

AGENDA

CONNECTICUT BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

Wednesday June 1, 2022 at 8:30 AM
Department of Public Health
410 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut

CALL TO ORDER

I. **MINUTES**

Approve minutes from January 26, 2022

II. **OPEN FORUM**

III. **NEW BUSINESS**

Memorandum of Decision

Amr Wasfi, DVM – Petition Nos. 2021-997

IV. **OFFICE OF LEGAL COMPLIANCE**

A. Reddy Bandaru, DVM – Petition No. 2020-616

Presentation of Consent Order – Joelle Newton, Staff Attorney, DPH

B. Tara Bisesti, D.V.M - ; Petition No. 2021-119

Presentation of Consent Order – Craig Sullivan, Staff Attorney, DPH

C. Sarah M Vining, DVM - Petition No. 2021-662

Presentation of Consent Order – Linda Fazzina, Staff Attorney, DPH

ADJOURN

Board of Veterinary Medicine via Microsoft Teams

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 860-840-2075](#) - Phone Conference ID: 105 023 691#

The following minutes are draft minutes which are subject to revision and which have not yet been adopted by the Board.

The **Connecticut Board of Veterinary Medicine** held a meeting on January 26, 2022.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Mary Anne O'Neill, Esq., Chairperson
G. Kenneth Bernhard, Esq.
Theresa Cianciolo, DVM
Lauren Mascola, DVM
Timothy Plunkett, DVM

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Elizabeth Bannon, Assistant Attorney General
Olinda Morales, Hearing Officer, DPH
Jeffrey A. Kardys, Board Liaison

Ms. O'Neill called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. All participants were present via Microsoft TEAMS.

I **MINUTES**

Dr. Mascola made a motion, seconded by Dr. Cianciolo, to approve the minutes from November, 30,2021. The motion passed unanimously.

II. **OPEN FORUM**

The Board inquired about a request sent to the Office of the Attorney General in 2016 concerning whether State statutes permit owners of animals and livestock and their employees to perform surgery and other veterinary medicine procedures on their animals without possessing a license to practice veterinary medicine in Connecticut.

Attorney Morales reported that the written decision regarding he Amr Wasfi, DVM matter is still in the drafting/review process.

Mr. Kardys reported that Department of Public Health currently has 34 open veterinary medicine investigations, with 4 cases being reviewed by DPH Staff Attorneys for potential licensure action.

III. **ADJOURN**

As there was no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:39 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne O'Neill, Esq., Chairperson
Connecticut Board of Veterinary Medicine

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE**

Amr Wasfi, D.V.M.
License No. 001159

Petition No. 2021-997

MEMORANDUM OF DECISION

Procedural Background

On November 30, 2021, the Department of Public Health ("Department") presented the Connecticut Board of Veterinary Medicine ("Board") with a Statement of Charges ("Charges") and a Motion for Summary Suspension against veterinary license number 001159 of Amr Wasfi, D.V.M. ("Respondent"). Board Exhibit ("Bd. Ex.") 1. The Charges allege that Respondent's license is subject to disciplinary action pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 19a-17 and 20-202. *Id.* The Motion for Summary Suspension was granted, based on the Charges, affidavits, the Department's information, and the Board's belief that Respondent's continued practice of veterinary medicine represented a clear and immediate danger to the public health and safety. *Id.*

On November 30, 2021, the Summary Suspension Order was issued following the Board's review of duly verified affidavits presented by the Department, which alleged violations of § 20-202 of the Connecticut General Statutes. Pursuant to § 4-182(c) and § 19a-17(c) of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Board summarily suspended the Respondent's license to practice veterinary medicine pending a final determination by the Board. *Id.* On December 1, 2021, the Summary Suspension Order, the Statement of Charges, and a Notice of Hearing scheduling a hearing were sent to the Respondent by email. *Id.*

On December 16, 2021, the Board held an administrative hearing regarding the Charges in accordance with Conn. Gen. Stat. § 4-166, et seq. (Uniform Administrative Procedure Act ("UAPA")) and Conn. Agencies Regs. § 19a-9-1, et seq. At the hearing, Respondent appeared with his attorney, Ernest C. LaFollette, and the Department was represented by Attorney Linda Fazzina, Esq. The parties availed themselves of the opportunity to present witnesses and argument.

Each member of the Board involved in this decision attests that he/she was present at the hearing or has reviewed the record in its entirety, and that this decision is based entirely on the record and the law. The Board does not assert that it relied on its own expertise in rendering this decision.¹

¹ On January 27, 2022, Dr. Plunkett, who did not attend the hearing on December 16, 2022, filed an affidavit recusing himself from any involvement in this matter. Dr. Plunkett's affidavit was marked for identification and entered into the record as Board Exhibit 2.

Allegations

1. In paragraph 1 of the Charges, the Department alleges that Amr Wasfi, D.V.M., of Bridgeport, Connecticut, is and has been at all times referenced in the Charges, the holder of Connecticut veterinary license number 001159.
2. In paragraph 2 of the Charges, the Department alleges on July 28, 2021, the Board issued a Memorandum of Decision in Petition Numbers 2020-1173, 2019-597, 2019-500, 2019-594, and 2019-30 (“Decision”) that placed Respondent’s license on probation for a period of two (2) years and permanently restricted his license in that Respondent is prohibited from working independently, performing surgery and prescribing anesthesia. Such disciplinary action was based, in part, upon findings that Respondent failed to approximately assess, manage or threat one or more animals.
3. In paragraph 3 of the Charges, the Department alleges that during the probationary period, the Decision requires that Respondent’s practice of veterinary medicine be supervised at all times by a Connecticut licensed veterinarian approved by the Department (“supervisor”).
4. In paragraph 4 of the Charges, the Department alleges that from approximately July 29, 2021 through the present, Respondent has practiced veterinary medicine and treated and/or prescribed medication for one or more animals while working independently without the supervisor.
5. In paragraph 5 of the Charges, the Department alleges that Respondent’s conduct as described above constitutes grounds for revocation or other disciplinary action pursuant to the General Statutes of Connecticut, §§ 19a-17 and 20-202.

