



OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINION
2017-757A

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

November 2, 2017

Dear Executive Director Kirkpatrick:

This office has received your request for a written Attorney General Opinion regarding action to be taken by the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners against a licensed veterinarian pursuant to Agreed Order in Case No. C-16-082. The licensee provided prescription medications to animal producers/cattle ranchers in Oklahoma through a drug distributor without first establishing a valid veterinary-client-patient relationship. The licensee also failed to properly record, keep, manage, and maintain patient records. The Board proposes to require the licensee to surrender the license and to pay a \$15,000 fine.

The Oklahoma Veterinary Practice Act authorizes the Board to discipline licensees who engage in “[c]onduct likely to deceive, defraud, or harm the public,” “[n]egligence in the practice of veterinary medicine,” “[p]ractice or other behavior that demonstrates a manifest incapacity or incompetence to practice veterinary medicine,” “[t]he use of any false, fraudulent or deceptive statement in any document connected with the practice of veterinary medicine” or “[v]iolation[s] of...[the Act] or the rules...of the Board[.]” 59 O.S.2011, § 698.14a(E)(4),(7)-(9),(22). The Board may reasonably believe that its proposed action is necessary to uphold professional standards among veterinarians.

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’s policy to require veterinarians to meet minimum professional standards.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Hunter".

MIKE HUNTER
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF OKLAHOMA

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan Chaffin".

RYAN CHAFFIN
DEPUTY CHIEF – ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL