



RICHARD J. CODEY  
Acting Governor

**New Jersey Office of the Attorney General**

Division of Consumer Affairs  
State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners  
124 Halsey Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Newark, NJ 07102

RECEIVED and FILED by  
NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS  
on this date of: 11-20-09



PETER C. HARVEY  
Attorney General

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Director

**Mailing Address:**  
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**By Certified and Regular Mail**

Catherine E. Dreskin, D.V.M.  
House Call Veterinary Services  
255 Jackson Pines Rd.  
Jackson, NJ 08527

Re: I/M/O CATHERINE E. DRESKIN, D.V.M.  
Complaint Number: 03-092

**Offer of Settlement In Lieu of Disciplinary Proceeding**

Dear Dr. Dreskin:

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 information it received concerning your professional conduct following its review of a complaint filed by Beatrice Petti. The complaint alleges, among other contentions, that you acted negligently and that you engaged in professional misconduct when you came to her house to examine her nine (9) year old Rottweiler, "Scooby Doo," on or about October 30, 2003.

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

1. A complaint filed by Beatrice Petti with the Board's administrative office on or about November 12, 2003, as well as any and all attachments and exhibits; and
2. An undated correspondence from Dr. Dreskin to the Board, received on or about December 22, 2003, as well as any and all attachments and exhibits.

Upon review of all available information, the Board has preliminarily found that probable cause exists to support a finding that you violated and/or failed to comply with the provisions of the Veterinary Medicine Practice Act and its accompanying regulations, in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(h), in that you failed to keep adequate medical records relative to Scooby Doo, contrary to N.J.A.C. 13:44-4.9.

Specifically, the Board's review into this matter revealed that you presented at the residence of complainant Beatrice Petti for a house call on her dog on a date not specified in the materials reviewed by the Board. Ms. Petti maintains that she advised your office staff, prior to your arrival, that she could not place a muzzle on the 200 lb. dog due to her physical injury and would call her son to assist you in examining the dog. She further alleges that your staff, at your direction, indicated that you would be able to handle the dog without assistance.

At the time of your arrival at the owner's residence, you found that the dog was barking incessantly and, according to your letter to the Board, appeared to be vicious. You concluded that a proper examination and treatment of the dog could not be accomplished without the risk of severe injury to yourself. Therefore, you consulted with the owner about possible neurological conditions and diseases that could be affecting Scooby Doo and provided her with two treatment options; 1) transport the dog to a facility for a work-up following sedation; or 2) initially treat the dog with anti-inflammatory medications and monitor for a response. The owner apparently chose the second option. Accordingly, you provided her with the medications and your bill, which included charges for your traveling fee, house call and the prescribed medication. Upon the presentation of the bill, Ms. Petti however disputed the charges and was only amenable to paying for the medication. Ultimately, Ms. Petti refused to pay the entire amount charged and you indicated that she was advised to obtain alternate veterinary services.

In response to Ms. Petti's complaint, you were requested by the Board, in a December 4, 2003, correspondence, to reply to the complaint and include " your original medical records. . . , including all x-rays, . . ." In your reply to the Board, you admitted that you did not have "any other records or information concerning this incident."

The Board, following its review into this matter, has concluded that you acted appropriately during your house call at Ms. Petti's residence given your determination that a proper veterinary examination and treatment could not be provided without risking personal injury. However, the Board concluded that your failure to create and maintain a medical record on Scooby Doo constitutes a violation of the Board's Patient Records rule, codified at N.J.A.C. 13:44-4.9.

Specifically, N.J.A.C. 13:44-4.9 provides, in the pertinent portion, that:

A licensee **shall maintain a separate patient record for each animal, herd or flock. All patient records shall accurately reflect the treatment or services rendered. Such records shall include at least the following information:**

1. The name of the facility and identification of the treating licensee. If the patient is treated by anyone other than the licensee, the licensee shall ensure that the identity of the individual providing the service is indicated in the patient record and that the provider initials and dates each entry he or she makes on the patient record:
2. The name, address and telephone number of the owner of the animal;
3. Sufficient information to clearly identify the animal, her or flock (for example, animal name or tattoo, breed or predominant breed species);

4. A history of the presenting problem;
5. All pertinent symptoms and signs observed;
6. Tests ordered or performed and the results thereof;
7. Conclusions and/or diagnosis;
8. The treatment or treatment plan prescribed, including a specific notation of any medications or modalities prescribed;
9. Such other notes or information so as to provide a clear statement of the patient's condition and the veterinary evaluation and response;
10. The name, initials or other identifying information to indicate the identity of the licensee or agent making the entry in the patient records; and
11. Copies of any consent forms signed by the owner or the owner's representative. [N.J.A.C. 13:44-4.9(a); emphasis added].

