to the Board, as well as any and all attachments and exhibits, and

3. Testimony provided by Dr. Staller at an Investigative Inquiry held before the Board on May 26, 2004, as well as any and all exhibits marked for identification during the inquiry.

Upon review of all available information, the Board has determined that there is insufficient cause in this matter to warrant the initiation of formal disciplinary proceedings. Notwithstanding this decision, the Board, however, asked me to convey to you its concerns with regard to this matter.

In reviewing this matter, the Board found that the complainant Judith H. Wright contacted you on or about November 6, 1998 and requested that you examine Gillian as he had sustained a laceration to his left front forearm. You examined the wound and diagnosed, according to your November 30, 2003 letter to the Board, a "transverse wire cut proximal to the carpus over the dorsal, distal forearm." After cleaning the wound, administering antibiotics and further examination, you observed a small hole in the "lateral digital extensor tendon sheath" and surgically closed the wound.

On subsequent days in the month of November, you attended to Gillian, administering oral antibiotics and other treatment. On November 18, 2003, you removed the bandages and found that the wound had completely dehisced. However, you maintain that the wound was not infected at that time so you replaced the bandages and placed the horse in a splint. According to your May 26, 2004, testimony before the Board, you concluded in December 1998 that Gillian's condition did not warranted referral to a hospital for additional or twenty-four hour care.

On or about December 18, 1998, you indicate that there was a complication developing in the form of the "wound edge adhering to the paratenon of the extensor carpi radialis tendon." The records indicate that you decided that surgical closure was appropriate, but you failed to schedule said surgery. At some point, you made contact with Dr. Dean Richardson at New Bolton Center, however, Dr. Richardson was not available to see Gillian until mid February. On or about February 1, 1999, upon your re-examination of Gillian, you concluded that there were obvious signs of infection in the distal radius. You cleaned the area and began broad spectrum antibiotic therapy, including intravenous and oral antibiotics. You last saw Gillian on or about February 13, 1999 and a referral to New Bolton had been made. Gillian was seen at New Bolton on or about March 1, 1999. Hence, apparently no veterinary medical care was provided to the horse for approximately two (2) weeks from your last visit of February 13 to March 1, 1999.

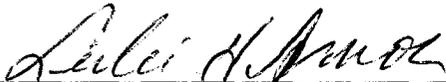
Once at New Bolton, Gillian was subjected to an extensive course of treatment and surgeries.

The Board has concluded that the veterinary medical services you provided to Gillian in this matter do not warrant disciplinary action. However, the Board strongly admonishes you for your failure to refer this matter to a specialist in a timely matter. You indicate that you made the referral "when it was clear another course of treatment would be necessary" and when you concluded surgery would be best. However, the Board's review of the record in this matter finds that referral was appropriate as early as December 4, 1998, when the records indicate that the tendon was adhering to the scar. Moreover, the Board further admonishes you for failing to recommend this matter be referred and instead depending on farm employees to provide certain treatments until February 1999.

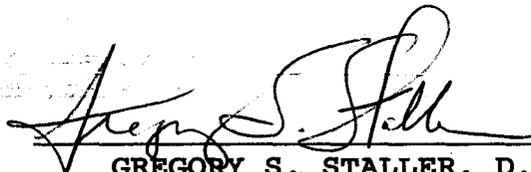
Additionally, the Board strongly urges you to communicate more clearly with owners in order to avoid further occurrences of this nature in the future. The Board notes that once you referred Gillian to New Bolton on February 13, 1999, you never contacted the owners to determine whether the horse was in fact taken there or to follow up to determine his condition. Finally, the Board admonishes you for poor record keeping. Your testimony before the Board indicated that Gillian was administered antibiotics, however, the dosage of the antibiotics administered was not always documented in the patient records. In addition, your testimony, as well as other written documents in this case, suggests that certain decisions and information was shared and gathered via verbal conversations with the complainant. However, this information was not documented in your patient records. While you testified that you occasionally outline conversations with owners in the records, you did not in this case. The Board strongly recommends that your patient records contain all important and relevant medical information, including dosages of prescribed medications and information gathered or shared in verbal conversations with owners.

As you may be aware, the Board is obligated to review every complaint received from consumers in order to assure that veterinarians licensed to practice in this State are complying with the applicable statutes, regulations and accepted standards of practice. Notwithstanding the concerns expressed in this letter, the Board has determined not to initiate any formal disciplinary action against you at this time. The Board suggests that you consider the issues raised in this correspondence and comply with the directives contained herein. This matter will now be considered closed by the Board and, as such, this letter will be a matter of public record.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF  
VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By:   
LESLIE G. ARONSON  
Executive Director

ACKNOWLEDGMENT: I, **GREGORY S. STALLER, D.V.M.**, hereby  
acknowledge receipt of this letter and assure that I will comply  
with the directives contained herein.

  
**GREGORY S. STALLER, D.V.M.**

DATED:

cc: Deputy Attorney General Olga E. Bradford  
Sean Colquhoun, Esquire

CERTIFIED MAIL 7002-3150-0004-8987-9601