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

In the Matter of the Citation Against:

Elvis Mendoza

Unlicensed

Citation No. 4602023000610

CITATION

Complainant alleges:

PARTIES

- 1. Jessica Sieferman ("Complainant") brings this Citation solely in her official capacity as the Executive Officer of the Veterinary Medical Board ("Board"), Department of Consumer Affairs, State of California.
- 2. The Board's records reveal that Elvis Mednoza ("Respondent") has not been issued a veterinarian license.

STATUTORY PROVISIONS

- 3. Business and Professions Code (BPC) sections 125.9, and 4875.2 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 states, in pertinent part:

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 in this chapter.

5. BPC section 4826 states, in pertinent part:

[...]

(a) Represents oneself as engaged in the practice of veterinary medicine, veterinary surgery, or veterinary dentistry in any of its branches.

[...]

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

6. On or about January 27, 2021, through September 6, 2024, Respondent advertised through Facebook, TikTok, and Instagram that he can provide progesterone testing and pregnancy services for a fee.

CAUSE FOR CITATION

- On or about January 27, 2021, through September 6, 2024, Respondent engaged in the practice of veterinary medicine by advertising through Facebook that he can provide progesterone testing, and pregnancy confirmation services for a fee. Such conduct constitutes a violation BPC section 4826, subdivision (a).
- 8. On or about July 14, 2022, through September 6, 2024, Respondent engaged in the practice of veterinary medicine by advertising through TikTok that he can provide progesterone testing, and pregnancy confirmation services for a fee. Such conduct constitutes a violation BPC section 4826, subdivision (a).
- 9. On or about October 25, 2022, through September 6, 2024, Respondent engaged in the practice of veterinary medicine by advertising through Instagram that he can provide progesterone testing, and pregnancy confirmation services for a fee. Such conduct constitutes a violation BPC section 4826, subdivision (a).

DETERMINATION OF ISSUES CAUSE OF ACTION

- 10. Violations exist pursuant to BPC section 4826, subdivision (a) as set forth in Paragraph 7. A cause of action thereby exists.
- 11. Violations exist pursuant to BPC section 4826, subdivision (a) as set forth in Paragraph 8. A cause of action thereby exists.
- 12. Violations exist pursuant to BPC section 4826, subdivision (a) as set forth in Paragraph 9. A cause of action thereby exists.

PENALTY

13. In compliance with BPC sections 125.9 and 4875.2 and CCR, title 16, section 2043, it is determined that:

Respondent be cited for three Class "C" violations in the amount of \$5,000 each for the Cause for Citation, based upon a determination that the abovedescribed facts set forth in Paragraphs 7 through 9 constitute violations of BPC section 4826 subdivision (a).

14. In compliance with BPC §§ 125.9 and 4875.2, and CCR, Title 16, § 2043, subsections (c), the total penalty for the above violations is \$15,000. 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, total the total fine amount due to the Board is \$5,000.

ORDER OF ABATEMENT

The Board hereby orders Respondent to cease and desist from violating BPC section 4826, subdivision (a).

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.

September 30, 2024 DATE

Signature on file JESSICA SIEFERMAN Executive Officer Veterinary Medical Board Department of Consumer Affairs State of California

CONTEST OF CITATION (Business and Professions Code (BPC) Sections 125.9 and 4875.6)

If you desire to administratively contest the citation or the proposed assessment of a civil penalty therefor and want to request an informal conference, you must, within 10 business days after you receive the citation, notify the executive officer in writing of your request for an informal conference with the executive officer or his or her designee. (BPC, § 4875.6, subd. (a).)

If you desire a hearing to contest the finding of a violation, you must submit a written request for hearing to the Veterinary Medical Board (Board) within 30 days of the date of issuance of the citation or assessment. (BPC, § 125.9, subd. (b)(4).)

Submit your request for an informal conference or hearing to contest the citation to the following address:

Veterinary Medical Board 1747 N. Market Blvd., Suite 230 Sacramento, CA 95834.

If you fail to notify the executive officer or Board in writing that you intend to contest the citation or the proposed assessment of a civil penalty therefor, by either submitting a request for an informal conference or hearing as described above, the citation or the proposed assessment of a civil penalty shall be deemed a final order of the Board and shall not be subject to further administrative review. (BPC, § 4875.6, subd. (a).)

You may, in lieu of contesting a citation, transmit to the Board the amount assessed in the citation as a civil penalty, within 10 business days after receipt of the citation. (BPC, § 4875.6, subd. (b).)

Failure of a licensee or registrant to pay a civil penalty within 30 days of the date of receipt of the assessment, unless the citation is being appealed, may result in disciplinary action being taken by the Board. When a citation is not contested and a civil penalty is not paid, the full amount of the assessed civil penalty shall be added to the fee for renewal of the license or registration. A license or registration shall not be renewed without payment of the renewal fee and civil penalty. (BPC, § 125.9, subd. (b)(5).)

If you are an unlicensed person, you may notify the Board and file a petition for a writ of administrative mandamus under section 1094.5 of the Code of Civil Procedure within 30 calendar days after receipt of the citation, without engaging in an informal conference or administrative hearing. Payment of any fine shall not constitute an admission of the violation charged. (BPC, § 4875.6, subd. (b).)