

## AGENDA

### CONNECTICUT BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

Wednesday, January 25, 2023 at 8:30 AM  
Department of Public Health  
410 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut

#### CALL TO ORDER

#### I. OPEN FORUM

#### II. OFFICE OF LEGAL COMPLIANCE

A. Tara L. Bisesti, DVM – Petition No. 2022-900  
*Motion to Withdraw Statement of Charges – Presented by Linda Fazzina, Staff Attorney, DPH*

B. Shelly M. Dubin, DVM – Petition No. 2019-1156  
*Consent Order - Presented by Linda Fazzina, Staff Attorney, DPH*

#### ADJOURN

#### BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE via Microsoft Teams

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

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

In re: Tara L. Bisesti, DVM

Petition No. 2022-900

**MOTION TO WITHDRAW STATEMENT OF CHARGES**

Comes now the Department of Public Health ("the Department") and moves the Connecticut Board of Veterinary Medicine ("the Board") for an Order granting this Motion to Withdraw. As grounds for this Motion, the Department states that following:

On September 20, 2022 the Department moved that the Board summarily suspend the license of Tara L. Bisesti ("respondent") to practice veterinary medicine based, in part, on the attached Statement of Charges in Attachment "A" ("Charges"). On October 13, 2022, the Board denied the Department's Motion for Summary Suspension and scheduled a hearing on the Charges for January 25, 2023.

Since the Charges were filed, respondent has: (i) continued to submit to weekly random urine drug screens for drugs and alcohol which have been negative for the presence of drugs and alcohol; (ii) continued to engage in therapy and to submit monthly reports to the Department from her therapist indicating that respondent is able to practice veterinary medicine safely and competently; (iii) continued to practice veterinary medicine and have her employer submit monthly reports to the Department indicating that respondent is able to practice veterinary medicine with reasonable skill and safety; and (iv) continued to attend anonymous or support group meetings on an average of eight to ten times per month and to provide quarterly reports to the Department of respondent's record of attendance.



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

ATTACHMENT "A"

In re: Tara L. Bisesti, DVM

Petition No. 2022-900

**STATEMENT OF CHARGES**

Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §§19a-10 and 19a-14, the Department of Public Health ("the Department") brings the following charges against Tara L. Bisesti:

1. Tara L. Bisesti of Lyme, Connecticut ("respondent") is, and has been at all times referenced in this Statement of Charges, the holder of Connecticut license number 004082 to practice veterinary medicine.
2. On June 1, 2022, the Connecticut Board of Veterinary Medicine ("the Board") ordered a Consent Order in Petition Number 2021-119 ("the Consent Order") that placed respondent's license to practice veterinary medicine on probation for a period of four (4) years. Such disciplinary action was based, in part, upon respondent's admitted abuse or excess use of alcohol, in or about August 2019.
3. The Consent Order specifically provided that respondent refrain from the ingestion of alcohol in any form and that she submit to random urine drug screens which must be negative for the presence of drugs and alcohol.
4. On or about August 30, 2022, respondent tested positive for alcohol.
5. On or about August 30, 2022, respondent abused and/or utilized to excess alcohol.
6. Respondent's abuse of alcohol does, and/or may, affect her practice of veterinary medicine.
7. Respondent's conduct as described above constitutes violations of the terms of probation in the Consent Order and subjects respondent's license to revocation or other disciplinary action authorized by Connecticut General Statutes §§19a-17 and 20-202, including, but not limited to §20-202 (11).

THEREFORE, the Department prays that:

The Board, as authorized by Connecticut General Statutes §§20-202 and 19a-17, revoke or order other disciplinary action against the license of Tara L. Bisesti as it deems appropriate and consistent with law.

Dated at Hartford, Connecticut this 20th day of September, 2022.



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

## CONSENT ORDER COVER SHEET

In re: Shelly M. Dubin, V.M.D.

Petition No. 2019-1156

1. Shelley M. Dubin of Thompson, Connecticut ("respondent") was issued license number 003245 to practice veterinary medicine on April 18, 2007.
2. Respondent has no prior disciplinary history with the Department.
3. The Department alleges that in or about May or June 2019, a dog came under respondent's care, and she performed two surgeries on the dog. Respondent's care for the dog deviated from the standard of care in that respondent (a) prior to surgery, failed to adequately inform, or adequately document that she informed, the dog's owner of risks, limitations or alternatives to surgery; (b) prior to surgery, failed to offer a referral, or document that she offered a referral, to a board-certified veterinary surgeon; (c) used an improper method and/or procedure for fracture management or repair; (d) used improper or inadequate equipment, implants, or appliances for one or more surgeries; (e) inadequately or improperly placed equipment, implants or appliances during one or more surgeries; (f) failed to properly administer inhaled anesthesia or ensure that unlicensed staff properly administer inhaled anesthesia; (g) failed to properly assess, treat or manage the dog; and/or (h) failed to maintain adequate medical records.
4. The proposed Consent Order provides for a permanent restriction in that respondent's veterinary license is permanently restricted such that she is prohibited from performing any surgery or surgical procedure involving fracture repair or fracture management.
5. The proposed Consent Order also provides for a reprimand and a probationary period of six (6) months to complete a course in monitoring and delegation while a patient is under anesthesia, 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: Shelley M. Dubin, V.M.D.

