

BEFORE THE ARIZONA VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF: ) **Case No.: 20-59**  
)  
**GARREL GEIGER, DVM** ) **CONSENT AGREEMENT**  
) **FINDINGS OF FACT**  
) **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**  
Holder of License No. 3819 ) **AND ORDER**  
For the practice of Veterinary )  
Medicine in the State of Arizona, )  
)  
**Respondent.** )

In the interest of a prompt and judicious settlement of the above captioned matter before the Arizona State Veterinary Medical Examining Board ("Board") and consistent with the public interest, statutory requirements and responsibilities of the Board, and pursuant to A.R.S. §32-2201 et. seq. and A.R.S. § 41-1092.07 (F)(5), the undersigned party, Garrel Geiger, D.V.M. ("Respondent"), holder of license No. 3819 for the practice of veterinary medicine in Arizona and the Board enter into this Consent Agreement, Findings of Fact, Conclusion of Law and Order ("Consent Agreement") as final disposition of this matter.

**CONSENT AGREEMENT**

Respondent understands and agrees that:

1. The Board has jurisdiction over Respondent and the subject matter pursuant to A.R.S. §32-2201, et. seq.

2. Respondent has the right to consult with an attorney prior to entering into this Consent Agreement. Respondent has a right to a public hearing

1 concerning this case. He further acknowledges that at such hearing he could  
2 present evidence and cross-examine witnesses. Respondent irrevocably waives  
3 his right to such a hearing.

4 3. Respondent irrevocably waives any right to rehearing or review or to any  
5 judicial review or any other appeal of these matters.

6 4. The Consent Agreement, once approved by the Board and signed by the  
7 Respondent, shall constitute a public record, which may be disseminated as a  
8 formal action of the Board. Sufficient evidence exists for the Board to make the  
9 Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law set forth in the Consent Agreement.

10 5. Respondent acknowledges and understands that this Consent  
11 Agreement will not become effective until the Board approves it and it is signed  
12 by the Board's Executive Director. Respondent acknowledges and agrees that  
13 upon signing and returning this Consent Agreement to the Board's Executive  
14 Director, Respondent may not revoke his acceptance of the Consent  
15 Agreement or make any modifications to the document, regardless of whether  
16 the Consent Agreement has been issued by the Executive Director.

17 6. If any part of the Consent Agreement is later declared void or otherwise  
18 unenforceable, the remainder of the Order in its entirety shall remain in force  
19 and effect.

20 7. Respondent acknowledges that any violation of this Consent Agreement  
21 constitutes unprofessional conduct pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-2232 and may result  
22 in disciplinary action pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-2234.

23 8. This Consent Agreement and Order is effective on the date signed by the  
24 Board.

DATED this 7 day of SEPTEMBER 2020.

  
Garrel Geiger, DVM

### **FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. The Board is the duly constituted authority for the regulation and control of the practice of veterinary medicine in the State of Arizona.

2. Respondent holds license No. 3819 for the practice of veterinary medicine in the State of Arizona.

3. On November 12, 2019, "Any," a 6 year-old female Greyhound mix was presented to Respondent for an exam and vaccines. Complainants were concerned with the dog's weight gain and requested a thyroid test. Respondent examined the dog and found a weight = 76.6 pounds, a temperature = 102 degrees, a heart rate = 120bpm and a respiration rate = 40rpm. He noted that the dog had a hard time rising and CPs in the rear were slow. Respondent suspected lumbar disc disease/spinal degeneration. The dog was referred out for radiographs. The dog was vaccinated for rabies, distemper, parvo, leptospirosis and bordetella. Blood was collected for the thyroid test and the dog was discharged with:

a. Meloxicam 7.5mg, 30 tablets; give 1 tablet once a day.

4. The Total T4 results were 0.9 (1 – 4 reference range) therefore Respondent stated in his narrative that he prescribed Thyrozine 1mg twice a day (not documented in medical record).

1       5. On November 27, 2019, the dog was presented to Dr. Carotenuto at VCA  
2 Valley Animal Hospital and Emergency Center due to anorexia, vomiting and  
3 lethargy. Complainants reported that the dog had been vomiting for the past  
4 two days, was not interested in food and was not active – just laying around.  
5 The dog was currently on meloxicam 7.5mg once a day and Levothyroxine  
6 1mg twice a day. Upon exam, Dr. Carotenuto noted the dog was minimally  
7 responsive, had an elevated heart rate, was dehydrated and an  
8 uncomfortable abdomen. She recommended blood work and radiographs, as  
9 well as hospitalizing the dog for IV fluids and gastrointestinal medications. Dr.  
10 Carotenuto presented Complainants with an estimate which was approved.

11       6. The dog was hospitalized for diagnostics and treatment. Dr. Carotenuto  
12 advised Complainants that the blood work was as expected for severe GI  
13 upset with profuse vomiting and anorexia. Radiographs were consistent with  
14 free fluid in the abdomen, which was confirmed with an AFAST – a sample of  
15 the fluid was collected and the dog had bacteria in her abdomen likely from a  
16 tear in the GI tract. Complainants were told that if they were going to move  
17 forward, surgery was needed to explore the dog's abdomen. If not, humane  
18 euthanasia would be recommended.

