

RECEIVED and FILED by the  
NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF  
VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS  
on this date of: January 29, 2014

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JOHN J. HOFFMAN  
ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY  
Division of Law  
124 Halsey Street, Fifth Floor  
Post Office Box 45029  
Newark, New Jersey 07101

By: Bindi Merchant  
Deputy Attorney General  
(973) 648-7454

STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY  
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS

IN THE MATTER OF

**LAURA J. CROMAL, D.V.M.**  
**LICENSE NO: 29VI00554100**

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 (hereinafter referred to as the "Board") following its review of a consumer complaint filed by P. B., concerning veterinary services rendered to his dog "Lucky" on or about March 7, 2008 by Laura J. Cromal, D.V.M., license number 29VI00554100 ("Respondent"). The Attorney General filed an Administrative Complaint on February 27, 2013 alleging that Respondent failed to adequately establish a veterinarian-client-patient relationship prior to ordering the administration of two controlled medications by unlicensed personnel.

Lucky was a collie in declining health when P.B. brought him to the Jersey Shore Veterinary Emergency Service seeking euthanasia. Respondent was the sole veterinarian working that day, and had never seen or provided care to Lucky prior to this visit. Earlier that day, P.B. had called and discussed the euthanasia process with an unlicensed veterinary technician.

Upon the owner's arrival with Lucky, he was greeted by the technician, who assisted with the paperwork, admitted Lucky to the hospital, and explained the euthanasia protocol and cremation options. Respondent was unavailable at the time because she was involved in several other simultaneous emergencies. Upon examining Lucky's chart, Respondent instructed the technician to administer the sedative Telazol, without first establishing a veterinary-client-patient relationship, and to find Respondent when Lucky was sedate and the owner was prepared to complete the euthanasia.

The technician administered the sedative Telazol (.8ml intramuscularly), and the dog became dysphoric and anxious, and began vocalizing. This is an unusual side-effect of the sedative. P.B. became agitated because he believed Lucky was in great pain, and although Respondent ordered administration of another sedative, P.B. chose to complete the euthanasia immediately rather than wait for the additional sedative to take effect.

The Board, having reviewed this matter carefully, has concluded that the Respondent failed to adequately establish a veterinarian-client-patient relationship, contrary to N.J.A.C. 13:44-4.1(b). The regulation provides that a licensed veterinarian may prescribe, sell, dispense, or distribute any prescription item, only when there is a bona fide veterinarian-client-patient relationship. The Board concludes that the licensee failed to examine the dog, meet the owner, and thereby establish a veterinarian-client-patient relationship prior to ordering the administration of two controlled medications by unlicensed personnel.

The parties desiring to resolve this matter without the need for further disciplinary proceedings, and Respondent acknowledging without contesting the findings of the Board and waiving her right to a hearing, and the Board having been satisfied that the resolution herein adequately protects the public health, safety, and welfare, and for good cause shown,

IT IS, therefore, on this 29<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2014,

1. The Respondent, Laura J. Cromal, D.V.M., is hereby reprimanded for her conduct as described above, in violation of N.J.A.C. 13:44-4.1(b).

2. Respondent shall cease and desist from failing to establish a veterinarian-client-patient relationship.

3. Respondent shall pay a civil penalty of \$1,500.00, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-22(b).

4. Payment for the civil penalty shall be submitted contemporaneously with the signing of the Order, by certified check or money order, made payable to the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners and shall be forwarded to Jonathan Eisenmenger, Executive Director, Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners at 124 Halsey Street, Sixth Floor, Post Office Box 45020, Newark, New Jersey 07101.

5. 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.

6. The parties hereby stipulate that entry of this Order is without prejudice to further action, investigation or restrictions upon reinstatement, by this Board, the Attorney General, the Drug Control Unit, the Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs or other law enforcement entities resulting from Respondents' conduct prior to entry of this Order.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF  
VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS

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

I have read and understood the within Order and agree to be bound by its terms.

Laura J. Cromal, D.V.M.  
Laura J. Cromal, D.V.M.

Consent is hereby given as to the form and entry of this Order.

Joseph A. Breymeier, Esq.  
Joseph A. Breymeier, Esq.  
Attorney for Respondent