

**BEFORE THE WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE**

**In the Matter of MARK H. CURTIS, III, D.V.M.**

**ORDER OF REINSTATEMENT AND RESTRICTION**

On August 5, 2011, the Respondent, Mark H. Curtis, III, D.V.M., entered into a Consent Agreement with the West Virginia Board of Veterinary Medicine (hereinafter referenced as the "Board") in which the Respondent agreed to seek inpatient treatment for substance abuse problems detailed in that Agreement. The Consent Agreement also provided that the emergency suspension of the Respondent's license to practice veterinary medicine could be lifted after his completion of treatment, upon the review of the Board.

On December 22, 2011, the Board met to consider Dr. Curtis' request to be reinstated to practice. In support of his request, Dr. Curtis and his counsel submitted a practice plan for the Board's consideration. This plan included provisions that any treatment requiring the administration of controlled substances would be provided by a qualified and licensed doctor of veterinary medicine working in collaboration with the Respondent, Dr. Curtis, at his veterinary clinic.

After consideration of the proposal, the Board finds that, since Dr. Curtis is not permitted, under federal law, to possess, prescribe or administer controlled substances within his practice, the proposed arrangement would depend upon separate, federal approval for the collaborating doctor to administer controlled substances from this location. In the Board's determination, this arrangement would be both unlikely and unnecessary.

The Board, however, does recognize that Dr. Curtis has satisfactorily completed the program of treatment originally required by the Board and that he may now return to practice under reasonable restrictions and monitoring.

It is therefore ORDERED that the summary suspension of the license of Dr. Mark H. Curtis, III, to practice veterinary medicine in the State of West Virginia is hereby LIFTED and Dr. Curtis shall be REINSTATED to practice under the following RESTRICTIONS:

1. The Respondent shall attend and participate in regular meetings for substance abuse recovery and support, at a minimum of at least one meeting per week, with a local chapter or home group, in a program such as Narcotics Anonymous.
2. The Respondent shall submit a detailed after-care plan to the Board, prepared with guidance and assistance from a licensed, mental health-care professional, listing his treatment goals, methods and milestones for measuring progress or recovery, and shall provide the Board with an updated plan at any time that the plan requirements, objectives or methods are amended or adjusted.
3. The Respondent shall not use, consume or possess any controlled substance except pursuant to a valid prescription, issued by a duly-licensed doctor of medicine, osteopathy or dentistry.
4. The Respondent shall submit to chemical screenings, including urinalysis or other analysis of bodily substances or excretions, on a random basis at any time at the request of his supervising physician or request of the Board to detect the use or abuse of any addictive substances or habit-forming drugs.
5. The Respondent shall not possess or administer any controlled substances to his animal patients. In the event that the animal needs treatment that requires the use of controlled

substances, the Respondent must refer the patient to another, qualified veterinarian for such treatment or procedure.

6. The Respondent is financially responsible for payment of all expenses for treatment, counseling, monitoring, lab tests and the other terms and conditions of this Order.
7. The Respondent shall be truthful and forthright in all communications with the Board.
8. If the Respondent fails to comply with, or complete any of the terms stated herein, the West Virginia Board of Veterinary Medicine may rescind or modify this order and take any other action, including revocation of the Respondent's license, that is authorized by law.

These restrictions shall remain in full force and effect until modified by further order of this Board or by order of a court of competent jurisdiction. The Board will only consider modification of these restrictions upon the written application of the Respondent and his demonstration of good cause for alteration or amendment of these restrictions.

It is so **ORDERED** and entered this 29th day of December, 2011.

WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

by:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
WANDA GOODWIN  
Executive Director