Findings of Fact

6. Amr Wasfi, D.V.M., of Bridgeport, Connecticut, is and has been at all times referenced in the Charges, the holder of Connecticut veterinary license number 001159. Tr. p. 14.
7. On July 28, 2021, the Board issued the Decision, which placed Respondent’s license on probation for a period of two (2) years and permanently restricted his license in that Respondent is prohibited from working independently, performing surgery and prescribing anesthesia. Such disciplinary action was based, in part, upon findings that Respondent failed to appropriately assess, manage or treat one or more animals. Dept. Ex. 1, pp. 6-30; Tr. p. 15.
8. During the probationary period, the Decision requires that Respondent’s practice of veterinary medicine be supervised at all times by a supervisor. Dept. Ex. 1, pp. 6-30; Tr. pp. 17, 30.
9. After the effective date of the July 28, 2021 Decision, Respondent dispensed preventive tick and flea medication, which is not required to be dispensed by a licensed veterinarian, and groomed animals. Tr. pp. 32, 35-36.

10. After the effective date of the Decision, Respondent allowed Assure, a professional advertising website, to advertise his veterinary practice as a solo practitioner, in violation of the Decision. Dept. Ex. 1, p. 40; Tr. pp. 34-35.
11. After the effective date of the Decision, Respondent dispensed prescription food, Prescription Diet, for a client, which can only be dispensed by a licensed veterinarian, without being supervised by another Connecticut-licensed veterinarian, in violation of the Decision. Tr. pp. 32, 36-38, 41.
12. On one occasion after the Decision, Respondent vaccinated an animal without the supervision of another Connecticut-licensed veterinarian, in violation of the Decision. Tr. p. 51.
13. Since the Decision, Respondent has practiced veterinary medicine and treated and/or prescribed medication for one or more animals while working independently without the supervisor. Dept. Ex. 1, p. 40; Tr. pp. 34-35, 41, 51.

Discussion and Conclusions of Law

The Department bears the burden of proof by a preponderance of the evidence in this matter. *Jones v. Connecticut Medical Examining Board*, 309 Conn. 727, 739-40 (2013). The Department sustained its burden of proof with regard to all of the allegations contained in the Charges.

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 20-202 provides, that:

After notice and opportunity for hearing as provided in the regulations established by the Commissioner of Public Health, said board may take any of the actions set forth in section 19a-17 for any of the following causes: (1) The presentation to the board of any diploma, license or certificate illegally or fraudulently obtained; (2) proof that the holder of such license or certificate has become unfit or incompetent or has been guilty of cruelty, unskillfulness or negligence towards animals and birds. In determining whether the holder of such license has acted with negligence, the board may consider standards of care and guidelines published by the American Veterinary Medical Association including, but not limited to, guidelines for the use, distribution and prescribing of prescription drugs; (3) conviction of the violation of any of the provisions of this chapter by any court of criminal jurisdiction, provided no license or registration shall be revoked or suspended because of such conviction if an appeal to a higher court has been filed until such appeal has been determined by the higher court and the conviction sustained; (4) the violation of any of the provisions of this chapter or the refusal to comply with any of said provisions; (5) the publication or circulation of any statement of a character tending to deceive or mislead the public; (6) the supplying of drugs, biologics, instruments or any substances or devices by which unqualified persons may practice veterinary medicine, surgery and dentistry, except that such drugs, biologics, instruments, substances or devices may be supplied to a farmer for his own animals or birds; (7) fraudulent issue or use of any health certificate, vaccination certificate, test chart or other blank form used in the practice of veterinary medicine relating to the dissemination of animal disease, transportation of diseased animals or the sale of inedible products of animal origin for human

consumption; (8) knowingly having professional association with, or knowingly employing any person who is unlawfully practicing veterinary medicine; (9) failure to keep veterinary premises and equipment in a clean and sanitary condition; (10) physical or mental illness, emotional disorder or loss of motor skill, including but not limited to, deterioration through the aging process; (11) abuse or excessive use of drugs, including alcohol, narcotics or chemicals; or (12) failure to comply with the continuing education requirements prescribed in section 20-201a. A violation of any of the provisions of this chapter by any unlicensed employee in the practice of veterinary medicine, with the knowledge of his employer, shall be deemed a violation thereof by his employer. The Commissioner of Public Health may order a license holder to submit to a reasonable physical or mental examination if his physical or mental capacity to practice safely is the subject of an investigation. Said commissioner may petition the superior court for the judicial district of Hartford to enforce such order or any action taken pursuant to section 19a-17.

With respect to paragraph 1 of the Charges, Respondent admitted that, at all relevant times referenced in the Charges, he was the holder of Connecticut veterinary license No. 001159.

Findings of Fact (“FF”) 1.

With respect to paragraph 2 of the Charges, the Department established by a preponderance of the evidence that on July 28, 2021, the Board issued a Memorandum of Decision that placed Respondent’s license on probation for a period of two (2) years and permanently restricted his license in that Respondent is prohibited from working independently, performing surgery and prescribing anesthesia. Such disciplinary action was based, in part, upon findings that Respondent failed to approximately assess, manage or treat one or more animals. Dept. Ex. 1, pp. 6-30.

With regard to paragraph 3 of the Charges, the Department established by a preponderance of the evidence that during the probationary period, the Decision requires that Respondent’s practice of veterinary medicine be supervised at all times by a Connecticut licensed veterinarian approved by the Department. Dept. Ex. 1, pp. 6-30.

