

BEFORE THE ARKANSAS BOARD OF ANIMAL HEALTH

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

Complaint No. 2025-03

ORDER OF SUSPENSION

The Arkansas Board of Animal Health (Board) enters the following Order of Suspension against Mark Lawrence, DVM, (Licensee), Arkansas veterinary license number 2159, for failure to comply with the terms of the Consent Order entered in this matter and effective on March 4, 2026. The Board, being well and truly advised of the facts and relevant law, finds and orders 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 March 4, 2026, the Board and Licensee entered a Consent Order to resolve violations arising from Complaint No. 2025-03, namely violation of 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, the animal patient, prior to treatment; (b) failing to establish a proper veterinarian-client-patient relationship with Delta's owners prior to prescribing a controlled substance for Delta; and (c) improperly diagnosing Delta based on previous treatment and history.
3. Paragraph 17(f) of the Consent Order required Licensee to pay a civil penalty in the amount of \$4,500.00 within three (3) months of the date of the Consent Order.
4. Paragraph 17(f) of the Consent Order also required Licensee to complete, within three (3) months of the date of the Consent Order and in addition to the minimum

annual continuing education requirements for licensure, twenty-four (24) hours of continuing education 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.

5. Paragraph 17(g) of the Consent Order stated that any violation of the terms of the 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 Licensee's license. The deadline to complete the terms of the Consent Order was June 4, 2026.

6. On June 2, 2026, Licensee submitted certificates of completion for twenty-four (24) hours of continuing education. According to the certificates, Licensee completed six (6) hours of continuing education on May 31, 2026, fourteen (14) hours of continuing education on June 1, 2026, and four (4) hours of continuing education on June 2, 2026. On June 3, 2026, the Department of Agriculture (Department) received payment from Licensee of the civil penalty as required by the Consent Order.

7. The Department carefully reviewed the certificates of completion and determined that Licensee failed to satisfy the subject-matter allocation required by the Consent Order as follows: only five (5) hours applied to small animal internal medicine with emphasis on canine reproductive disorders, as required by Paragraph 17(f)(i); no hours applied to record keeping, as required by Paragraph 17(f)(ii); and one (1) hour applied to establishing a veterinarian-client-patient relationship, as required by Paragraph 17(f)(iii).

8. The Department sent Licensee a Notice of Noncompliance on July 20, 2026, advising that failure to complete the ordered continuing education is a violation of the Consent Order and grounds for further disciplinary action, as stated in Paragraph 17(g) of the Consent Order, including suspension or revocation of licensure. The notice provided Licensee with an opportunity to respond and provide proof of compliance, such as descriptions of the completed continuing education courses.

9. Licensee submitted a written response on July 31, 2026, stating that the titles of the continuing education courses listed on the certificates are not a complete representation of the course content. Licensee stated, further, that due to the specific nature of the continuing education requirements, it was a challenge to locate the required number of hours in each topic. Finally, Licensee searched for courses on the internet and through the Veterinary Information Network (VIN).

10. Licensee did not provide the Department with descriptions or syllabi for the completed continuing education courses to establish compliance of the completed courses and did not notify the Department prior to the compliance deadline of difficulty in finding the required continuing education.

Conclusions of Law

11. The Board has jurisdiction over Licensee and the subject matter of this proceeding. Ark. Code Ann. §§ 17-101-203, 17-101-305; see *also* 17 CAR § 1-110.

12. 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, Ark. Code Ann. § 17-101-101 et seq., or rules of the Board.

Id.

13. Specifically, the Board has the authority to suspend, revoke, or deny a license or impose a civil penalty for violation of an informal consent agreement for discipline. See Ark. Code Ann. § 17-101-305(a)(21).

14. Likewise, the Board has the authority to suspend a license under its jurisdiction until a licensee complies in full with a sanction imposed by the Board. See Ark. Code Ann. § 25-15-217(d).

15. Licensee failed to complete eighteen (18) hours of continuing education as required by Paragraph 17(f) of the Consent Order, which is a violation of an informal consent agreement and sanction imposed by the Board, and grounds exist under Ark. Code Ann. §§ 17-101-305(a)(21) and 25-15-217(d) to suspend Licensee's license to practice veterinary medicine in the State of Arkansas until Licensee complies in full with the terms of the Consent Order.

Order

16. Licensee's Arkansas veterinary license number 2159 is hereby SUSPENDED.

17. The license suspension is effective on the date this Order is signed by the Chairman of the Board and will remain in effect until Licensee complies in full with the terms herein and of the Consent Order, including:

- a) Completion of three (3) hours of continuing education in small animal internal medicine with emphasis on canine reproductive disorders, as required by Paragraph 17(f)(i);
- b) Completion of eight (8) hours of continuing education on record keeping, as required by Paragraph 17(f)(ii);

- c) Completion of seven (7) hours of continuing education on establishing a veterinarian-client-patient relationship, as required by Paragraph 17(f)(iii); and
- d) Submission of proof of attendance and course syllabi or descriptions for all completed continuing education courses.

18. During the period of suspension, Licensee is prohibited from practicing veterinary medicine in the State of Arkansas, and in accordance with Ark. Code Ann. § 17-101-305(c)(1), Licensee must surrender his actual license certificate to the Board within thirty (30) days of this Order unless the action is appealed and a stay is issued.

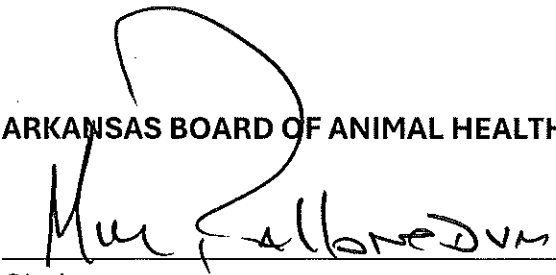
19. The Board authorizes the Department to review proof of attendance and course syllabi or descriptions for the completed continuing education courses to verify compliance with the terms of this Order and the Consent Order and upon full compliance with this Order, reinstate Licensee's Arkansas veterinary license.

20. Licensee has a right to appeal this Order and request a hearing before the Board by submitting a written request to the Department within thirty (30) days of the date of this Order. See Ark. Code Ann. §§ 17-101-203(8)(A), -305(a).

21. This Order is a formal action of the Board and a public record that may be publicly disseminated.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

ARKANSAS BOARD OF ANIMAL HEALTH


Chairman

Date: 8/10/26