Petition No. 2019-1156

**CONSENT ORDER**

WHEREAS, Shelley M. Dubin, V.M.D. of Thompson, Connecticut ("respondent") has been issued license number 003245 to practice veterinary medicine by the Department of Public Health ("the Department") pursuant to Chapter 384 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, as amended; and,

WHEREAS, the Department alleges that:

1. In or about May and/or June 2019 a dog came under respondent's care and during that time, respondent performed two (2) surgeries on the dog. Respondent's care for the dog deviated from the standard of care in one or more of the following ways, in that respondent:
  - a. prior to surgery, respondent failed to adequately inform, and/or adequately document that she informed, the dog's owner of without limitation, risks, limitations and/or alternatives to surgery;
  - b. prior to surgery, respondent failed to offer a referral, and/or document that she offered a referral, to a board-certified veterinary surgeon;
  - c. used an improper method and/or procedure for fracture management and/or repair;
  - d. used improper and/or inadequate equipment, implants and/or appliances for one or more surgeries;
  - e. inadequately and/or improperly placed equipment, implants and/or appliances during one or more surgeries;

- f. failed to properly administer inhaled anesthesia and/or ensure that unlicensed staff properly administer inhaled anesthesia;
  - g. failed to properly assess, treat, and/or manage the dog; and/or
  - h. failed to maintain adequate medical records.
2. The above-described facts constitute grounds for disciplinary action pursuant to the General Statutes of Connecticut, §20-202, including, but not limited to §20-202(2).

WHEREAS, respondent, in consideration of this Consent Order, has chosen not to contest the above allegations of wrongdoing but, while admitting no guilt or wrongdoing, 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 has completed coursework, acceptable to the Department, entitled "Anesthesia Refresher: Don't Forget the Basics."

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 003245 to practice as a veterinarian in the State of Connecticut is hereby reprimanded.
3. Respondent's license number 003245 to practice veterinary medicine is hereby permanently restricted such that she is prohibited from performing any surgery or surgical procedure involving fracture repair or fracture management.

4. Respondent's license to practice veterinary medicine shall be placed on probation for a period of six (6) months under the following terms and conditions: respondent shall attend and successfully complete coursework, pre-approved by the Department and consisting of at least one (1) continuing education units, in monitoring and delegation while a patient is under anesthesia. 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. If respondent successfully completes said coursework to the Department's satisfaction prior to the six (6) month term of probation, respondent's probation shall terminate.

5. 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

6. Respondent shall comply with all state and federal statutes and regulations applicable to respondent's licensure.

7. Respondent shall pay all costs necessary to comply with this Consent Order.

8. 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 8a 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.
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. This Consent Order is a matter of public record.
13. Respondent understands and agrees that the Department's allegations as contained in this Consent Order shall be deemed true in any subsequent 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.

14. 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 forty-five (45) days. 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, §§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.
15. Any extension of time or grace period for reporting granted by the Department shall not be a waiver or preclude the Department from acting at a later time. The Department shall not be required to grant future extensions of time or grace periods.
16. 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.

17. 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.
18. 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.
19. 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.
20. Respondent has consulted with her attorney prior to signing this document.
21. 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.

22. 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.

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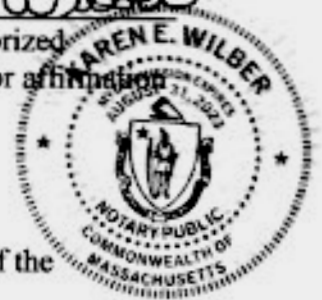
I, Shelley M. Dubin, V.M.D., have read the above Consent Order, and I stipulate and agree to the terms as set forth therein. I further declare the execution of this Consent Order to be my free act and deed.

Shelley M. Dubin VMD  
Shelley M. Dubin, V.M.D.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 1st day of November 2022.

On this 1<sup>st</sup> day of November 2022  
before me, the undersigned notary public,  
Shelley Dubin personally appeared,  
proved to me through satisfactory evidence  
of identifications, which were her Drivers license  
to be the person whose name is signed on the  
preceding or attached document in my presence.

Karen E. Wilber  
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 10th day of  
November 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 Connecticut Board of Veterinary  
Medicine on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2022, it is hereby ordered and  
accepted.

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Connecticut Board of Veterinary Medicine