With regard to paragraph 4 of the Charges, the Department established by a preponderance of the evidence that sometime after the effective date of the Decision, Respondent has practiced veterinary medicine and treated and/or prescribed medication for one or more animals while working independently without the supervisor. FF. 10-13. The Board finds that Respondent treated an animal without being supervised by a Connecticut Veterinary doctor by selling dog food which required a prescription. Prescribed dog food is a biologic agent which may only be sold by a Connecticut licensed veterinarian, and which only licensed veterinarians can dispense. Tr. p. 33. Prescribing this dog food constitutes the practice of veterinary medicine and is a violation of the prior Order.

The Department presented some evidence that Respondent was listed on a website as a licensed veterinarian who could practice independently. Dept. Ex. 1, p. 40; Tr. pp. 34-35. The Board takes no disciplinary action against Respondent based upon this evidence as any allegation regarding a website was not part of the Charges.

Finally, Respondent admitted to administering a vaccine to an animal without the supervision of another Connecticut veterinary medicine. This conduct is a clear violation of the Decision. Administering a vaccine involves the practice of veterinary medicine, and Respondent violated the Order contained in the Decision. Therefore, the Department sustained its burden of proof with regard to the allegations contained in the Charges.

Conclusion

The Board concludes that the Department has proven by a preponderance of the evidence the allegations contained in the Charges except for any allegation involving the website. The Board concludes that Respondent's conduct constitutes grounds for disciplinary action pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 20-202 and 19a-17. Respondent's conduct presents a significant risk to the health and safety of his patients and the public.

Order

Based upon the record in this case, the above findings of fact and the conclusions of law, and pursuant to the authority vested in it by §§ 19a-17 and 20-220 of the Statutes, the Board finds that the violations listed above warrant the following disciplinary action, and orders that:

- 1 License number No. 001159 held by Amr Wasfi to practice veterinarian medicine, for the conduct alleged and proven in the Charges, is hereby REVOKED.
2. Legal notice shall be sufficient if sent to Respondent's last known address of record reported to the Office of Practitioner Licensing and Investigations of the Department.
3. This Memorandum of Decision has no bearing on any criminal liability without the written consent of the Director of the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit or the Bureau Chief of the Division of Criminal Justice's Statewide Prosecution Bureau.
4. This Decision is effective on the date it is signed by the Board.

Dated at Hartford, Connecticut this _____ day of _____, 2022.

CONNECTICUT BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

By: _____
Mary Anne O'Neill, Chairperson

CONSENT ORDER COVER SHEET

In re: Bandaru Reddy, D.V.M.

Petition No. 2020-616

1. Bandaru Reddy of Fairfield, Connecticut ("respondent") was licensed to practice veterinary medicine in 1985.
2. Respondent has no prior disciplinary history with the Department.
3. The Department alleges that on or about June 11, 2020, respondent performed a canine ovariohysterectomy at Bridgeport Veterinary Hospital during which time he failed to meet the standard of care in one or more of the following ways, in that he failed to:
 - a. remove a surgical sponge from the canine's abdomen after completing the ovariohysterectomy;
 - b. utilize the appropriate anesthesia and/or have oxygen readily available; and/or
 - c. maintain proper treatment records.
4. The proposed Consent Order includes a reprimand and four thousand (\$4000.00) dollar civil penalty.
5. The Department and respondent, through his counsel, respectfully request the Connecticut Board of Veterinary Medicine to approve and accept the attached proposed Consent Order.

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
HEALTHCARE QUALITY AND SAFETY BRANCH**

In re: Bandaru Reddy, DVM

Petition Number: 2020-616

CONSENT ORDER

WHEREAS, Bandaru Reddy of Fairfield, Connecticut ("respondent") has been issued license number 001735 to practice veterinary medicine by the Department of Public Health ("Department") pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Chapter 384, as amended.

WHEREAS, the Department alleges:

1. On or about June 11, 2020, respondent performed a canine ovariohysterectomy at Bridgeport Veterinary Hospital during which time he failed to meet the standard of care in one or more of the following ways, in that he failed to:
 - a. remove a surgical sponge from the canine's abdomen after completing the ovariohysterectomy;
 - b. utilize the appropriate anesthesia and/or have oxygen readily available; and/or
 - c. maintain proper treatment records.
2. The above-described allegations constitute grounds for disciplinary action pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §20-202, including, but not limited to, §20-202(2).

WHEREAS, respondent, in consideration of this Consent Order, while admitting no guilt or wrongdoing, has chosen not to contest the above-referenced allegations and agrees that for purposes of this or any future proceedings before the Connecticut Board of Veterinary Medicine ("Board"), this Consent Order shall have the same effect as if proven and ordered after a full hearing held pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §§19a-10, 19a-14 and 20-202.

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §§19a-14, 19a-17 and 20-202, respondent hereby stipulates and agrees to the following:

1. Respondent waives his right to a hearing on the merits of this matter.
2. Respondent's Connecticut veterinarian license number 001735 is hereby reprimanded.
3. Respondent shall pay a civil penalty of four thousand dollars (\$4,000.00) by certified or cashier's check payable to "Treasurer, State of Connecticut." The check shall reference the Petition Number on the face of the check and shall be payable at the time respondent submits the executed Consent Order to the Department.
4. Respondent shall comply with all state and federal statutes and regulations applicable to respondent's licensure.
5. Respondent shall pay all costs necessary to comply with this Consent Order.
6. Legal notice shall be sufficient if sent to respondent's last known address of record reported to the Department.
7. This Consent Order is effective upon acceptance and order by the Board.
8. Respondent understands and agrees that this Consent Order is a public document and the above-referenced allegations shall be deemed true in any proceeding before the Board in which respondent's compliance with this Consent Order or with Connecticut General Statutes §20-202, as amended, is at issue.
9. This Consent Order and terms set forth herein are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack, or judicial review under any form or in any forum. Respondent agrees that this Consent Order shall not be subject to modification because of any claim that the terms may result in action by third parties, including, but not limited to, veterinarian facilities and/or credentialing or licensure boards, and respondent waives any right to seek reconsideration or modification of this Consent Order pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-181a without the Department's express consent and agreement. Respondent

assumes all responsibility for assessing such actions prior to the execution of this Consent Order. Further, this Consent Order is not subject to appeal or review under the provisions of Connecticut General Statutes Chapters 54 or 368a, provided that this stipulation shall not deprive respondent of any rights that respondent may have under the laws of the State of Connecticut or of the United States.

