

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



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STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE VETERINARY EXAMINING BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

DENNIS K. GRIFFIN, D.V.M.,
RESPONDENT.

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FINAL DECISION AND ORDER

0003330

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 13 VET 041

The parties to this action for the purpose of Wis. Stat. § 227.53 are:

Dennis K. Griffin, D.V.M.
5405 Hillcrest Dr.
Wausau, WI 54401

Wisconsin Veterinary Examining Board
P.O. Box 8366
Madison, WI 53708-8366

Division of Legal Services and Compliance
Department of Safety and Professional Services
P.O. Box 7190
Madison, WI 53707-7190

The parties in this matter agree to the terms and conditions of the attached Stipulation as the final disposition of this matter, subject to the approval of the Veterinary Examining Board (Board). The Board has reviewed this Stipulation and considers it acceptable.

Accordingly, the Board in this matter adopts the attached Stipulation and makes the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent Dennis K. Griffin, D.V.M., (dob July 3, 1951) is licensed in the State of Wisconsin to practice veterinary medicine, having license number 1546-50, first granted on June 18, 1976, and registration current through December 14, 2015. Respondent's most recent address on file with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (Department) is 5405 Hillcrest Drive, Wausau, Wisconsin 54401.

2. On December 12, 2011, Respondent submitted an electronic application to renew his license to practice veterinary medicine in the state of Wisconsin.

3. At 6:00 p.m. on December 12, 2011, Respondent certified that he had completed 30 hours of continuing education during the biennium immediately preceding his renewal application as required by Wis. Admin. Code ch. VE 10.
4. Wisconsin Admin. Code ch. VE 10 specifies that not all educational opportunities available to veterinarians meet the standards of acceptable education for compliance with the continuing education requirements for license renewal.
5. The Department asked Respondent to provide certifications of attendance at continuing education programs during the period December 15, 2009, through December 14, 2011.
6. Respondent provided certificates of completion for only 20.6 hours of continuing education during the period December 15, 2009, through December 14, 2011.
7. Seventeen of those 20.6 credits were from a program provided by a sponsor which did not meet the requirements for approval as a continuing veterinary medical education sponsor.
8. Respondent also provided a receipt for payment of the registration fee for a February 2011 program sponsored by the University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine.
9. During the course of the audit of Respondent's compliance with the continuing education requirement for renewal of his license to practice veterinary medicine, an investigator of the Department of Safety and Professional Services learned that Respondent had not attended the program, but had cancelled his registration early enough to receive a full refund of the registration fee.
10. During the period December 15, 2009, through December 14, 2011, Respondent did not complete 30 hours of continuing veterinary medical education as required by Wis. Admin. Code ch. VE 10.
11. On December 11, 2013, Respondent submitted an electronic application for renewal of his license to practice veterinary medicine in the state of Wisconsin.
12. On December 11, 2013, at 5:59 p.m., Respondent certified that he had completed 30 hours of continuing education during the biennium immediately preceding his renewal application as required by Wis. Admin. Code ch. VE 10.
13. The Department asked Respondent to provide certifications of attendance at continuing education programs during the period December 15, 2011, through December 14, 2013.
14. Respondent provided certificates for completion of 31.2 hours of continuing veterinary medical education during the period December 15, 2011, through December 14, 2013.
15. Sixteen of those 31.2 credits were from a program provided by a sponsor which did not meet the requirements for approval as a continuing veterinary medical education sponsor.

16. During the period December 15, 2011, through December 14, 2013, Respondent did not complete 30 hours of continuing veterinary medical education as required by Wis. Admin. Code ch. VE 10.

17. In resolution of this matter, Respondent consents to the entry of the following Conclusions of Law and Order.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Wisconsin Veterinary Examining Board has jurisdiction to act in this matter pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 453.07(2), and is authorized to enter into the attached Stipulation pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 227.44(5).

2. By the conduct described in the Findings of Fact, Dennis K. Griffin, D.V.M., violated Wis. Admin. Code § VE 7.06(22)(a) on December 12, 2011, by falsely certifying that he had completed the 30 hours of continuing education required under Wis. Admin. Code ch. VE 10.

3. By the conduct described in the Findings of Fact, Dennis K. Griffin, D.V.M., violated Wis. Admin. Code § VE 7.06(22)(a) on December 11, 2013, by falsely certifying that he had completed the 30 hours of continuing education required under Wis. Admin. Code ch. VE 10.

4. As a result of the above violations, Dennis K. Griffin, D.V.M., is subject to discipline pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 453.07(2)(a).

ORDER

1. The attached Stipulation is accepted.

2. Dennis K. Griffin, D.V.M.'s license (license number 1546-50) to practice veterinary medicine in Wisconsin is **SUSPENDED** for four weeks.

