



The Office of
Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison
helping people afford their lives and live with dignity and respect • www.ag.state.mn.us

October 18, 2022

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

Luke Harrington
515 9th Avenue SW
Austin, MN 55912

Re: In the Matter of Luke Harrington, Unlicensed

Dear Mr. Harrington:

On behalf of the Minnesota Board of Veterinary Medicine, enclosed herewith and served upon you by U.S. mail, find a Cease and Desist Order and Notice of Right to Hearing.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

s/Rebecca Huting
REBECCA HUTING
Assistant Attorney General

(651) 757-1163 (Voice)
(651) 297-2576 (Fax)
rebecca.huting@ag.state.mn.us

*Attorney for the Minnesota Board of Veterinary
Medicine Complaint Review Committee*

Enclosure
cc: Complaint Review Committee

STATE OF MINNESOTA
BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

In the Matter of
Luke Harrington, *Unlicensed*

**CEASE AND DESIST ORDER AND
NOTICE OF RIGHT TO HEARING**

TO: Luke Harrington, *Unlicensed* (“Respondent”), 515 9th Avenue SW, Austin, Minnesota 55912

Minnesota law prohibits any person from practicing veterinary medicine without having first secured a veterinary license or temporary permit, as provided in Minnesota Statutes chapter 156, unless the person is exempt from such licensing requirements, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 156.12, subdivision 2.

The practice of veterinary medicine is defined in Minnesota Statutes section 156.12, subdivision 1, as follows:

Subdivision 1. **Practice.** The practice of veterinary medicine, as used in this chapter, shall mean the diagnosis, treatment, correction, relief, or prevention of animal disease, deformity, defect, injury, or other physical or mental conditions; the performance of obstetrical procedures for animals, including determination of pregnancy and correction of sterility or infertility; and the rendering of advice or recommendations with regard to any of the above. The practice of veterinary medicine shall include but not be limited to the prescription or administration of any drug, medicine, biologic, apparatus, application, anesthetic, or other therapeutic or diagnostic substance or technique.

The practice of veterinary medicine includes equine dentistry and sedation with prescription medications pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 156.12, subdivisions 3 and 4. Minnesota law prohibits any person from floating equine teeth without having met the legal requirements defined in Minnesota Statutes section 156.075.

Minnesota law prohibits any person from possessing a veterinary prescription drug unless the person is a licensed veterinarian or pharmacist, a bona fide employee of a veterinarian acting in the course of that employment, a client holding a veterinary prescription drug by or on the order

of a veterinarian, a manufacturer or wholesaler of veterinary drugs, an animal health research, or a person performing official state or federal regulatory duties, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 156.17.

Pursuant to the above-referenced statutes, the Minnesota Board of Veterinary Medicine (“Board”), by its Complaint Review Committee (“Committee”), has determined as follows:

1. Respondent is not now and has never been licensed to practice veterinary medicine in the State of Minnesota and is not exempt from the licensure requirements set forth in Minnesota Statutes chapter 156.

2. On March 3, 2010, Respondent met with Complaint Review Committee of this Board. Respondent admitted that he performed equine dentistry. Respondent was informed of the statutes that delineate qualifications and need for supervision to perform equine teeth floating. Respondent did not submit proof of certification by the International Association of Equine Dentistry or other professional equine dentistry association recognized by the Board.

3. On January 7, 2011, a Cease and Desist Order and Notice of Hearing was issued by the Board. Respondent did not acknowledge the Cease and Desist Order or request a hearing.

4. On May 3, 2022, the Board received a complaint alleging Respondent was again engaged in the unlawful practice of veterinary medicine. Upon receipt of the complaint, the Board initiated an investigation into Respondent’s unlicensed practice of veterinary medicine.

5. Based on its investigation, the Committee has determined that Respondent engaged in the practice of veterinary medicine as follows:

a. Respondent advertises providing equine dental services utilizing injectable sedation and power tools.

b. Respondent performed dentistry on multiple horses after acknowledging in 2010 and issuance of the Cease and Desist Order that equine dentistry is the practice of veterinary medicine.

c. Respondent continued to administer illegally acquired injectable sedative prescription medications to horses prior to performing dentistry.

6. Respondent, by the conduct referenced in paragraphs 4 and 5 above, has engaged in the practice of veterinary medicine and equine teeth floating in Minnesota without a license, in violation of Minnesota Statutes section 156.10, and should therefore be ordered to cease and desist from violating this statute. Respondent be subject to a referral for possible criminal prosecution for unlawful practice without a license. The Board may additionally pursue an action in district court for injunctive relief to restrain from unauthorized practice under Minnesota Statutes Chapter 214.

ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 156.15, that Respondent shall cease and desist from engaging in any act or practice in Minnesota that constitutes the practice of veterinary medicine as defined in Minnesota Statutes section 156.12, subdivision 1.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 156.15, subdivisions 1 and 3, that Respondent may request a hearing in this matter. Such request shall be made in writing and delivered to the Complaint Review Committee of the Minnesota Board of Veterinary Medicine, 335 Randolph Avenue, Suite 215, St. Paul, Minnesota 55105, whereupon the Committee shall set a date for hearing within 30 days after its receipt of the request unless Respondent and the Committee by agreement waive the 30-day time period. Pursuant to

Minnesota Statutes section 156.15, subdivision 5, if no hearing is requested by Respondent within 30 days of service of this Order, this Order will become final and will remain in effect until it is modified or vacated by the Board.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that if a hearing is requested, this Order will remain in effect until it is modified or vacated or made permanent by further order of the Board pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 156.15, subdivision 4.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that in the event a hearing is requested in this matter, it will be held before an administrative law judge to be appointed by the chief administrative law judge for the State of Minnesota, Office of Administrative Hearings, 600 North Robert Street, P.O. Box 64620, St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0620, telephone (651) 361-7900. All parties have the right to represent themselves or to be represented throughout the proceedings herein by legal counsel or a person of their choice if not otherwise prohibited as the unauthorized practice of law. The hearing will be conducted pursuant to the contested case procedures as prescribed in Minnesota Statutes sections 14.57 to 14.69 and the Rules of the Office of Administrative Hearings, Minnesota Rules 1400.5100 to 1400.8400. Failure to attend a hearing in this matter after being duly notified may result in the allegations of this Order being taken as true.

Dated: October 14, 2022

BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
Complaint Review Committee

By: 

JULIA H. WILSON, D.V.M.
Executive Director

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Re: In the Matter of Luke Harrington, Unlicensed

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
) ss.
COUNTY OF RAMSEY)

SUZANNE ROBBINS, verifies by oath or affirmation that on **October 18, 2022**, at the City of St. Paul, County of Ramsey, and State of Minnesota, she served the attached CEASE AND DESIST ORDER AND NOTICE OF RIGHT TO HEARING, by depositing a true and correct copy thereof in the United States mail at said city and state, properly enveloped, with first class postage prepaid, and addressed to the following named individual(s) or entities at the addresses indicated below:

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

Luke Harrington
515 9th Avenue SW
Austin, MN 55912

/s/ Suzanne Robbins
SUZANNE ROBBINS