10. This Consent Order is a revocable offer of settlement which may be modified by mutual agreement or withdrawn by the Department at any time prior to its being executed by the last signatory.
11. Respondent permits a representative of the Department to present this Consent Order and its factual basis to the Board. Respondent understands that the Board has complete and final discretion whether this executed Consent Order is approved or accepted. Respondent waives any claim of error that could be raised that is related to or arises during the Board's discussions regarding whether to approve or reject this Consent Order and/or a Board member's participation during this process, through the Board member's review or comments, including but not limited to bias or reliance on evidence outside the administrative record if this matter proceeds to a hearing on a statement of charges resulting in a proposed and/or final decision by the Board and/or a panel of the Board.
12. Respondent consulted with his attorney prior to signing this Consent Order.
13. The execution of this document has no bearing on any criminal liability without the written consent of the Director of the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit or the State's Attorney's Office where the allegation occurred or Bureau Chief of the applicable unit in the Chief State's Attorney's Office. The purpose of this Consent Order is to resolve the pending administrative license disciplinary petition only and is not intended to affect any civil or criminal liability or defense.

14. This Consent Order embodies the entire agreement of the parties regarding this petition. All previous communications or agreements regarding the subject matter of this Consent Order, whether oral or written, between the parties are superseded unless expressly incorporated.

I, Bandaru Reddy, have read the above Consent Order, and I stipulate and agree to the terms as set forth therein. I further declare the execution of this Consent Order to be my free act and deed.

Bandaru Reddy
Bandaru Reddy, DVM

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 8 day of February 2022.

ZAKARIA HAMIDINE
NOTARY PUBLIC
State of Connecticut
My Commission Expires
April 30, 2022

[Signature]
Notary Public/Commissioner Superior Court

The above Consent Order having been presented to the duly appointed agent of the Commissioner of the Department of Public Health on the 18th day of March 2022, it is hereby accepted.

Christian D. Andresen

Christian D. Andresen, MPH, CPH, Section Chief
Practitioner Licensing and Investigations Section
Healthcare Quality and Safety Branch

The above Consent Order having been presented to the Board of Veterinary Medicine on the _____ day of _____ 2022, it is hereby ordered and accepted.

Connecticut Board of Veterinary Medicine

CONSENT ORDER COVER SHEET

In re: Tara L. Bisesti, D.V.M.

Petition No. 2021-119

1. Respondent has held Connecticut veterinarian license number 004082 since June 17, 2015 to the present.
2. Respondent graduated from Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine, Basseterre, Saint Kitts, West Indies in 2015.
3. The allegations in the outstanding petition included the following:
 - a. In or about August of 2019, the respondent abused alcohol and/or utilized alcohol to excess.
 - b. In or about August of 2019, the respondent was diagnosed with a mental illness or illnesses, and/or an emotional disorder or disorders.
 - c. Respondent's abuse and/or utilization to excess of alcohol does, and/or may, affect her ability to practice veterinary medicine.
 - d. Respondent's diagnoses do, and/or may, affect her ability to practice veterinary medicine.
4. The respondent has pursued the negotiation of an acceptable consent order with the Department of Public Health (hereinafter "the Department").
5. The respondent and the Department have agreed on terms of a consent order that include, in part, the following:
 - a. Respondent's license number 004082 to practice as a veterinarian in the State of Connecticut shall be placed on probation for four years;
 - b. Respondent shall submit to weekly random, observed urine screens during the first and fourth years of probation and twice monthly random, observed urine screens during the second and third years of probation;
 - c. Respondent shall participate in regularly scheduled therapy, with therapist reports submitted monthly during the first and fourth years of probation and quarterly during the second and third years of probation;
 - d. Respondent's employer shall submit employer reports monthly during the first and fourth years of probation and quarterly during the second and third years of probation;

- e. Respondent shall attend anonymous or support group meetings eight to ten times per month, and she shall submit quarterly reports of her attendance thereat; and
 - f. Respondent shall not engage in solo practice.
6. The Department and respondent respectfully request that the Board accept the proposed Consent Order.

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This document and all attachments may contain information that is confidential or privileged. Please do not disseminate, distribute or copy the contents or discuss with parties who are not directly involved in this petition. Thank you.

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
HEALTHCARE QUALITY AND SAFETY BRANCH

In re: Tara L. Bisesti, D.V.M.

Petition No. 2021-119

CONSENT ORDER

WHEREAS, Tara L. Bisesti of Lyme, Connecticut (hereinafter "respondent") has been issued license number 004082 to practice veterinary medicine by the Department of Public Health (hereinafter "the Department") pursuant to Chapter 384 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, as amended; and,

WHEREAS, the respondent admits that:

1. In or about August of 2019, the respondent abused, and/or utilized to excess, alcohol.
2. In or about August of 2019, the respondent was diagnosed with a mental illness or illnesses, and/or an emotional disorder or disorders.
3. Respondent's abuse and/or utilization to excess of alcohol does, and/or may, affect her ability to practice veterinary medicine.
4. Respondent's diagnoses do, and/or may, affect her ability to practice veterinary medicine.
5. The above-described facts constitute grounds for disciplinary action pursuant to the General Statutes of Connecticut, §20-202, including, but not limited to:

- a. §20-202 (10); and/or,
- b. §20-202 (11).