As advised above, the Board concludes that your failure to maintain a separate patient record for Scooby Doo, which would have at a bare minimum recorded the circumstances of your house visit to the Petti residence, constitutes a violation of this regulation.

At this juncture, the Board has determined that the above violation is sufficient to warrant the initiation of formal disciplinary proceedings against you. Notwithstanding that determination, however, the Board has determined that it will first offer you an opportunity to settle this matter, and thereby avoid the initiation of disciplinary proceedings, should you consent to:

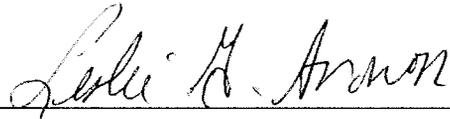
1. Cease and desist from violations of the patient records rule, namely N.J.A.C. 13:44-4.9(a); and
2. Pay a civil penalty in the amount of **\$500.00**, to be paid immediately upon your signing of the acknowledgment at the bottom of this letter for your violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(h) and N.J.A.C. 13:44-4.9(a).

If you are willing to settle this matter on the offered settlement terms, you may do so by signing the acknowledgment at the bottom of this letter, and returning it to the Board office. In such event, this letter will be a matter of public record. In the event you are unwilling to settle this matter on the offered terms, it will be referred to the Attorney General's office for the initiation of appropriate disciplinary action. In such event, you will be afforded an opportunity to defend against the alleged violations. If an evidentiary hearing is deemed warranted, the Board will either conduct that hearing at a date and time to be scheduled or refer the matter to the Office of Administrative Law. You are advised, however, that in the event formal charges are filed, the Board may assess civil penalties in an amount greater than that herein offered in settlement should any charges against you be sustained.

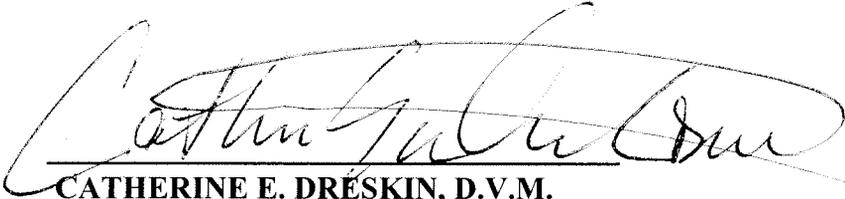
Additionally, the Board may, if the facts are found to so warrant, enter an order, requiring you to reimburse certain monies and/or requiring you to pay costs incurred by the Board. Should you have any questions concerning this letter or the settlement offer herein, I suggest that you contact Deputy Attorney General Olga E. Bradford, who may be reached at (973) 648-3696.

If you elect to settle this matter presently, you should sign the acknowledgment at the bottom of this letter and return it to the Board within (15) days following your receipt of this letter. In the event that the Board receives no response from you within (15) days, the Board's settlement offer will be withdrawn, and the matter will be referred to the Attorney General Office for the initiation of the appropriate enforcement action.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF  
VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By:   
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LESLIE G. ARONSON  
Executive Director

ACKNOWLEDGMENT: I, **CATHERINE E. DRESKIN, D.V.M.**, hereby acknowledge that I have read and reviewed the settlement proposal set forth in the above letter. I acknowledge the conduct which has been charged. I am aware that, by signing this acknowledgment, I am waiving any rights I may have to defend myself against any charges of wrongdoing at an administrative hearing. I am also aware that the action taken against me by the Board herein is a matter of public record, and that this letter is a public document. I hereby agree to pay a penalty in the amount of **\$500.00**, which is to be paid upon signing of this acknowledgment, for failing to comply with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 13:44-4.9. I also agree to comply with all other requirements set forth in this settlement letter.

  
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**CATHERINE E. DRESKIN, D.V.M.**

**DATED:**

cc: Olga E. Bradford, Deputy Attorney General