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New Jersey Office of the Attorney General

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

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RECEIVED and FILED by the
NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF
VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS
on this date of: 2-29-2011



PAULA T. DOW
Attorney General

BY CERTIFIED AND REGULAR MAIL

THOMAS R. CALCAGNI
Acting Director

March 2, 2011

Mailing Address:

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Stanley R. North, BS, MS, V.M.D.
Brielle Animal Clinic
505 Union Ave
Brielle, New Jersey 08730-1821

Re: **I/M/O STANLEY NORTH, BS, MS, V.M.D.**
Complaint Number: 09-012

Offer of Settlement In Lieu of Disciplinary Proceeding

Dear Dr. North:

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 concerning the professional services you rendered to "Penny" Glenfield, then a ten (10) year old Toy Poodle dog, at the Brielle Animal Clinic ("Clinic"), in January and March 2008.

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

1. A complaint filed by Barbara Glenfield with the Board on or about February 5, 2009, as well as any and all attachments and exhibits;
2. A correspondence from Stanley R. North, V.M.D., as well as any and all attachments and exhibits; and
3. Medical records of "Penny" Glenfield.

Upon review of all available information, the Board has found that probable cause exists to support a finding that you violated, as well as failed to comply with, the statutes governing the practice of veterinary medicine and the accompanying regulations, in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(h), in that you failed to maintain adequate medical records, contrary to N.J.A.C. 13:44-4.9(a).

The Board's review into this matter revealed that Penny was presented to you, by Mrs. Glenfield, on or about January 4, 2008 for various vaccinations. The owner also complained that the dog had an unusual bark and a mild cough. You administered the vaccines, specifically Rabies and Distemper. After a physical examination, you diagnosed a mild tracheitis, but were unable to diagnose anything regarding the unusual bark since you did not hear the bark. You treated with an injection of antibiotic and dispensed additional antibiotics and prednisone as an anti-inflammatory agent to reduce the cough. You also recommended that Penny come back in three to four weeks for the completion of her vaccinations.

Penny was next presented to you on January 24, 2008 for a wellness visit and two more vaccinations, specifically, Bordatella and Lymes. At this time, her cough appeared gone and her bark appeared normal. You also tested the dog for heartworms as a routine procedure. You conducted a physical examination and the dog appeared in good health.

Penny was next presented to you on March 10, 2008 with complaints of nasal discharge that contained blood. You performed a physical examination and discovered that the dog was bleeding from the left nares, where, in November 2007, the dog had also experienced nasal discharge related to a dental procedure. You also noticed bruising over the body, bleeding in the mouth and blood in the urine. You also performed diagnostic testing, specifically a full blood profile and a CBC. This testing indicated a possible ideopathic thrombocytopenia or another type of blood clotting disorder. You discussed the possibility of these conditions with the owner and began treatment with injections of ampicillin and dexamethasone. The dog was then referred to Garden State Veterinary Specialists ("Garden State") for further treatment.

Subsequently, at the other veterinary facility, Penny was diagnosed with paraneoplastic disease, autoimmune disease and infection. The dog was hospitalized for a period of seven days, at which point she had stabilized enough to be discharged and sent home. Subsequently, Penny was again presented to Garden State on April 3, 2008 with complaints of vomiting and anorexia over the previous three days. Following surgery on April 4, 2008 to remove the dog's gall bladder, Penny passed away on April 5, 2008 from cardiac and respiratory arrest.

The Board, following its review of the submitted documents, has concluded that there is insufficient evidence to initiate any formal disciplinary action against you relative to the veterinary care rendered to Penny. However, the Board, in its review of this matter, had the opportunity to review the patient records you submitted for review. The Board has concluded that you violated its patient record regulation by failing to create and maintain medical records for Penny, contrary to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(h) and N.J.A.C. 13:44-4.9(a).

Specifically, the Board finds that the records did not contain the following required information: 1) the name of your facility and the identification of the treating licensee; 2) all

pertinent symptoms and signs observed, namely, physical examination results noted on the March 8, 2008 entry; 3) the treatment or treatment plan prescribed, including a specific notation of any medications or modalities prescribed, namely, no notation of the medications billed for and prescribed on January 4, 2008 and March 10, 2008; and 4) the name or initials of the licensee or agent making an entry in the patient record. The Board has concluded that your failure to include the requisite information in your patient records constitutes a violation of N.J.A.C. 13:44-4.9(a)1, 4, 5, and 10.

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 violating the mandates of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(h), specifically N.J.A.C. 13:44-4.9(a), by maintaining records for your patients that accurately reflect the treatment or services you rendered; and
2. Pay a penalty in the aggregate amount of **\$2,500.00**, 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 the record keeping regulation, 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 fifteen (15) days following your receipt of this letter. In the event that the Board receives no response from you within fifteen (15) days, the Board's settlement offer will be withdrawn, and the matter will be referred to the Attorney General's Office for the initiation of the appropriate disciplinary action.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF
VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By: Leslie G. Aronson
LESLIE G. ARONSON
Executive Director

ACKNOWLEDGMENT: I, **STANLEY R. NORTH, BS, MS, V.M.D.**, hereby acknowledge that I have read and reviewed the settlement proposal set forth in the above letter. I acknowledge the conduct that 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 total amount of **\$2,500.00**. I also agree to adhere to the other provisions enumerated in this settlement letter.

Stanley R. North VMD
STANLEY R. NORTH, V.M.D.

DATED: 3/9/11

cc: Deputy Attorney General Olga E. Bradford