WHEREAS, respondent, in consideration of this Consent Order, has chosen not to contest this matter and agrees that for purposes of this or any future proceedings before the Connecticut Board of Veterinary Medicine (hereinafter "the Board"), this Consent Order shall have the same

effect as if proven and ordered after a full hearing held pursuant to §§19a-10, 19a-14 and 20-202 of the General Statutes of Connecticut.

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to §§19a-14, 19a-17 and 20-202 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, respondent hereby stipulates and agrees to the following:

1. Respondent waives respondent's right to a hearing on the merits of this matter.
2. Respondent's license number 004082 to practice veterinary medicine in the State of Connecticut shall be placed on probation for a period of four (4) years under the following terms and conditions:
 - (A) Respondent shall participate in regularly scheduled therapy at respondent's own expense with a licensed Connecticut therapist pre-approved by the Department (hereinafter "therapist").
 - (i) Respondent shall provide a copy of this Consent Order to respondent's therapist.
 - (ii) Respondent's therapist shall furnish written confirmation to the Department of the therapist's engagement in that capacity and receipt of a copy of this Consent Order within fifteen (15) days of the effective date of this Consent Order.
 - (iii) If the therapist determines that therapy is no longer necessary, that a reduction in frequency of therapy sessions is warranted, or that respondent should be transferred to another therapist, the therapist shall advise the Department, and the Department shall pre-approve said termination of therapy, reduction in frequency of therapy sessions, and/or respondent's transfer to another therapist.
 - (iv) The therapist shall submit reports directly to the Department for the entire probationary period. Reports shall be submitted monthly for the first and fourth years of the respondent's probation and quarterly for the second and third years

of the respondent's probation, and such reports shall address, but not necessarily be limited to, respondent's ability to practice veterinary medicine in an alcohol-free and substance free state safely and competently. A report indicating that respondent is not able to practice safely and competently shall be deemed to be a violation of this Consent Order. Said reports shall continue until the therapist determines that therapy is no longer necessary, or the period of probation has terminated.

- (v) The therapist shall immediately notify the Department in writing if the therapist believes respondent's continued practice poses a danger to the public, or if respondent discontinues therapy and/or terminates the therapist's services.
- (B) During the entire four-year probation, respondent shall refrain from the ingestion of alcohol in any form and the ingestion, inhalation, injection or other use of any controlled substance, marijuana and/or legend drug unless prescribed or recommended for a legitimate therapeutic purpose by a licensed health care professional authorized to prescribe medications. Respondent shall inform said licensed health care professional of respondent's substance abuse history. In the event a medical condition arises requiring treatment utilizing controlled substances, marijuana, legend drugs, or alcohol in any form, respondent shall notify the Department and, upon request, provide such written documentation of the treatment as is deemed necessary by the Department.
- (i) During the probationary period the respondent shall, at respondent's own expense, submit to random observed urine screens for alcohol, controlled substances, marijuana, Ethylglucuronide (EtG) and legend drugs; in accordance with Department Requirements for Drug and Alcohol Screens, attached hereto marked as ("Attachment A: Department Requirements for Drug and Alcohol

Screens”); during the first and fourth years of the probationary period, the respondent shall submit to such screens on a weekly basis, and during the second and third years of the probationary period the respondent shall submit to such screens at least twice a month. Respondent shall submit to such screens on a more frequent basis if requested to do so by the therapist or the Department. Said screens shall be administered by a facility approved by the Department. All such random screens shall be legally defensible in that the specimen donor and chain of custody shall be identified throughout the screening process. All laboratory reports shall state that the chain of custody procedure has been followed.

- (ii) Laboratory reports of random alcohol and drug screens shall be submitted directly to the Department by the testing laboratory. All screens shall be negative for the presence of drugs and alcohol. Respondent agrees that an EtG test report of EtG at a level of 1000ng/mL or higher shall be deemed to constitute a positive screen for the presence of alcohol under this Consent Order. All positive screen results shall be confirmed by gas chromatograph/mass spectrometer (GC/MS) testing.
- (iii) Respondent understands and agrees that if respondent fails to submit a urine sample when requested by respondent’s monitor, such missed screen shall be deemed a positive screen.
- (iv) Respondent shall notify each of her health care professionals of all medications prescribed for respondent by any and all other health care professionals.
- (v) Respondent is hereby advised that the ingestion of poppy seeds, mouthwash and over the counter cough or cold medicines or remedies has from time to time, been raised as a defense to a positive screen result for morphine, opiates and/or

alcohol and as a defense of an EtG at 1000ng/mL or higher. For that reason, respondent agrees to refrain from ingesting poppy seeds in any food substances, mouthwash and over the counter cough or cold medicines or remedies during the term of this Consent Order. In the event respondent has a positive screen for morphine, opiates and/or alcohol or if respondent's test reports an EtG at 1000ng/mL or higher, respondent agrees that the ingestion of poppy seeds and/or mouthwash and/or over the counter cough or cold medicines or remedies shall not constitute a defense to such a screen.

- (C) During the entire period of probation, respondent shall attend "anonymous" or support group meetings on an average of eight to ten times per month, and respondent shall provide quarterly reports to the Department concerning respondent's record of attendance.
- (D) During the period of probation, respondent shall report to the Department any arrest under the provisions of Connecticut General Statutes section 14-227a. Such report shall occur within fifteen (15) days of such event.
- (E) During the period of probation, respondent shall provide each employer at any facility or place where respondent practices veterinary medicine throughout the probationary period (hereinafter, collectively "employer") with a copy of this Consent Order within fifteen (15) days of its effective date, or within fifteen (15) days of commencement of practice with any new employer. Respondent agrees to provide reports from such employer monthly for the first and fourth years of her probation, and quarterly for the second and third years of her probation, stating whether respondent is practicing with reasonable skill and safety and in an alcohol-free and substance-free state. A report indicating that respondent is not practicing with reasonable skill and safety shall be deemed to be a violation of this Consent Order.

