

**BEFORE THE  
MINNESOTA  
BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE**

In the Matter of  
Mallory M. Hames, DVM  
License No.: 18919

**AGREEMENT FOR  
CORRECTIVE ACTION**

This Agreement is entered into by and between Mallory M. Hames, D.V.M. ("Licensee"), and the Minnesota Board of Veterinary Medicine Complaint Review Committee ("Complaint Review Committee") based on Minnesota Statutes section 214.103, subdivision 6(a)(2). Licensee and the Complaint Review Committee agree to the following:

**FACTS**

1. At all times relevant to these allegations, Licensee practiced veterinary medicine as the owner of Mallo Veterinary Practice, doing business as Mallo Equine ("Clinic") in St. Cloud, Minnesota.

2. On December 6, 2023, Licensee evaluated Lacey, a 10-year-old Appaloosa/Quarter Horse mare owned by Mounted Eagles for chief complaints of poor performance due to front limb lameness and worsening attitude. Mounted Eagles is a non-profit equine therapeutic program for children and adults with special needs, including mounted activities.

3. Licensee performed a lameness evaluation, noting Grade 3/5 lameness in the left front limb, Grade 2/5 lameness in the right hind limb and bilateral forelimb coffin joint effusion. The left forelimb lameness improved significantly following a palmar digital nerve block, indicating a source of lameness within the heel and/or coffin joint. 4. Licensee recommended administration of phenylbutazone orally for one week and limiting mounted exercise to a walk but did not address the worsening attitude.

5. On December 16, 2022, Licensee radiographed the distal limb of both forelegs.

6. On January 6, 2023, Licensee injected a mixture of corticosteroid, hyaluronate and

an antibiotic into the coffin joint bilaterally but did not recommend continued use of a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory medication to address other sources of lameness.

7. Licensee dispensed trazodone, an antidepressant for human use, to be administered orally to Lacey one hour before mounted exercise to reduce her anxiety. Licensee did not explore potential reasons for the mare's anxiety or potential link to pain from her ongoing lameness.

8. Licensee informed the Mounted Eagles founder but did not inform the Mounted Eagle program director that there is no published scientific evidence of benefit or safety in horses under saddle. Side effects reported in two very limited university studies and one case series for horses on stall rest included ataxia, sweating, arrhythmias, and muscle fasciculations at higher doses.

9. Licensee did not document a discussion about the risks of this medication in a therapeutic riding horse nor encourage the program manager to drop Lacey from the program nor to advise parents or other responsible adults that the mare was administered trazodone prior to use.

10. On April 11, 2023, Lacey was medicated with trazodone per Licensee's instructions. The mare "fell asleep" twice while at a standstill with one rider. Later in the day with another rider, Lacey "fell asleep" but when she "woke up", she was startled and jumped/spooked with the rider on board. When informed, Licensee recommended discontinuation of trazodone treatment.

11. On May 4, 2023, Licensee provided primary care including vaccinations, deworming, and dentistry to Lacey but did not assess the status of her lameness after the owner advised Lacey was doing well.

12. Licensee's medical record lacked details of radiographic interpretation, definitive diagnosis and changing dosages of medication.

13. On July 7, 2023, Licensee met with the Complaint Review Committee, composed of Christopher Powers, DVM, Board member, and Mahlon Bauman, public member, to discuss allegations regarding Licensee's practice of veterinary medicine contained in a Notice of Conference dated June 6, 2023. Rebecca Huting, Assistant Attorney General, represented the Complaint Review Committee during the conference and participated remotely. Dr. Julia Wilson, executive director of the Board, also participated. Licensee was represented by Robert Kuderer, Esq.

### **CORRECTIVE ACTION**

14. Based on the available information, Licensee and the Committee agree that the conduct above violates Minnesota Statutes section 156.081, subdivision 2(11) and (12); and Minnesota Rules 9100.0700, subpart 1(A) and (C); and 9100.0800, subparts 1 and 4. Licensee and the Committee have agreed to enter into this Agreement for Corrective Action as follows:

a. Within one month from the date of this Agreement, Licensee shall submit to the Committee documentation of the continuing education for Licensee's most recent license renewal.

b. Within three months from the date of this Agreement, Licensee shall submit to the Committee evidence of completion of at least four (4) credit hours on the topic of medical records. For this purpose, the Committee pre-approves the online medical records courses offered by Dr. Sarah Babcock, Animal Law and Legal Services: Medical Records and Veterinary Law, Client Consent and Communication, and Top IO Medical Records Deficiencies. Other continuing education courses on medical records for this purpose must be pre-approved by the Committee. Credits from this continuing education may not be counted towards meeting the requirements for Licensee's next license renewal.

c. Within six months from the date of this Agreement, Licensee shall submit to the Committee evidence of completion of the following continuing education that must be preapproved by the Committee. Credits from this continuing education may not be counted towards meeting the requirements for Licensee's next license renewal.

1. Two (2) credits on the topic of assessment and management of chronic equine lameness to include sources of lameness outside of the musculoskeletal system
2. One (1) credit on the management of problematic behaviors of horses under saddle
3. One (1) credit on the ethics of use of lame horses.

#### **OTHER INFORMATION**

15. Upon Licensee's satisfactory completion of the corrective action referenced in paragraph 14 above, the Committee agrees to dismiss the complaint(s) concerning the matters referenced in paragraphs 1-13. The Committee shall be the sole judge of satisfactory completion. The Committee may reopen this complaint if it receives newly discovered information that was not available to the Committee during the initial investigation, or if the Committee receives a new complaint that indicates a pattern of behavior or conduct.


16. If Licensee fails to complete the corrective action satisfactorily, the Committee may, at its discretion, reopen the investigation and proceed according to Minnesota Statutes chapter 156 (the Board's Practice Act) and Minnesota Statutes chapters 214 and 14. Licensee agrees that failure to complete the corrective action satisfactorily is failure to cooperate under Minnesota Statutes section 156.123 and may subject Licensee to disciplinary action by the Board.

17. This agreement shall become effective upon execution by the Board's Executive Director and shall remain in effect until the Committee dismisses the complaint, unless the Committee receives additional information that renders corrective action inappropriate. Upon receiving such information, the Committee may, at its discretion, proceed according to Minnesota Statutes chapter 156 (the Board's Practice Act) and Minnesota Statutes chapters 214 and 14.


18. This agreement is not disciplinary action. See Minnesota Statutes section 214.103, subdivision 6. However, this agreement is classified as public data pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section

13.41 , subdivision 5, and 214.072, subdivision 3.

19. Licensee hereby acknowledges having read and understood this agreement and having voluntarily entered into it. This agreement contains the entire agreement between the Committee and Licensee, there being no other agreement of any kind, verbal or otherwise, which varies the terms of this agreement.

  
MALLORY M. JAMES, DVM  
Licensee

Dated: 11/2/2023

  
JULIA WILSON  
Executed Director

Dated: 11/14/2023