3. The license to practice veterinary medicine in the State of Wisconsin issued to Dennis K. Griffin, (license number 1546-50) is **LIMITED** as follows:

a. Within three months of the date of this Order, Respondent shall successfully complete 42 hours of education on the subject of veterinary medicine. The course(s) must be pre-approved by the Board's designee.

b. The required courses must be taken in person, with attendance at conferences or seminars sponsored by approved providers.

c. Successful completion requires that Respondent take and pass any exam offered for the course(s). Courses taken without preapproval, on-line, or through self-study may NOT be used to satisfy the education requirements of this Order.

d. Within 30 days of completion of preapproved education, Respondent shall submit proof of successful completion in the form of verification from the institution or organization that provided the education.

e. None of the education completed pursuant to this requirement may be used to satisfy any continuing education requirements other than the continuing education requirement for renewal of Respondent's license in December 2011 and December 2013.

f. The Department shall remove this limitation from Respondent's license when Respondent has satisfied the Board's designee that Respondent has successfully completed the preapproved education.

4. Within 90 days from the date of this Order, Respondent shall pay COSTS of this matter in the amount of \$750.00.

5. Requests for preapproval of proposed remedial education, proof of successful course completion and payment of costs (made payable to the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services) shall be sent to the Department Monitor at the address below:

Department Monitor
Division of Legal Services and Compliance
Department of Safety and Professional Services
P.O. Box 7190, Madison, WI 53707-7190
Telephone (608) 267-3817; Fax (608) 266-2264
DSPSMonitoring@wisconsin.gov

6. Violation of any of the terms of this Order may be construed as conduct imperiling public health, safety and welfare and may result in a summary suspension of Respondent's license. The Board, in its discretion, may impose additional conditions and limitations or other additional discipline for a violation of any of the terms of this Order. In the event Respondent fails to timely submit payment of the costs as ordered or fails to submit proof of successful completion of the ordered education as set forth above, Respondent's license (no. 1546-50) may, in the discretion of the Board or its designee, be SUSPENDED, without further notice or hearing, until Respondent has complied with payment of the costs and completion of the education.

7. This Order is effective on the date of its signing.

WISCONSIN VETERINARY EXAMINING BOARD

P. C. Johnson DVM
A member of the Board

7/30/14
Date

STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE VETERINARY EXAMINING BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

DENNIS K. GRIFFIN, D.V.M.,
RESPONDENT.

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STIPULATION

0003330

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case No. 13 VET 041

Respondent Dennis K. Griffin, D.V.M., and the Division of Legal Services and Compliance, Department of Safety and Professional Services stipulate as follows:

1. This Stipulation is entered into as a result of a pending investigation by the Division of Legal Services and Compliance. Respondent consents to the resolution of this investigation by Stipulation.

2. Respondent understands that by signing this Stipulation, Respondent voluntarily and knowingly waives the following rights:

- the right to a hearing on the allegations against Respondent, at which time the State has the burden of proving those allegations by a preponderance of the evidence;
- the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against Respondent;
- the right to call witnesses on Respondent's behalf and to compel their attendance by subpoena;
- the right to testify on Respondent's own behalf;
- the right to file objections to any proposed decision and to present briefs or oral arguments to the officials who are to render the final decision;
- the right to petition for rehearing; and
- all other applicable rights afforded to Respondent under the United States Constitution, the Wisconsin Constitution, the Wisconsin Statutes, the Wisconsin Administrative Code, and other provisions of state or federal law.

3. Respondent is aware of Respondent's right to seek legal representation and has been provided an opportunity to obtain legal counsel before signing this Stipulation.

4. Respondent agrees to the adoption of the attached Final Decision and Order by the Wisconsin Veterinary Examining (Board). The parties to the Stipulation consent to the entry of the attached Final Decision and Order without further notice, pleading, appearance or consent of the parties. Respondent waives all rights to any appeal of the Board's order, if adopted in the form as attached.


5. If the terms of this Stipulation are not acceptable to the Board, the parties shall not be bound by the contents of this Stipulation, and the matter shall then be returned to the Division

of Legal Services and Compliance for further proceedings. In the event that the Stipulation is not accepted by the Board, the parties agree not to contend that the Board has been prejudiced or biased in any manner by the consideration of this attempted resolution.

6. The parties to this Stipulation agree that the attorney or other agent for the Division of Legal Services and Compliance and any member of the Board ever assigned as an advisor in this investigation may appear before the Board in open or closed session, without the presence of Respondent, for purposes of speaking in support of this agreement and answering questions that any member of the Board may have in connection with deliberations on the Stipulation. Additionally, any such advisor may vote on whether the Board should accept this Stipulation and issue the attached Final Decision and Order.

7. Respondent is informed that should the Board adopt this Stipulation, the Board's Final Decision and Order is a public record and will be published in accordance with standard Department procedure.

8. The Division of Legal Services and Compliance joins Respondent in recommending the Board adopt this Stipulation and issue the attached Final Decision and Order.


Dennis K. Griffin, D.V.M., Respondent
5405 Hillcrest Drive
Wausau, WI 54401
License no. 1546-50

5-6-14
Date


James E. Polewski, Attorney
Division of Legal Services and Compliance
P.O. Box 7190
Madison, WI 53707-7190

April 18, 2014
Date