- (F) During the period of probation, respondent shall only practice in an office and practice setting that physically includes other licensed veterinarians on-site while respondent is practicing at said office and practice setting.
 - (G) Respondent shall obtain written approval from the Department prior to any change in employment.
3. All correspondence and reports are to be addressed to:
- Practitioner Compliance and Monitoring Unit
Department of Public Health
410 Capitol Avenue, MS #12HSR
P.O. Box 340308
Hartford, CT 06134-0308
4. All reports required by the terms of this Consent Order shall be due according to a schedule to be established by the Department of Public Health.
5. Respondent shall comply with all state and federal statutes and regulations applicable to respondent's licensure.
6. Respondent shall pay all costs necessary to comply with this Consent Order.
7. Any alleged violation of any provision of this Consent Order may result in the following procedures at the discretion of the Department:
- (A) The Department shall notify respondent in writing by first-class mail that the term(s) of this Consent Order have been violated, provided that no prior written consent for deviation from said term(s) has been granted.
 - (B) Said notification shall include the acts or omission(s) which violate the term(s) of this Consent Order.
 - (C) Respondent shall be allowed fifteen (15) days from the date of the mailing of notification required in paragraph 7 (A) above to demonstrate to the satisfaction of

the Department that respondent has complied with the terms of this Consent Order or, in the alternative, that respondent has cured the violation in question.

- (D) If respondent does not demonstrate compliance or cure the violation within the fifteen (15) days specified in the notification of violation to the satisfaction of the Department, respondent shall be entitled to a hearing before the Board which shall make a final determination of the disciplinary action to be taken.
 - (E) Evidence presented to the Board by either the Department or respondent in any such hearing shall be limited to the alleged violation(s) of the term(s) of this Consent Order.
8. If, during the period of probation, respondent practices veterinary medicine outside Connecticut, respondent shall provide written notice to the Department concerning such practice. During such time period, respondent shall not be responsible for complying with the terms of probation of this Consent Order, and such time period shall not be counted in reducing the probationary period covered by this Consent Order. Respondent may comply with the terms of probation while practicing outside Connecticut if pre-approved by the Department. In the event respondent intends to return to the practice of veterinary medicine in Connecticut, respondent shall provide the Department with thirty (30) days prior written notice and agrees to comply with all terms and conditions contained in paragraph 2 above.
 9. In the event respondent violates any term of this Consent Order, said violation may also constitute grounds for the Department to seek a summary suspension of respondent's license before the Board.
 10. Legal notice shall be sufficient if sent to respondent's last known address of record reported to the Practitioner Licensing and Investigations Section of the Healthcare Quality and Safety Branch of the Department.

11. This Consent Order is effective on the first day of the month immediately following the date this Consent Order is accepted and ordered by the Board.
12. Respondent understands and agrees that this Consent Order shall be deemed a public document and the above admitted violations shall be deemed true in any proceeding before the Board in which respondent's compliance with this Consent Order or with §20-202 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, as amended, is at issue. Further, respondent understands that any discipline imposed by this Consent Order shall be reported to the National Practitioner Data Bank maintained by the United States Department of Health and Human Services.
13. In the event respondent violates a term of this Consent Order, respondent agrees immediately to refrain from practicing veterinary medicine upon request by the Department, with notice to the Board, for a period not to exceed 45 days. During that time period, respondent further agrees to cooperate with the Department in its investigation of the violation, and to submit to and complete a medical, psychiatric or psychological evaluation, if requested to do so by the Department; and, that the results of the evaluation shall be submitted directly to the Department. Respondent further agrees that failure to cooperate with the Department in its investigation during said 45-day period shall constitute grounds for the Department to seek a summary suspension of respondent's license. In any such summary action, respondent stipulates that failure to cooperate with the Department's investigation shall be considered by the Board and shall, as a matter of law, constitute a clear and immediate danger as required pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes, sections 4-182(c) and 19a-17(c). The Department and respondent understand that the Board has complete and final discretion as to whether a summary suspension is ordered.

14. Any extension of time or grace period for reporting granted by the Department shall not be a waiver or preclude the Department from taking action at a later time. The Department shall not be required to grant future extensions of time or grace periods.
15. This Consent Order and terms set forth herein are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review under any form or in any forum. Respondent agrees that this Consent Order shall not be subject to modification as a result of any claim that the terms contained herein may result in action by third parties, including, but not limited to, healthcare facilities and/or credentialing or licensure boards and respondent waives any right to seek reconsideration or modification of this Consent Order pursuant to §4-181a of the General Statutes of Connecticut without the express consent and agreement of the Department. Respondent assumes all responsibility for assessing such actions prior to the execution of this document. Further, this Consent Order is not subject to appeal or review under the provisions of Chapters 54 or 368a of the General Statutes of Connecticut, provided that this stipulation shall not deprive respondent of any rights that respondent may have under the laws of the State of Connecticut or of the United States.
16. This Consent Order is a revocable offer of settlement which may be modified by mutual agreement or withdrawn by the Department at any time prior to its being executed by the last signatory.
17. Respondent permits a representative of the Department to present this Consent Order and the factual basis for this Consent Order to the Board. Respondent understands that the Board has complete and final discretion as to whether this executed Consent Order is approved or accepted. Respondent hereby waives any claim of error that could be raised that is related to or arises during the course of the Board's discussions regarding whether to approve or reject this Consent Order and/or a Board member's participation during this process, through the Board member's review or comments, including but not limited to

bias or reliance on evidence outside the administrative record if this matter proceeds to a hearing on a statement of charges resulting in a proposed decision by the Board and/or a panel of the Board and a final decision by the Board.

