

**BEFORE THE
CALIFORNIA VETERINARY MEDICAL BOARD
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

In the Matter of the Citation Against:

Lorena Melgar

Unlicensed

Respondent

Citation No. 4602021000257

CITATION

Complainant alleges:

PARTIES

1. Jessica Sieferman ("Complainant") brings this Citation solely in her official capacity as the Executive Officer of the California Veterinary Medical Board ("Board"), Department of Consumer Affairs, State of California.
2. The Board's records fail to reveal that Lorena Melgar ("Respondent") has been issued a veterinarian license.
3. The Board's records fail to reveal that the Respondent has been issued a veterinary premises registration.

STATUTORY PROVISIONS

4. Business and Professions Code (BPC) sections 125.9, 148, and 4875.2 and California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 16, section 2043 authorize the Executive Officer of the Board to issue citations containing orders of abatement and/or administrative fines against a licensee of the Board, or to an unlicensed person, who has committed any acts or omissions in violation of the Veterinary Medicine Practice Act (Act).

5. BPC section 4825 provides that it is unlawful for any person to practice veterinary medicine or any branch thereof in this State unless at the time of so doing, such person holds a valid, unexpired, and unrevoked license as provided by this chapter.
6. BPC section 4826 states, in pertinent part, that a person practices veterinary medicine, surgery, and dentistry, and the various branches thereof, when the person does any one of the following:
 - (a) Represents oneself as engaged in the practice of veterinary medicine, veterinary surgery, or veterinary dentistry in any of its branches.
 - [...]
 - (d) Performs a surgical or dental operation upon an animal.
 - [...]
7. BPC section 4853 states, in pertinent part:
 - (a) All veterinary premises shall be registered with the board. The certificate of registration shall be on a form prescribed in accordance with Section 164.
 - (b) "Premises" for the purpose of this chapter shall mean the location of operation where veterinary medicine, veterinary dentistry, veterinary surgery, and the various branches thereof is being practiced and shall include a building, kennel, mobile unit, or vehicle. Mobile units and vehicles shall be exempted from independent registration with the board if they are operated from a building or facility that is the licensee manager's principal place of business and the building is registered with the board, and the registration identifies and declares the use of the mobile unit or vehicle.
 - [...]

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

8. On November 20, 2023, Board inspectors and law enforcement officers executed a search of the Respondent's residence, where they located a makeshift operating room. Surgical supplies, animal surgical remains, dangerous drugs and controlled substances were found within the residence, confirming that veterinary surgery was being performed.
9. On October 24, 2024, Respondent was convicted by the Alameda County Superior Court for violating Penal Code, section 597, subsection (b), a misdemeanor, for animal cruelty. As a result of the conviction, the Respondent was sentenced to a 3-year probation period and 1 day in the county jail.

CAUSE FOR CITATION

10. On or about August 2020, Respondent engaged in the practice of veterinary medicine by performing a c-section surgery on canine patient S.M., without possessing a valid veterinarian license. Such unlicensed conduct constitutes a violation of BPC sections 4825 and 4826, subdivision (d).
11. On or about January 2022, Respondent engaged in the practice of veterinary medicine by performing an abdominal surgery on feline patient L.A., without possessing a valid veterinarian license. Such unlicensed conduct constitutes a violation of BPC sections 4825 and 4826, subdivision (d).
12. On or about January 2022, Respondent engaged in the practice of veterinary medicine by performing a neuter surgery on canine patient M.C., without possessing a valid veterinarian license. Such unlicensed conduct constitutes a violation of BPC sections 4825 and 4826, subdivision (d).
13. On or about February 2023, Respondent engaged in the practice of veterinary medicine by performing a c-section surgery on canine patient M.L., without possessing a valid veterinarian license. Such unlicensed conduct constitutes a violation of BPC sections 4825 and 4826, subdivision (d).
14. From on or about August 14, 2020, through November 20, 2023, Respondent represented herself as engaged in the practice of veterinary medicine without possessing a valid veterinarian license. Such unlicensed conduct constitutes a violation of BPC sections 4825 and 4826, subdivision (a).
15. From on or about August 14, 2020, through November 20, 2023, Respondent performed unlicensed veterinary services for clients at her residence in Oakland, CA, a location not registered with the Board. Such unlicensed conduct constitutes a violation of BPC section 4853.

DETERMINATION OF ISSUES **CAUSE OF ACTION**

16. A violation exists pursuant to BPC sections 4825 and 4826, subdivision (d). Based upon a violation as set forth in Paragraph 10, a cause of action thereby exists.
17. A violation exists pursuant to BPC sections 4825 and 4826, subdivision (d). Based upon a violation as set forth in Paragraph 11, a cause of action thereby exists.
18. A violation exists pursuant to BPC sections 4825 and 4826, subdivision (d). Based upon a violation as set forth in Paragraph 12, a cause of action thereby exists.
19. A violation exists pursuant to BPC sections 4825 and 4826, subdivision (d). Based upon a violation as set forth in Paragraph 13, a cause of action thereby exists.

20. A violation exists pursuant to BPC sections 4825 and 4826, subdivision (a). Based upon a violation as set forth in Paragraph 14, a cause of action thereby exists.

21. A violation exists pursuant to BPC section 4853. Based upon a violation as set forth in Paragraph 15, a cause of action thereby exists.

PENALTY

22. In compliance with BPC sections 125.9 and 4875.2, and CCR, Title 16, section 2043, subdivision (e), it is determined that:

Respondent be cited for a Class "C" violation in the amount of \$5,000 for the Cause for Citation, based upon a determination that the above-described facts in Paragraph 10 constitutes a violation of BPC sections 4825 and 4826, subdivision (d).

Respondent be cited for a Class "C" violation in the amount of \$5,000 for the Cause for Citation, based upon a determination that the above-described facts in Paragraph 11 constitutes a violation of BPC sections 4825 and 4826, subdivision (d).

Respondent be cited for a Class "C" violation in the amount of \$5,000 for the Cause for Citation, based upon a determination that the above-described facts in Paragraph 12 constitutes a violation of BPC sections 4825 and 4826, subdivision (d).

Respondent be cited for a Class "C" violation in the amount of \$5,000 for the Cause for Citation, based upon a determination that the above-described facts in Paragraph 13 constitutes a violation of BPC sections 4825 and 4826, subdivision (d).

Respondent be cited for a Class "C" violation in the amount of \$5,000 for the Cause for Citation, based upon a determination that the above-described facts in Paragraph 14 constitutes a violation of BPC sections 4825 and 4826, subdivision (a).

Respondent be cited for a Class "C" violation in the amount of \$5,000 for the Cause for Citation, based upon a determination that the above-described facts in Paragraph 15 constitutes a violation of BPC section 4853.

23. In compliance with BPC sections 125.9 and 4875.2, and CCR, Title 16, section 2043, subsection (c), the total penalty for the above violations is \$30,000. However, pursuant to BPC section 125.9, subdivision (b)(3), in no event shall the administrative fee assessed by the Board exceed \$5,000. Therefore, the total penalty due is \$5,000.

ORDER OF ABATEMENT

The Board hereby orders Respondent to cease and desist from violating BPC sections 4825, 4826, subdivisions (a) and (d) and 4853.

In addition, pursuant to BPC section 149, subdivision (a)(2), the Board orders Respondent to notify the telephone company furnishing the services to Respondent to disconnect the telephone service furnished to any telephone number contained in the unlawful advertising.

APRIL 22, 2025
DATE

SIGNATURE ON FILE
JESSICA SIEFERMAN
Executive Officer
California Veterinary Medical Board
Department of Consumer Affairs
State of California