

**BEFORE THE ARKANSAS BOARD OF ANIMAL HEALTH**

**In the Matter of Mark Lawrence, DVM  
License No. 2159**

**Complaint No. 2025-03**

**CONSENT ORDER**

The Arkansas Board of Animal Health (Board) and Mark Lawrence, 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 2159 since July 13, 1993.
2. On January 6, 2025, Eric Newberry (Owner) submitted a complaint to the Arkansas Department of Agriculture (Department) against Licensee regarding the death of his dog, Delta.
3. The facts alleged in the complaint are as follows:
  - a. In April 2024, Delta, an approximately one (1) year old Labrador Retriever, was in her second year of training at Duck Band Retrievers, a professional training facility located in Jonesboro, Arkansas.
  - b. On May 9, 2024, Owner received notice from Lance Vines (Vines), the owner of Duck Band Retrievers, that Delta had been bitten by a snake. Vines told Owner that Delta received treatment for the snake bite.
  - c. On May 10, 2024, Vines informed Owner that Delta's health was still an issue. It was recommended that Delta stay at Woodsprings Animal Clinic under the care of Licensee for the weekend to receive continuous observation.

- d. On May 11, 2024, Owner visited the clinic to observe Delta. Owner observed that that Delta was lethargic and weak. Owner observed that Delta had four (4) marks on her foot, with no noticeable swelling. A veterinary technician at the clinic assured Owner that Delta's condition was stable.
  - e. A few hours later, the clinic called Owner and informed him that Delta passed away. Owner picked up Delta's body from Woodsprings Animal Clinic and requested her medical records.
  - f. A veterinary technician presented the Owner with a radiograph taken of Delta's abdomen showing fetal skeletons in her uterus. The radiograph had a date of April 26, 2024. Owner was not informed of Delta's pregnancy.
  - g. In the radiograph, Delta appears to have an enlarged uterus and bladder. Owner believed Delta was administered a medication for an abortion without his knowledge or consent and that Delta subsequently developed pyometra. Owner believed Licensee administered either ECP or Lutlyse to induce an abortion in Delta.
  - h. Owner believed that Licensee administered these drugs at the instruction of Vines. Owner was not informed of these "extra-label use" drugs being administered to Delta.
  - i. Owner attached a copy of photographs of the radiograph and veterinary notes from Delta's visit with the complaint. The notes from the clinic note that Delta had an enlarged bladder and uterus. Owner also attached a letter from Woodsprings Animal Clinic, signed by Dr. Lawrence, that described Delta's treatment, and Delta's pregnancy was not disclosed.
4. On February 3, 2025, the Board sent a letter to Licensee requesting a response to the complaint.
  5. On February 21, 2025, the Licensee provided the Board a response to the complaint. The response includes the following account:
    - a. Vines presented Delta on April 26, 2024, for pregnancy, and Licensee thought Delta was Vines's personal dog. Vines wanted to terminate Delta's pregnancy. Licensee prescribed Dexamethasone.
    - b. Delta was presented, again, to Licensee on May 7, 2024, for a swollen rear foot and vaginal discharge. Licensee believed the discharge was normal and began Delta on a course of antibiotics for her foot.

- c. On May 10, 2024, Delta was taken to Licensee a third time because she was more depressed and still having vaginal discharge. Licensee started Delta on Prednisone.
  - d. On May 11, 2024, Delta was more depressed and had facial swelling. Licensee attempted to place a catheter in Delta but was unsuccessful due to Delta's low blood pressure. Delta experienced a seizure and passed away.
  - e. Licensee explained to Owner what happened to Delta but did not disclose Delta's pregnancy or pregnancy termination, reportedly because he believed complications from a snake bite caused Delta's death. Licensee did not believe Delta died from pyometra.
  - f. Licensee stated that he did not use any of the medications listed in the Owner's complaint.
6. After reviewing Licensee's response, the Board requested additional records from Licensee on May 6, 2025.
7. Licensee's response, submitted on May 7, 2025, stated that Licensee did not have a written record of Delta's April 26, 2024, visit because he believed that Delta was Vines's personal dog.

#### **Conclusions of Law**

8. The Board has jurisdiction to investigate conduct that violates the Arkansas Veterinary Medical Practice Act and Rules of the Board and to hold a hearing to adjudicate allegations of misconduct. Ark. Code Ann. §§ 17-101-203 and 17-101-305; see also 17 CAR § 1-110.
9. The Board has the authority to issue, renew, deny, suspend, revoke, or take disciplinary action against the license of a veterinarian for violation of the Arkansas Veterinary Medical Practice Act and Rules of the Board. *Id.*

10. It is a violation of the Arkansas Veterinary Medical Practice Act for a veterinarian to act with incompetence, gross negligence, or other malpractice in the practice of veterinary medicine.

