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BEFORE THE ARKANSAS BOARD OF ANIMAL HEALTH

In the Matter of Carl Rodney Vaughn, DVM **Complaint No. 2025-34**
License No. 2172

CONSENT ORDER

The Arkansas Board of Animal Health (Board) and Carl Rodney Vaughn, DVM, (Licensee), in lieu of formal proceeding, enter the following Consent Order concerning his license to practice veterinary medicine in the State of Arkansas. The parties, being well and truly advised of the facts, relevant law, and their duties and rights under Arkansas law, agree as follows:

Findings of Fact

1. Licensee is licensed to practice veterinary medicine in Arkansas, holding Arkansas license number 2172 since July 13, 1993.

2. On October 30, 2025, Melissa A. Taylor (Owner) submitted a complaint to the Arkansas Department of Agriculture (Department) against Licensee regarding the death of her dog, Storm.

3. The facts alleged in the complaint are as follows:

   a. On July 22, 2025, Storm, an approximately three (3) year old female Yorkshire Terrier, presented to Paragould Animal Clinic, 2711 E. Kingshighway, Paragould, Arkansas 72450, in dystocia after laboring since the early morning hours without delivering a puppy, where she was seen by Licensee.

   b. Owner asked Licensee about medication to assist with Storm's contractions. Licensee advised against oxytocin and recommended delivery by cesarean section (C-section). Licensee also recommended that Storm be spayed the same day. Licensee's tone and actions toward Owner were described as rude and disrespectful.

   c. Owner consented to the C-section with spay, and a radiograph was taken, which revealed a puppy too large to pass through the birth canal.

d. Licensee performed the C-section with spay on Storm and delivered three (3) live puppies. Storm was discharged to Owner later the same day together with the three (3) puppies.

e. After returning home, Owner observed that Storm's condition was deteriorating, including shallow and rapid breathing, pale gums, and unsteadiness. On the advice of her regular veterinarian, Owner transported Storm to Memphis Veterinary Specialists (MVS) in Cordova, Tennessee, on July 23, 2025. During transport, Storm began to leak pink, bloody fluid and continued to decline.

f. At MVS, Storm was diagnosed with anemia and free abdominal fluid and was hospitalized and transfused. When her condition failed to improve, MVS recommended an exploratory surgery.

g. The MVS surgical report documented that during the abdominal exploratory surgery, no urinary bladder could be identified, both distal ureters were ligated and transected bilaterally, and the tissue previously ligated in the caudal abdomen was confirmed to be vaginal tissue. MVS concluded that the urinary bladder was likely removed *en bloc* with the uterus and ovaries during the prior procedure and that both ureters were ligated. Owner elected humane euthanasia, and Storm was euthanized.

4. Owner included with the complaint records from Paragould Animal Clinic, including the intake, consent, surgical, discharge, and billing records, and records from MVS, including the surgical report.

5. On or about February 4, 2026, Licensee provided a written response to the complaint, including medical records and one (1) radiograph, and stated the following:

a. Owner presented Storm on July 22, 2025, because Storm had been in labor all day without delivering a puppy. Licensee obtained history and advised that a radiograph was needed. Owner asked about oxytocin, which she had used with her dogs in the past.

b. A radiograph revealed a puppy too large to pass through the birth canal, and Owner approved a C-section with spay. Licensee stated that he typically recommends a spay with a C-section and that the procedure was not forced on Owner.

c. Licensee performed the C-section on Storm, successfully delivered three (3) live puppies, and completed the spay. Storm was sent to recover and was discharged, still drowsy, later that day with the three (3) puppies.

d. Licensee stated that he learned two (2) days later that Storm had deteriorated, was taken to MVS, and that her bladder had inadvertently been removed with the uterus. Licensee denied that he intentionally removed Storm's bladder or attempted to cover up the bladder removal. Licensee stated that the bladder must have been empty and adhered to the uterus due to a previous C-section, as he could not otherwise imagine removing it under any other circumstances.

Conclusions of Law

6. The Board has jurisdiction to receive complaints, investigate conduct that violates the Arkansas Veterinary Medical Practice Act, Ark. Code Ann. § 17-101-101 et seq. (Act), and Veterinary Medicine rules, 17 CAR Pt. 1 (Rules), and hold hearings to adjudicate allegations of misconduct. Ark. Code Ann. §§ 17-101-203 and 17-101-305; *see also* 17 CAR § 1-110.

