

June 20, 2016

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Darragh J. Davis
Vice President, General Counsel & Corporate Secretary
Petco Animal Supplies, Inc.
9125 Rehco Rd.
San Diego, CA 92121

**Re: Notice to CEASE and DESIST Practicing Veterinary Medicine and/or Holding
Onself Out as a Licensed Veterinarian in the State of Minnesota**

Dear Ms. Davis:

This letter is written on behalf of the Minnesota Board of Veterinary Medicine Complaint Review Committee (“Committee”). The Committee has received credible information that individuals employed by Petco have been offering veterinary medicine services in the State of Minnesota without the requisite licensure.

The practice of veterinary medicine is defined in Minnesota Statute § 156.12, subd. 1, as follows:

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* (emphasis added)

Your company’s website includes the following representations as of June 20, 2016:

- 1) Your groomers offer a 7-point Pet Care Check with every grooming service that includes “a visual and physical screening of your pet” to make sure nothing is “*abnormal*.” (emphasis added).
- 2) Groomers will “alert” customers if they find any problems with the pet’s eyes, ears, teeth, nose, under-side, skin and coat, and nails and pads.
- 3) Groomers determine whether an animal’s underside is “*healthy*.” (emphasis added).

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- 4) Your groomers are not required to hold licensure as veterinarians in the state in which they work.

The foregoing representations suggest that Petco's groomers may be providing veterinary medicine services to Minnesota citizens and/or are holding themselves out as licensed to practice in this State.

The Committee hereby **DEMANDS THAT YOUR GROOMERS CEASE PRACTICING VETERINARY MEDICINE IN THE STATE OF MINNESOTA AND CEASE REPRESENTING THEMSELVES AS VETERINARIANS LICENSED TO PRACTICE IN THE STATE OF MINNESOTA.** Failure to abide by this demand may lead to legal intervention, including, but not limited to, application to the district court for injunction; referral to the appropriate criminal prosecutorial authorities; and/or issuance of a formal Cease and Desist Order from the Minnesota Board of Veterinary Medicine.

Please provide the Committee with written documentation confirming that Petco has complied with the above-referenced demands and has removed any and all misrepresentations on any medium in this State by no later than **two weeks from the date of this letter.**

If you have any questions, please contact me or Jennifer C. Middleton, Assistant Attorney General, who represents the Committee, at 1400 Bremer Tower, 445 Minnesota St., St. Paul, MN 55101 or (651) 757-1261.

Sincerely,



Julia Wilson, DVM, DACVIM
Executive Director

cc: Jennifer C. Middleton, Assistant Attorney General
✓ Complaint Review Committee