

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

In the Matter of the Citation Against:

Philip Pullinsi

Unlicensed

Respondent

Citation No. 4602021000878

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 Philip Pullinsi ("Respondent") has been issued a Veterinarian license, Registered Veterinary Technician (RVT) registration, or a Veterinary Premises registration.

STATUTORY PROVISIONS

3. Business and Professions Code (BPC) sections 148, and 4875.7 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).
4. 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.

5. 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:

[...]

(c) Administers a drug, medicine, appliance, application, or treatment of whatever nature for the prevention, cure, or relief of a wound, fracture, bodily injury, or disease of animals, except where the medicine, appliance, application, or treatment is administered by a registered veterinary technician or a veterinary assistant at the direction of and under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian subject to Article 2.5 (commencing with Section 4836) or where the drug, including, but not limited to, a drug that is a controlled substance, is administered by a registered veterinary technician or a veterinary assistant pursuant to Section 4836.1. However, no person, other than a licensed veterinarian, may induce anesthesia unless authorized by regulation of the board.

(d) Performs a surgical or dental operation upon an animal.

[...]

7. BPC section 4839.5 states that no person shall use the title “registered veterinary technician” or “veterinary technician,” or any other words, letters, or symbols, including, but not limited to, the abbreviation “R.V.T.,” with the intent to represent that the person is authorized to act as a registered veterinary technician, unless that person meets the requirements of Section 4839.

8. 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.

[...]

REGULATORY PROVISIONS

9. CCR, title 16, section 2037(a) defines the term “dental operation” as used in Business and Professions Code section 4826 means:

(1) The application or use of any instrument, device, or scaler to any portion of an animal's tooth, gum or any related tissue for the prevention, cure or relief of any wound, fracture, injury or disease of an animal's tooth, gum or related tissue; and

(2) Preventive dental procedures including, but not limited to, the removal of calculus, soft deposits, plaque, stains or the smoothing, filing, scaling or polishing of tooth surfaces

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

10. On April 5, 2020, Respondent sedated equine patient “Elliot” and subsequently performed a teeth floating procedure. Within twelve hours of the procedure, Elliot was found lying down and was unbalanced when the owner attempted to put Elliot into a trailer. Elliot was taken to an emergency equine veterinarian, who observed that Elliot thrashing around and displaying neurological complications. The decision was made to have Elliot humanely euthanized.
11. On or about February 4, 2025, Respondent told a Board investigator that “[f]or approximately 40 years, [he has] been licensed by the California Horse Racing Board as a veterinary assistant and a dental technician.”
12. The California Horse Racing Board does not issue veterinary assistant or dental technician licenses.

CAUSE FOR CITATION

13. On or about April 5, 2020, Respondent engaged in the practice of veterinary medicine by administering a sedative to equine patient Elliot. Such unlicensed conduct constitutes a violation of BPC sections 4825 as defined by 4826, subdivision (c).
14. On or about April 5, 2020, Respondent engaged in the practice of veterinary medicine by performing a dental operation on equine patient Elliot, as defined in CCR section 2037, subsections (a)(1) and (2). Such unlicensed conduct constitutes a violation of BPC sections 4825 as defined by 4826, subdivision (d).
15. On or about April 5, 2020, Respondent engaged in the practice of veterinary medicine on equine patient Elliot in Escalon, CA, at a location not registered with the Board. Such unlicensed conduct constitutes a violation of BPC section 4853 subdivision (a).
16. On or about February 4, 2025, Respondent represented himself as being a licensed veterinary assistant and a licensed dental technician without possessing a valid RVT registration. Such unlicensed conduct constitutes a violation of BPC section 4839.5.

DETERMINATION OF ISSUES

CAUSE OF ACTION

17. A violation exists pursuant to BPC sections 4825 as defined by 4826, subdivision (c). Based upon a violation as set forth in Paragraph 13, a cause of action thereby exists.
18. A violation exists pursuant to BPC sections 4825 as defined by 4826, subdivision

(d). Based upon a violation as set forth in Paragraph 14, a cause of action thereby exists.

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

20. A violation exists pursuant to BPC section 4839.5. Based upon a violation as set forth in Paragraph 16, a cause of action thereby exists.

PENALTY

21. In compliance with BPC sections 148 and 4875.7, and CCR, Title 16, section 2043, it is determined that:

Respondent be cited for a violation in the amount of \$7,500 for the Cause for Citation, based upon a determination that the above-described facts in Paragraph 13 constitute a violation of BPC section 4825 as defined by 4826, subdivision (c).

Respondent be cited for a violation in the amount of \$5,000 for the Cause for Citation, based upon a determination that the above-described facts in Paragraph 14 constitute a violation of BPC section 4825 as defined by 4826, subdivision (d).

Respondent be cited for a violation in the amount of \$2,500 for the Cause for Citation, based upon a determination that the above-described facts in Paragraph 15 constitute a violation of BPC section 4853 subdivision (a).

Respondent be cited for a violation in the amount of \$2,500 for the Cause for Citation, based upon a determination that the above-described facts in Paragraph 16 constitute a violation of BPC section 4839.5.

22. In compliance with BPC sections 148 and 4875.7 and CCR, Title 16, section 2043, the total penalty for the above violations is \$17,500.

ORDER OF ABATEMENT

The Board hereby orders Respondent to cease and desist from violating BPC sections 4825, 4826, subdivisions (c) and (d), 4839.5, and 4853 subdivision (a).

MAY 29, 2026

DATE

SIGNATURE ON FILE

JESSICA SIEFERMAN

Executive Officer

California Veterinary Medical Board

Department of Consumer Affairs

State of California