18. Respondent understands and agrees that respondent is responsible for satisfying all of the terms of this Consent Order during vacations and other periods in which respondent is away from respondent's residence.
19. Respondent has the right to consult with an attorney prior to signing this document.
20. The execution of this document has no bearing on any criminal liability without the written consent of the Director of the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit or the State's Attorney's Office where the allegation occurred or Bureau Chief of the applicable unit in the Chief State's Attorney's Office. The purpose of this Consent Order is to resolve the pending administrative license disciplinary petition only and is not intended to affect any civil or criminal liability or defense.
21. This Consent Order embodies the entire agreement of the parties with respect to this case. All previous communications or agreements regarding the subject matter of this consent order, whether oral or written, between the parties are superseded unless expressly incorporated herein or made a part hereof.

I, Tara L. Bisesti, have read the above Consent Order, and I stipulate and agree to the terms as set forth therein. I further declare the execution of this Consent Order to be my free act and deed.

Tara L. Bisesti
Tara L. Bisesti



Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19 day of May 2022.

GARY BURCHSTED SR
NOTARY PUBLIC
State of Connecticut
My Commission Expires
12/31/2023

Gary Burchsted SR
Notary Public or person authorized
by law to administer an oath or affirmation

The above Consent Order having been presented to the duly appointed agent of the Commissioner of the Department of Public Health on the 19th day of May 2022, it is hereby accepted.

Christian D. Andresen

Christian D. Andresen, MPH, CPH, Section Chief
Practitioner Licensing and Investigations Section
Healthcare Quality and Safety Branch

The above Consent Order having been presented to the duly appointed agent of the Connecticut Board of Veterinary Medicine on the _____ day of _____ 2022, it is hereby ordered and accepted.

Connecticut Board of Veterinary Medicine
By: Mary Anne O'Neill, Esq.
Its Chairperson

CONSENT ORDER COVER SHEET

In re: Sarah M Vining, DVM

Petition No. 2021-662

1. Sarah M. Vining of Dresden, Maine ("respondent") was issued license number 003264 to practice veterinary medicine on June 13, 2007.
2. Respondent has no prior disciplinary history with the Department.
3. Respondent admits that on or about June 16, 2021, the Maine State Board of Veterinary ("the Maine Board") Medicine accepted a Consent Order Agreement in Case No. 2020-VET-17506 ("the Maine Order") that disciplined respondent's license to practice veterinary medicine in the State of Maine based upon respondent's failure, on or about August 10, 2020, to offer and document a complete diagnostic workup, including bloodwork, despite a dog's diagnosis of Lyme disease and weight loss. The Maine Order includes a warning and a probationary period of two years that requires respondent to submit three medical records on a quarterly basis to the Maine Board's Complaint Officer for review and approval.
4. Respondent does not currently practice veterinary medicine in Connecticut, other than providing veterinary care to relatives' animals when occasionally visiting her relatives in Connecticut.
5. The proposed Consent Order provides for a reprimand and a probationary period of six (6) months to complete a course in documentation, pre-approved by the Department.
6. The Department and respondent, through her counsel, respectfully request that the Connecticut Board of Veterinary Medicine order and accept the proposed Consent Order in this matter.

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
HEALTHCARE QUALITY AND SAFETY BRANCH**

In re: Sarah M. Vining, D.V.M.

Petition No. 2021-662

CONSENT ORDER

WHEREAS, Sarah M. Vining of Dresden, Maine (hereinafter "respondent") has been issued license number 003264 to practice veterinary medicine by the Department of Public Health (hereinafter "the Department") pursuant to Chapter 384 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, as amended.

WHEREAS, respondent admits that:

1. On or about June 16, 2021, the Maine State Board of Veterinary Medicine ("the Maine Board") accepted a Consent Agreement in Case No. 2020-VET-17506 ("the Maine Order") that disciplined respondent's license to practice veterinary medicine in the State of Maine based upon respondent's failure, on or about August 10, 2020, to offer and document a complete diagnostic workup, including bloodwork, despite a dog's diagnosis of Lyme disease and weight loss. The Maine Order (a true and correct copy attached hereto and incorporated herein) includes a warning and a probationary period of two years that requires respondent to submit three medical records on a quarterly basis to the Maine Board's Complaint Officer for review and approval.
2. The above-described facts constitute grounds for disciplinary action pursuant to the General Statutes of Connecticut, §§19a-17(f) and/or 20-202, including, but not limited to §20-202(2).

WHEREAS, respondent, in consideration of this Consent Order, has chosen not to contest this matter and agrees that for purposes of this or any future proceedings before the Connecticut Board of Veterinary Medicine ("the Board"), this Consent Order shall have the same effect as if proven and ordered after a full hearing held pursuant to §§19a-10, 19a-14 and 20-202 of the General Statutes of Connecticut.

WHEREAS, respondent does not currently practice veterinary medicine in the State of Connecticut, other than providing veterinary care to relatives' animals when occasionally visiting her relatives in Connecticut.

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to §§19a-14, 19a-17 and 20-202 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, respondent hereby stipulates and agrees to the following:

1. Respondent waives respondent's right to a hearing on the merits of this matter.
2. Respondent's license number 003264 to practice as a veterinarian in the State of Connecticut is hereby reprimanded.
3. Respondent's license shall be placed on probation for a period of six (6) months under the following terms and conditions: respondent shall attend and successfully complete a course in documentation, pre-approved by the Department. Within fifteen (15) days of the completion of such coursework, respondent shall provide the Department with proof, to the Department's satisfaction, of the successful completion of such course. Respondent's probation shall terminate upon the Department's written satisfaction of the successful completion of the coursework required by this paragraph.
4. All correspondence and reports are to be addressed to:

Practitioner Compliance and Monitoring Unit
Department of Public Health
410 Capitol Avenue, MS #12HSR
P.O. Box 340308
Hartford, CT 06134-0308