11. It is a violation of the Arkansas Veterinary Medical Practice Act for a veterinarian to participate in fraud or dishonesty in the application or reporting of any test for disease in animals. Ark. Code Ann. § 17-101-305(a)(7).

12. It is a violation of the Arkansas Veterinary Medical Practice Act for a veterinarian to use, prescribe, or sell any veterinary prescription drug or prescribe an extra-label use of any over-the counter drug in the absence of a valid veterinarian-client-patient relationship. Ark. Code Ann. § 17-101-305(a)(14) and 17 CAR §§ 1-106(f)(1) and 1-113(d).

13. It is a violation of the Arkansas Veterinary Medical Practice Act for a veterinarian to engage in unprofessional conduct by violating a rule promulgated by the Board. Ark. Code Ann. § 17-101-305(a)(11).

14. The Board finds that Licensee violated Ark. Code Ann. §§ 17-101-305(a)(5), (7), (11), (14) and (15) and 17 CAR §§ 1-106(f)(1) and 1-113(d) for (a) failing to verify ownership of Delta prior to treatment; (b) failing to establish a proper veterinarian-client-patient relationship prior to prescribing a controlled substance for Delta; and (c) improperly diagnosing Delta based on previous treatment and history.

15. 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 violations alleged herein.

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

**Terms of Disposition**

17. By signing this Consent Order, Licensee acknowledges his rights under Arkansas law, understands that the Consent Order affects his Arkansas Veterinary Medicine and Surgery License, and accepts the following conditions to maintain his license:

- a. Licensee has been advised to seek advice from counsel prior to signing this Consent order and is represented by counsel;
- b. 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 to 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.
- 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 such Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and any disciplinary action imposed hereunder;
- e. Licensee acknowledges and consents to pay a penalty in the amount of \$4,500.00 for violation of Ark. Code Ann § 17-101-305.
- f. Licensee agrees to complete within three (3) months of the date of this Consent Order twenty-four (24) hours of continuing education, in addition to the minimum annual continuing education requirements for licensure, as follows: (i) eight (8) hours of continuing education in small animal internal medicine with emphasis on canine reproductive disorders; (ii) eight (8) hours of continuing education on record keeping; and (iii) eight (8) hours of continuing education on establishing a veterinarian-client-patient relationship.

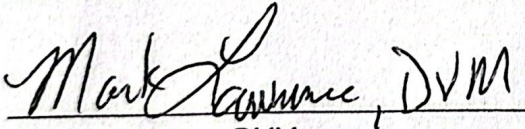
- g. Licensee acknowledges that any violation of the terms of this Consent Order or any law governing the practice of veterinary medicine in the State of Arkansas constitutes grounds for further disciplinary action, including revocation of his license;
- h. Licensee will comply with all laws and regulations governing the practice of veterinary medicine in the State of Arkansas; and
- i. 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 Mark Lawrence, DVM, enter this Consent Order in lieu of formal proceedings and agree to the terms set forth herein, including a civil penalty in the amount of \$4,500.00, to be paid by Dr. Lawrence and completion of twenty-four (24) additional hours of continuing education as specified herein within three (3) months of the date of this Consent Order.

This Consent Order becomes effective on the date it is signed by the Chairman of the Arkansas Board of Animal Health.

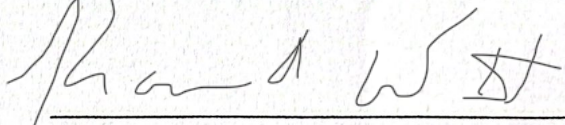
IT IS SO AGREED AND ORDERED.

LICENSEE:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark Lawrence, DVM

Date: 2-24-2026

ARKANSAS BOARD OF ANIMAL HEALTH:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

Date: 03-04-2026

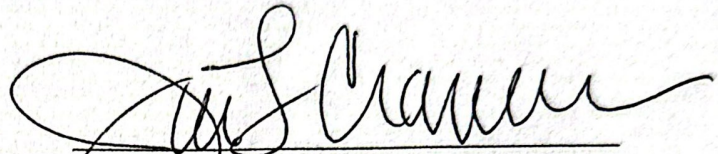
STATE OF ARKANSAS )

COUNTY OF Craighead )

On this 24 day of February, 2026, before me,  
Jill Cravens, a Notary Public, appeared the within named Mark  
Lawrence, 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.

JILL L CRAVENS  
NOTARY PUBLIC - STATE OF ARKANSAS  
CRAIGHEAD COUNTY  
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES 11-14-2033  
COMMISSION # 00000025

  
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Notary Public

My commission expires: 11/14/33