



JOHN M. O'CONNOR  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINION  
2022-3A

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

March 15, 2022

Dear Executive Director Kirkpatrick:

This office has received your request for a written Attorney General Opinion regarding action the Oklahoma State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners ("Board") intends to take in case C-20-064. In July 2021, the Respondent pled guilty in federal court to one count of Misprision of a Felony and was sentenced to three years' probation and ordered to pay \$311,220.43 in restitution and a fine \$5,000 fine. Additionally, Respondent failed to notify the Board of the plea in a timely manner. The Board proposes to suspend Respondent's license for thirty days after which time the Respondent will be placed on probation for five years with annual appearances before the Board. Additionally, the Respondent must complete six hours of continuing education and pay a fine of \$15,000.

The Oklahoma Veterinary Practice Act authorizes the Board to impose discipline when a veterinarian is guilty of unprofessional conduct, which includes "entry of a guilty plea . . . involving a felony[,] "[f]ailure to report to the Board any adverse action taken by . . . [a] law enforcement agency or court[,] or "[v]iolation of any provisions of the [Act]." 59 O.S.2021, § 698.14a. The Board may reasonably believe that the proposed action is necessary to protect the public from unlicensed persons and to deter future violations.

It is, therefore, the official opinion of the Attorney General that the Oklahoma State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners has adequate support for the conclusion that this action advances the state's policy of protecting the consumers of veterinary services.

  
JOHN M. O'CONNOR  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF OKLAHOMA

  
JULIE PITTMAN  
DEPUTY GENERAL COUNSEL