5. Respondent shall comply with all state and federal statutes and regulations applicable to respondent's licensure.
6. Respondent shall pay all costs necessary to comply with this Consent Order.
7. Any alleged violation of any provision of this Consent Order may result in the following procedures at the discretion of the Department:
 - a. The Department shall notify respondent in writing by first-class mail that the term(s) of this Consent Order have been violated, provided that no prior written consent for deviation from said term(s) has been granted.
 - b. Said notification shall include the acts or omission(s) which violate the term(s) of this Consent Order.
 - c. Respondent shall be allowed thirty (30) days from the date of the mailing of notification required in paragraph 7a above to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Department that respondent has complied with the terms of this Consent Order or, in the alternative, that respondent has cured the violation in question.
 - d. If respondent does not demonstrate compliance or cure the violation within the thirty (30) days specified in the notification of violation to the satisfaction of the Department, respondent shall be entitled to a hearing before the Board which shall make a final determination of the disciplinary action to be taken.
 - e. Evidence presented to the Board by either the Department or respondent in any such hearing shall be limited to the alleged violation(s) of the term(s) of this Consent Order.

8. In the event respondent violates any term of this Consent Order, said violation may also constitute grounds for the Department to seek a summary suspension of respondent's license before the Board.
9. Legal notice shall be sufficient if sent to respondent's last known address of record reported to the Practitioner Licensing and Investigations Section of the Healthcare Quality and Safety Branch of the Department.
10. This Consent Order is effective on the first day of the month immediately following the date this Consent Order is accepted and ordered by the Board.
11. Respondent understands that this Consent Order is a public document. Respondent agrees that the above admitted violations shall be deemed true in any proceeding before the Board in which respondent's compliance with this Consent Order or with §20-202 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, as amended, is at issue.
12. In the event respondent violates a term of this Consent Order, respondent agrees immediately to refrain from practicing as a veterinarian, upon request by the Department, with notice to the Board, for a period not to exceed forty-five (45) days. During that time period, respondent further agrees to cooperate with the Department in its investigation of the violation, and to submit to and complete a medical, psychiatric or psychological evaluation, if requested to do so by the Department; and, that the results of the evaluation shall be submitted directly to the Department. Respondent further agrees that failure to cooperate with the Department in its investigation during said forty-five (45) day period shall constitute grounds for the Department to seek a summary suspension of respondent's license. In any such summary action, respondent stipulates that failure to cooperate with the Department's investigation shall be considered by the Board and shall, as a matter of law, constitute a clear and immediate danger as required pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes, sections 4-182(c) and 19a-17(c). The Department and respondent understand that

the Board has complete and final discretion as to whether a summary suspension is ordered.

13. Any extension of time or grace period for reporting granted by the Department shall not be a waiver or preclude the Department from taking action at a later time. The Department shall not be required to grant future extensions of time or grace periods.
14. This Consent Order and terms set forth herein are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review under any form or in any forum. Respondent agrees that this Consent Order shall not be subject to modification as a result of any claim that the terms contained herein may result in action by third parties, including, but not limited to, healthcare facilities and/or credentialing or licensure boards and respondent waives any right to seek reconsideration or modification of this Consent Order pursuant to §4-181a of the General Statutes of Connecticut without the express consent and agreement of the Department. Respondent assumes all responsibility for assessing such actions prior to the execution of this document. Further, this Consent Order is not subject to appeal or review under the provisions of Chapters 54 or 368a of the General Statutes of Connecticut, provided that this stipulation shall not deprive respondent of any rights that respondent may have under the laws of the State of Connecticut or of the United States.
15. This Consent Order is a revocable offer of settlement which may be modified by mutual agreement or withdrawn by the Department at any time prior to its being executed by the last signatory.
16. Respondent permits a representative of the Department to present this Consent Order and the factual basis for this Consent Order to the Board. Respondent understands that the Board has complete and final discretion as to whether this executed Consent Order is approved or accepted. Respondent hereby waives any claim of error that could be raised that is related to or arises during the course of the Board's discussions regarding whether

to approve or reject this Consent Order and/or a Board member's participation during this process, through the Board member's review or comments, including but not limited to bias or reliance on evidence outside the administrative record if this matter proceeds to a hearing on a statement of charges resulting in a proposed decision by the Board and/or a panel of the Board and a final decision by the Board.

17. Respondent has consulted with her attorney prior to signing this Consent Order.
18. The execution of this document has no bearing on any criminal liability without the written consent of the Director of the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit or the State's Attorney's Office where the allegation occurred or Bureau Chief of the applicable unit in the Chief State's Attorney's Office. The purpose of this Consent Order is to resolve the pending administrative license disciplinary petition only and is not intended to affect any civil or criminal liability or defense.
19. This Consent Order embodies the entire agreement of the parties with respect to this case. All previous communications or agreements regarding the subject matter of this consent order, whether oral or written, between the parties are superseded unless expressly incorporated herein or made a part hereof.

I, Sarah M. Vining, D.V.M., have read the above Consent Order, and I stipulate and agree to the terms as set forth therein. I further declare the execution of this Consent Order to be my free act and deed.

Sarah M. Vining, DVM
Sarah M. Vining, D.V.M.



Subscribed and sworn to before me this 07 day of March 2022.

Raquel Alvarez
Notary Public or person authorized
by law to administer an oath or affirmation

The above Consent Order having been presented to the duly appointed agent of the Commissioner of the Department of Public Health on the 11th day of March 2022, it is hereby accepted.

Christian D. Andresen

Christian D. Andresen, MPH, Section Chief
Practitioner Licensing and Investigations Section
Healthcare Quality and Safety Branch

The above Consent Order having been presented to the Connecticut Board of Veterinary Medicine on the _____ day of _____ 2022, it is hereby ordered and accepted.

Mary Anne O'Neill, Esq., Chairperson