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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 -
BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS

IN THE MATTER OF THE SUSPENSION :
OR REVOCATION OF THE LICENSE OF :
:
:
REGINA DeLORENZO, V.M.D. :
:
:
TO PRACTICE VETERINARY MEDICINE :
IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY :
:

Administrative Action

CONSENT ORDER

This matter was opened to the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners ("Board") following the Board's review of a consumer complaint filed by Tonya L. Anderson, on or about, October 10, 2003, concerning the services rendered by Regina DeLorenzo, D.V.M., to her two and one-half (1½) year old English Mastiff dog, "Pinkie" on May 25-26, 2002. Ms. Anderson, a trained veterinary technician, among other

contentions, alleged that Dr. DeLorenzo engaged in negligence, misdiagnosis and professional misconduct in her treatment of Pinka.

Ms. Anderson presented Pinka to the respondent at Shore Veterinarians in Seaville, New Jersey, on May 25, 2002. Pinka had begun exhibiting signs of first stage labor the night before and significant progress had not been made by the morning of May 25, 2002. The respondent examined the dog and a decision was made to perform a caesarean section ("C-section") on Pinka to remove the puppies. Dr. DeLorenzo performed the surgery on May 25th and delivered eight (8) healthy puppies. Pinka recovered from the surgery and was sent home that same day.

The next morning, on May 26, 2002, Pinka, according to Ms. Anderson, began to exhibit signs of contractions again and appeared to be in labor. The owner monitored the dog for a few hours, performed a vaginal examination and felt, according to her, the nose of a puppy with her fingertips still inside Pinka. Following a telephone conversation with the respondent, Ms. Anderson returned the dog to Dr. DeLorenzo at her office. Once at the respondent's office, the owner performed an x-ray on the dog which revealed two (2) fetuses remaining in the dog. The respondent performed a second C-section and removed one viable puppy and one still-born puppy. She examined the dog's uterus and her incision from the previous surgery and concluded the second surgery.

While Pinka was recovering from the second surgery, the owner noticed a lump in the abdomen. Dr. DeLorenzo was advised of the lump. She palpated the lump and concluded that it was not another puppy. The owner however took another x-ray of the

dog and discovered yet another puppy. Dr. De Lorenzo advised against another surgery. The owner then, on May 26, 2002, took Pinka to a second veterinarian Terri Marks, D.V.M., at South Paw Animal Hospital, Incorporated. Dr. Marks performed a third C-section on Pinka and removed the last puppy.

In her October 31, 2003, response to the Board, Dr. DeLorenzo admitted that she had performed the initial surgery on Pinka on May 25, 2002. Later, Dr. DeLorenzo realized that there were indeed two more puppies inside of Pinka and performed a second surgery to remove two more puppies from Pinka. Dr. DeLorenzo maintained that on the day of Pinka's first surgery, she had a full day of appointments already scheduled but agreed to see Pinka. She further advised that she was under an immense amount of stress and that she had a severe dog bite injury to her right hand. She contends that she advised Ms. Anderson to take the dog to the University of Pennsylvania for treatment but that the owner declined. Therefore, she maintains that, given all of the circumstances, she provided the best emergency veterinary care she could. While the respondent did not deny responsibility for her actions, and maintained that the welfare of Pinka was her primary concern, she asserts that some of the culpability of the case management belongs to the owner as well who, according to Dr. DeLorenzo, complicated and added stress to the care and treatment of Pinka by providing her own veterinary care to Pinka..

The Board finds that the respondent was straightforward in her admissions relative to the treatment of Pinka. However, the Board concludes that cause for disciplinary action against Dr. DeLorenzo exists as a result of the conduct detailed

above. Specifically, the Board finds that Dr. DeLorenzo engaged in gross negligence, contrary to N.J.S.A.45:1-21(c), which damaged the life, health, welfare or safety of Pinka by performing two (2) caesarean surgeries on the dog and failing to remove all of the fetuses in the dog's uterus on both occasions. Additionally, the Board concludes that the respondent engaged in repeated acts of negligence, in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(d), for failing to remove all of the puppies following two caesarean surgeries. It appearing that the respondent desires to resolve this matter; and the respondent acknowledging and not contesting the findings of fact and conclusions of law made by the Board; and the Board having been satisfied that the within resolution adequately protects the public health; safety and welfare; and for good cause shown:

IT IS ON THIS 20th day of October 2005,

ORDERED that:

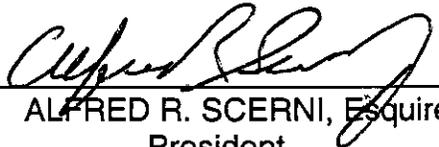
1. The respondent, Regina DeLorenzo, V.M.D., is hereby formally reprimanded for engaging in gross negligence, contrary to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(c), and repeated acts of negligence, in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(d), in her treatment of Pinka on May 25, 2002 to May 26, 2002, by twice performing C-section surgery and failing to remove all of the puppies.

2. Dr. DeLorenzo is hereby assessed a civil penalty, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-22, in the amount of \$3,000.00 for engaging in gross negligence in the performance of Pinka's C-section surgeries in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(c). Payment for the civil penalty shall be submitted no later than ten (10) days from the entry of this Consent Order, by certified check or money order, made payable to the State Board of

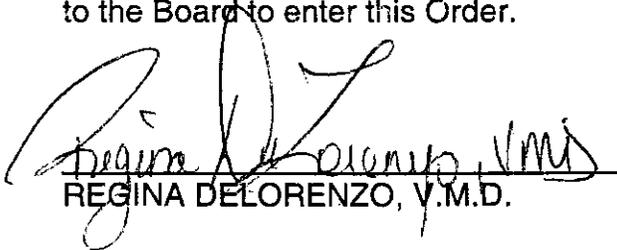
Veterinary Medical Examiners and shall be forwarded to Leslie Aronson, Executive Director, Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, 124 Halsey Street, Sixth Floor, Post Office Box 45020, Newark, New Jersey 07101. Subsequent violations will subject respondent to enhanced penalties to N.J.S.A. 45:1-25.

3. Failure to comply with any of the provisions of this Order or remit any and all payments required by this Order will result in the filing of a certificate of debt and may result in subsequent disciplinary proceedings for failure to comply with an Order of the Board.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF
VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By: 
ALFRED R. SCERNI, Esquire
President

I have read and understand the within Consent Order and agree to be bound by its terms. Consent is hereby given to the Board to enter this Order.


REGINA DELORENZO, V.M.D.

DATE: 10/14/05