19       7. After considering their options, Complainants elected to humanely  
20 euthanize the dog due to financial constraints. Dr. Carotenuto went over the  
21 diagnostics, the likely septic abdomen and possible causes. She expressed  
22 concern with the dosage of meloxicam being administered to the dog for two  
23 weeks and offered to perform a necropsy. Complainants agreed.

24       8. Necropsy revealed 850mLs of serosanguinous fluid in the abdomen upon  
25 entry. The posterior aspect of the stomach had a large area of necrosis

1 extending from the pylorus to the antrum. A small 0.4cm perforation was noted.  
2 The proximal duodenum was hemorrhagic. The pancreas was edematous.  
3 Samples were taken of stomach/pylorus and pancreas.

4 9. When the histopathology results were returned, Dr. Carotenuto called  
5 Complainants to advise that no neoplasia was identified and no foreign object  
6 was found on necropsy therefore it was highly suspected that the perforation  
7 was due to an ulcer caused by the NSAID administration.

#### 8 9 CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

10 10. The Findings of Fact constitute a violation of **A.R.S. § 32-2232 (11)** gross  
11 negligence; treatment of a patient or practice of veterinary medicine resulting  
12 in injury, unnecessary suffering or death that was caused by carelessness,  
13 negligence or the disregard of established principles or practices. Respondent  
14 did not follow the recommended manufacturer dosages when dispensing  
15 meloxicam causing a pyloric perforation, leading to the death of the dog.

16 11. The Findings of Fact constitute a violation of **A.R.S. § 32-2232 (12)** as it  
17 relates to **A.A.C. R3-11-501 (1)** for failure to use current professional and  
18 scientific knowledge by using the non-FDA approved thyroid medication  
19 Thyrozine.

20 12. The Findings of Fact constitute a violation of **A.R.S. § 32-2232 (21)** as it  
21 relates to **A.A.C. R3-11-502 (L) (8)** for failure to record in the dog's medical  
22 record that Thyrozine was prescribed.

23 13. The Findings of Fact constitute a violation of **A.R.S. § 32-2281(A)(1)(d)** for  
24 failure to record the route of administration of the Meloxicam on the dispensed  
25 medication's label.

**ORDER**

Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, it is **ORDERED** that Respondent, License No. 3819, be placed on **PROBATION** for a period of **one (1) year**, subject to the following terms and conditions that shall be completed within the Probationary period. These requirements include four (4) hours of continuing education (CE) and a civil penalty as detailed below:

1. Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, **IT IS ORDERED THAT** Respondent shall provide written proof satisfactory to the Board that he has completed **two (2) hours of continuing education (CE)** in addition to the existing continuing education required to renew a veterinary license. Respondent shall satisfy these two (2) hours by attending CE in the area of **medical record keeping**.

2. Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, **IT IS ORDERED THAT** Respondent shall provide written proof satisfactory to the Board that he has completed **two (2) hours of continuing education (CE)** in addition to the existing continuing education required to renew a veterinary license. Respondent shall satisfy these two (2) hours by attending CE in the area of analgesia.

3. **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Respondent pay a civil penalty of **two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250.00)** in the form of a **cashier's check, certified check, or money order** made payable to the Arizona Veterinary Medical Examining Board on or before the end of the Probationary period.

4. Respondent shall submit to the Board a written outline regarding how he plans to satisfy the requirement in paragraphs 1 and 2 for its approval within sixty (60) days of the effective date of this Consent Agreement. All continuing

education to be completed for this Consent Agreement shall be **pre-approved** by the Board. The outline shall include **CE course details** including, **name, provider, date(s), hours of CE to be earned**, and a **brief course summary**.

5. Respondent shall obey all federal, state and local laws/rules governing the practice of veterinary medicine in this state.

6. Respondent shall bear all costs of complying with this Consent Agreement.

7. This Consent Agreement is conclusive evidence of the matters described and may be considered by the Board in determining an appropriate sanction in the event a subsequent violation occurs. In the event Respondent violates any term of this Consent Agreement, the Board may, after opportunity for Informal Interview or Formal Hearing, take any other appropriate disciplinary action authorized by law, including suspension or revocation of Respondent's license.

ISSUED THIS 10<sup>th</sup> DAY OF September 2020.

FOR THE BOARD:

ARIZONA STATE VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD

Jim Loughead, Chairperson

By   
Victoria Whitmore, Executive Director


Original of the foregoing filed

This 10<sup>th</sup> day of September 2020 with:

Arizona State Veterinary Medical Examining Board  
1740 W. Adams St, Ste. 4600  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Copy of the foregoing mailed by Certified, return receipt mail  
This 10<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2020 to:

Garrel Geiger, DVM  
Address on file  
Respondent

By:   
Victoria Whitmore, Executive Director