

RECEIVED and FILED by the
NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF
VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS
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STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY
MEDICAL EXAMINERS

IN THE MATTER OF	:	Administrative Action
	:	
SUZANNE GOVIER, D.V.M.	:	PROVISIONAL ORDER
	:	OF DISCIPLINE
UNLICENSED PRACTICE OF	:	
VETERINARY MEDICINE IN	:	
THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY	:	

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (hereinafter the "Board") upon its review of a separate consumer complaint alleging professional misconduct on the part of one of its licensees in the treatment of an animal. The Board's investigation into this separate complaint revealed information which indicated that the respondent, Suzanne Govier, had subsequently examined the patient referenced in the complaint and had engaged in the unlicensed practice of veterinary

medicine in the State of New Jersey. The Board, after its consideration of this matter, made the following preliminary findings of facts and conclusions of law:

FINDINGS OF FACTS

1. Dr. Govier graduated from Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine, in or about June 2000, with a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree. [See Exhibit "A"].

2. In an application dated on or about August 19, 2003, Dr. Govier applied to the Board for licensure by sitting for the Practical Examination in this State. This application was administratively denied for her failure to meet and satisfy New Jersey licensure requirements for graduates of veterinary institutions that are not accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association. [See Exhibit "B"].

3. On or about November 20, 2003, "Bailey," a ten (10) year old male Cairn Terrier, was referred to Red Bank Veterinary Hospital ("Red Bank") for pancreatitis by his treating veterinarian. The Board's review of Bailey's medical records concerning treatment at Red Bank revealed that Dr. Govier had examined the dog, prescribed medication and referred Bailey for an abdomen ultrasound on or about November 22, 2003. Additionally, in copies of Red Bank invoices, Dr. Govier's name is provided in the column entitled "Staff," and is followed by the initials of

"D.V.M." A copy of said medical records and invoices attached and incorporated herein. [See Exhibit "C"].

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Board provisionally finds that Dr. Govier engaged in the unlicensed practice of veterinary medicine, during the course of her affiliation with Red Bank Veterinary Hospital, by examining Bailey Salzano in or about November 20, 2003 and referring the animal for diagnostic testing, specifically an abdomen ultrasound, in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:16-9 and N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(h).

2. The Board also provisionally finds that Dr. Govier's use of the initials "D.V.M." following her name on the November 2003 invoice concerning treatment provided to Bailey at Red Bank constitutes the unlicensed practice of veterinary medicine as detailed in N.J.S.A. 45:16-9. Since Dr. Govier performed these duties in 2003 and has not, to date, been licensed in New Jersey as a veterinarian, the Board provisionally concludes that she engaged in the unlicensed practice of veterinary medicine in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:16-9.

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS on this 8th day of **OCTOBER 2004**

ORDERED that:

1. Dr. Govier shall hereby cease and desist from engaging in the unlicensed practice of veterinary medicine, contrary to the mandates of N.J.S.A. 45:16-9, until such time as

she is licensed in the State of New Jersey as a veterinarian by the Board.

2. The respondent Suzanne Govier, D.V.M., is hereby assessed a civil penalty in the amount of **\$3,000.00** for engaging in the unlicensed practice of veterinary medicine in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:16-9 and N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(h).

3. This Order shall become final at 5:00 p.m. on the thirty (30th) business day following its entry unless the respondent requests a modification or dismissal of the above stated Findings of Fact or Conclusions of Law by:

a) Submitting a written request for modification or dismissal to Leslie G. Aronson, Executive Director, State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, Post Office Box 45020, 124 Halsey Street, Sixth Floor, Newark, New Jersey, 07101.

b) Setting forth in writing any and all reasons why the findings and conclusions should be modified or dismissed.

c) Submitting any and all documents or other written evidence supporting the respondent's request for mitigation of the preliminary sanctions and the reasons for such mitigation.

4. In the event that the respondent's submissions establish a need for further proceedings, including, but not limited to, an evidentiary hearing, the respondent shall be notified. If an evidentiary hearing is ordered, the preliminary findings of fact and conclusion of law set forth in this

Provisional Order shall serve as notice of the factual and legal allegations in such proceeding and the Board shall not be limited by the provisional sanctions and penalties herein. Nothing in this Order shall prevent the Board from considering respondent's arguments on the papers. If the Board is not persuaded that the submitted materials merit further consideration, the Order shall become final and respondent will be so notified.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF
VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By: Mark W. Logan VMD
MARK LOGAN, V.M.D.
President