7. The Board has the authority to deny, suspend, revoke, or take disciplinary action against the license of a veterinarian, or to impose a civil penalty, for violation of the Act or Rules. *Id.*

8. It is a violation of the Act for a veterinarian to act with incompetence, gross negligence, or other malpractice in the practice of veterinary medicine. Ark. Code Ann. § 17-101-305(a)(5).

9. The Board finds that Licensee violated Ark. Code Ann. § 17-101-305(a)(5) by committing incompetence, gross negligence, or other malpractice in the practice of veterinary medicine when he removed Storm's urinary bladder *en bloc* with the uterus and ovaries and ligated both ureters during the C-section with spay performed on July 22, 2025.

10. Under Ark. Code Ann. §§ 17-101-305 and 25-15-208, before the Board acts against Licensee for misconduct in the complaint, Licensee has the right to a hearing before the Board on the violation alleged herein.

11. Licensee waives his right to a hearing and accepts informal disposition of the matter by entering a Consent Order with alternative sanctions, as provided in Ark. Code Ann. §§ 25-15-208(b), -217(a).

Terms of Disposition

12. By signing this Consent Order, Licensee acknowledges his rights under Arkansas law, understands that the Consent Order affects his license to practice veterinary medicine in Arkansas, and accepts the following conditions to maintain his license:

a. Licensee acknowledges that he has the right under Ark. Code Ann. §§ 17-101-305, 25-15-208 and 25-15-211, to a formal hearing before any disciplinary action may be taken against his license for the misconduct arising in the complaint, has the right under Ark. Code Ann. § 25-15-213(1) to be accompanied and advised by counsel at a hearing of this matter, and has the right under Ark. Code Ann. § 25-15-212 to judicial review of the Board's action following a hearing of this matter;

b. Licensee acknowledges that he was advised to seek advice from counsel prior to signing this Consent Order;

c. Licensee waives the right to a formal hearing before the Board and judicial review of any decision by the Board;

d. Licensee admits to the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law contained herein and waives his right to contest the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and any disciplinary action imposed hereunder;

e. Licensee agrees to complete, within three (3) months of the date of this Consent Order and in addition to the continuing education otherwise required annually for licensure, ten (10) hours of continuing education in soft tissue surgery, with emphasis on reproductive procedures;

f. Licensee agrees to provide certificates of completion and course syllabi or descriptions of the required continuing education to the Department by the

compliance deadline stated herein, and the Department will determine compliance with the terms of this Consent Order;

g. Licensee acknowledges that failure to comply with the terms of this Consent Order by the compliance deadline will result in automatic suspension of his license under Ark. Code Ann. § 25-15-217(d) until Licensee complies in full with the terms herein;

h. Licensee will comply with all laws governing the practice of veterinary medicine in the State of Arkansas;

i. Licensee acknowledges that any violation of law governing the practice of veterinary medicine in the State of Arkansas constitutes grounds for further disciplinary action under Ark. Code Ann. § 17-101-305(a), including license revocation or suspension or monetary penalty; and

j. Licensee acknowledges that this Consent Order is a formal action of the Board and a public record that may be publicly disseminated.

WHEREFORE, the Arkansas Board of Animal Health and Licensee, Carl Rodney Vaughn, DVM, enter this Consent Order in lieu of formal proceedings and agree to the terms set forth herein, including completion of ten (10) hours of continuing education as specified herein, and that Licensee's Arkansas license to practice veterinary medicine will be automatically suspended for failure to fully comply with the terms of this Consent Order by the compliance deadline set forth herein. This Consent Order becomes effective on the date it is signed by the Chairman of the Arkansas Board of Animal Health.

IT IS SO AGREED AND ORDERED.

LICENSEE

Carl Rodney Vaughn, DVM

Date: 8-19-2026

ARKANSAS BOARD OF ANIMAL HEALTH

Chairman Vice Chairman

Date: 11/10/26

Compliance Deadline: _____

STATE OF ARKANSAS)
)
COUNTY OF Craighead)

On this 19th day of August, 2026, before me, Caleb G Riddle, a Notary Public, appeared the within named Carl Rodney Vaughn, DVM, to me personally well known (or satisfactorily proven to be such person), who executed the foregoing Consent Order for the consideration, uses and purposes therein mentioned and set forth.

In witness whereof I hereunto set my hand and official seal.

CALEB G RIDDLE
Commission No. 00004998
NOTARY
PUBLIC
Commission Expires 02-12-2035
GREENE COUNTY ARKANSAS

Caleb G Riddle
Notary Public

My commission expires: 2/12/35