

**State of New Hampshire  
Board of Veterinary Medicine  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301**

In the Matter of:  
Stephen J. Bassett, VMD  
License No.: 575  
(Misconduct Allegations)

**SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT**

In order to avoid the delay and expense of further proceedings and to promote the best interests of the public and the practice of medicine, the New Hampshire Board of Veterinary Medicine (“Board”) and Stephen J. Bassett, VMD (“Dr. Bassett” or Respondent”), a veterinarian licensed by the Board, do hereby stipulate and agree to resolve certain allegations of professional misconduct now pending before the Board according to the following terms and conditions:

1. Pursuant to RSA 332-B:14, 332-B:15 and 332-B:16, and Veterinary Medicine Administrative Rule (“Vet”) 202, the Board has jurisdiction to investigate and adjudicate allegations of professional misconduct committed by veterinarians. Pursuant to RSA 332-B:15, VI (e), the Board may, at any time, dispose of such allegations by settlement and without commencing a disciplinary hearing.
2. The Board first granted the Respondent a license to practice veterinary medicine in the State of New Hampshire on June 30, 1982. The Respondent holds license number 757. The Respondent practices at Exeter Veterinary Hospital in Stratham, NH.
3. In early September of 2007, the Board received a complaint from one of Respondent’s clients that alleged Respondent had been negligent in administering chemotherapy to the client’s dog, Maggie.

4. In response to this, the Board conducted an investigation and obtained information from various sources pertaining to Respondent's treatment of Maggie.
5. Respondent stipulates that if a disciplinary hearing were to take place, Hearing Counsel would prove that Respondent engaged in professional misconduct, in violation of RSA 332-B:14, II (c) and (d), by the following facts:
  - A. Maggie was being treated for Lymphoma with doxorubicin. The drugs were being administered at Respondent's practice.
  - B. During Maggie's third treatment, which was Respondent's responsibility, there was movement of the catheter, which resulted in extravasation. Respondent was not on-site during the procedure. When Respondent returned, he infiltrated the site with saline and dexamethazone.
  - C. Maggie developed a necrosis in the leg with swelling and dermatitis. She was treated for several weeks symptomatically using hot compresses, prednisone and antibiotics.
  - D. The State's expert would testify that Respondent's treatment of the extravasation and the resulting wound was inappropriate and did not meet current standards of veterinary care.
  - E. Two months after the incident, the owner sought a second opinion. Maggie was diagnosed with significant necrosis in the leg as well as peripheral lymphadenopathy. The client elected euthanasia upon advice of the second veterinarian.
  - F. Respondent no longer administers chemotherapy at his practice.

6. The Board finds Respondent committed the acts as described above and concludes that, by engaging in such conduct, Respondent violated RSA 332-B:14, II (c) and (d).
7. Respondent acknowledges that this conduct constitutes grounds for the Board to impose disciplinary sanctions against Respondent's license to practice as a veterinarian in the State of New Hampshire.
8. Respondent consents to the Board imposing the following discipline, pursuant to RSA 332-B:14, III:
  - A. Respondent is **reprimanded**.
  - B. Respondent is assessed an **administrative fine** in the amount of \$1,000. Respondent shall pay this fine in full within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this *Settlement Agreement*, as defined further below, by delivering a money order or bank check, made payable to "Treasurer, State of New Hampshire," to the Board's office at 25 Capitol Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, P.O. Box 2042, Concord, NH 03301.
9. Within ten (10) days of the effective date of this *Settlement Agreement*, as defined further below, Respondent shall furnish a copy of the *Settlement Agreement* to any current employer for whom Respondent performs services as a veterinarian or work which requires a veterinary degree and/or veterinary license or directly or indirectly involves animal care, and to any agency or authority which licenses, certifies or credentials veterinarians, with which Respondent is presently affiliated.
10. For a continuing period of one (1) year from the effective date of this *Settlement Agreement*, Respondent shall furnish a copy of this *Settlement Agreement* to any

employer to which Respondent may apply for work as a veterinarian or for work in any capacity which requires a veterinary degree and/or veterinary license or directly or indirectly involves animal care, and to any agency or authority that licenses, certifies or credentials veterinarians, to which Respondent may apply for any such professional privileges or recognition.

11. Respondent's breach of any terms or conditions of this *Settlement Agreement* shall constitute unprofessional conduct pursuant to RSA 332-B:14, II (c), and a separate and sufficient basis for further disciplinary action by the Board.
12. Except as provided herein, this *Settlement Agreement* shall bar the commencement of further disciplinary action by the Board based upon the misconduct described above. However, the Board may consider this misconduct as evidence of a pattern of conduct in the event that similar misconduct is proven against Respondent in the future. Additionally, the Board may consider the fact that discipline was imposed by this Order as a factor in determining appropriate discipline should any further misconduct be proven against Respondent in the future.
13. This *Settlement Agreement* shall become a permanent part of Respondent's file, which is maintained by the Board as a public document.
14. Respondent voluntarily enters into and signs this *Settlement Agreement* and states that no promises or representations have been made to him other than those terms and conditions expressly stated herein.

15. The Board agrees that in return for Respondent executing this *Settlement Agreement*, the Board will not proceed with the formal adjudicatory process based upon the facts described herein.
16. Respondent understands that his action in entering into this *Settlement Agreement* is a final act and not subject to reconsideration or judicial review or appeal.
17. Respondent has had the opportunity to seek and obtain the advice of an attorney of his choosing in connection with his decision to enter into this *Settlement Agreement*.
18. Respondent understands that the Board must review and accept the terms of this *Settlement Agreement*. If the Board rejects any portion, the entire *Settlement Agreement* shall be null and void. Respondent specifically waives any claims that any disclosures made to the Board during its review of this *Settlement Agreement* have prejudiced his right to a fair and impartial hearing in the future if this *Settlement Agreement* is not accepted by the Board.
19. Respondent is not under the influence of any drugs or alcohol at the time he signs this *Settlement Agreement*.
20. Respondent certifies that he has read this *Settlement Agreement*. Respondent understands that he has the right to a formal adjudicatory hearing concerning this matter and that at said hearing he would possess the rights to confront and cross-examine witnesses, to call witnesses, to present evidence, to testify on his own behalf, to contest the allegations, to present oral argument, and to appeal to the courts. Further, Respondent fully understands the nature, qualities and dimensions of these

rights. Respondent understands that by signing this *Settlement Agreement*, he waives these rights as they pertain to the misconduct described herein.

21. This *Settlement Agreement* shall take effect as an Order of the Board on the date it is signed by an authorized representative of the Board.

FOR THE RESPONDENT

Date: 12/12/07

  
Stephen J. Bassett, VMD  
Respondent

FOR THE BOARD/\*

This proceeding is hereby terminated in accordance with the binding terms and conditions set forth above.

Date: 1/8/08

Patricia M. Duncklee  
(Signature)

Patricia M. Duncklee  
(Print or Type Name)  
Authorized Representative of the  
New Hampshire Board of  
Veterinary Medicine

/\* Michael Maki, DVM, Board members, recused.

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