



OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL  
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINION  
2016-18A

Cathy Kirkpatrick, Executive Director  
State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners  
2920 N. Lincoln Blvd., Ste. C  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

January 7, 2016

Dear Executive Director Kirkpatrick:

This office has received your request for a written Attorney General Opinion regarding agency action to be taken by the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners against a licensed veterinarian pursuant to a consent agreement in Board case C-15-075. The proposed action is to recognize a period during which licensee did not work during the investigation as a temporary suspension of licensure; impose a probation term of three years, during which the licensee must appear at least once annually before the Board, allow the Board to investigate licensee's place of business, and comply with all applicable laws; require completion of 10 hours of continuing education in ethics in addition to other continuing education during 2016 followed by a written report on the education; and impose fines of \$5,000, \$2,000 of which will be deferred and waived upon completion of probation with no violations. The action also requires payment of a \$50 monthly probation administration fee. The licensee had engaged in a pattern of fraudulent conduct in which licensee would buy products from licensee's place of work, later alter computer records of amounts paid, and then use the resulting credit balance to "purchase" additional products.

The Oklahoma Veterinary Practice Act, 59 O.S.2011 & Supp.2015, §§ 698.1-698.30b, authorizes the Board to discipline licensees who engage in "conduct likely to deceive, defraud, or harm the public" or who "use . . . any false, fraudulent or deceptive statement in any document connected with the practice of veterinary medicine." 59 O.S.2011, § 698.14a(E)(4), (9). The action seeks to uphold standards of integrity in the veterinary profession, and the Board may reasonably believe that fines, probation, and continuing education will deter future violations.

It is, therefore, the official opinion of the Attorney General that the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners has adequate support for the conclusion that this action advances the State of Oklahoma's policy to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the people of Oklahoma.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Scott Pruitt".

E. SCOTT PRUITT  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF OKLAHOMA