

In the Matter of the Petition for Modification of Penalty  
DANIEL SLATON

VETERINARY MEDICAL BOARD  
BOARD CASE NO. 1002459449  
OAH NO. 2020120860

**Attorney General's Exhibits**

<b>ATTORNEY GENERAL'S EXHIBIT NO.</b>	<b>DOCUMENT</b>	<b>MARKED</b>	<b>ADMIT</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Petition for Modification of Penalty</b>		
<b>2</b>	<b>Notice of Hearing</b>		
<b>3</b>	<b>License History Certification</b>		
<b>4</b>	<b>Documents in Support of Petition for Modification of Penalty</b>		
<b>5</b>	<b>Probation Compliance Status Report</b>		
<b>6</b>	<b>Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, Case No. 1002459449, OAH No. 2017070642</b>		

# EXHIBIT 1

CLEAR FORM



BUSINESS, CONSUMER SERVICES AND HOUSING AGENCY • GAVIN NEWSOM GOVERNOR  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS • VETERINARY MEDICAL BOARD  
1747 North Market Blvd., Suite 230, Sacramento, CA 95834-2978  
P (916) 515-5220 | Toll-Free (866) 229-0170 | www.vmb.ca.gov



PETITION FOR REINSTATEMENT OR  
MODIFICATION OF PENALTY

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Please type or print neatly. All blanks must be completed; if not applicable enter N/A. If more space is needed attach additional sheets. Attached to this application should be a "Narrative Statement" and two original verified recommendations from a veterinarian licensed by the Board who has personal knowledge of activities since the disciplinary action was imposed.

TYPE OF PETITION [Reference Business and Professions Code section 4887]

Reinstatement of Revoked/Surrendered License or Registration  Modification of Probation  Termination of Probation

NOTE: A Petition for Modification and/or Termination of Probation can be filed together. If you are requesting Modification, you must specify in your "Narrative Statement" the term(s) and condition(s) of your probation that you want reduced or modified and provide an explanation. Please check all boxes above that apply.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

NAME: First Middle Last  
DANIEL BRETT SLATON

Other name(s) licensed under, if any:

HOME ADDRESS: Number & Street City State Zip

HOME TELEPHONE NUMBER WORK TELEPHONE NUMBER CELL NUMBER  
( ) N/A

E-mail address: CA License or Registration Number  
15324

Are you licensed by any other state(s) or country(ies) (please include license number(s), issue date(s), and status of license(s)):  
N/A

ATTORNEY INFORMATION (If Applicable)

Will you be represented by an attorney?  No  Yes (If "Yes," please provide the following information)

NAME: N/A

ADDRESS: N/A

PHONE: N/A

DISCIPLINARY INFORMATION

Provide a brief explanation in your "Narrative Statement" as to the cause for the disciplinary action (e.g., negligence or incompetence, self use of drugs or alcohol, extreme departures from sanitary conditions, conviction of a crime, etc.)

Have you ever had your license revoked, suspended, voluntarily surrendered, denied, or placed on probation in any other state or country?  No  Yes

(If Yes, give a brief cause for administrative action or license denial in your "Narrative Statement" section, including dates and discipline ordered (e.g., 5 years probation.)

**VETERINARIAN/REGISTERED TECHNICIAN BACKGROUND**

Total number of years in veterinary practice: 17

**CONTINUING EDUCATION** (List continuing education completed since the date of the disciplinary action)

WESTERN STATES VETERINARY CONFERENCE  
CVMA JOURNAL  
AVMA JOURNAL

**CURRENT OCCUPATION OTHER THAN VETERINARIAN OR REGISTERED VET TECHNICIAN**

(Answer only if currently not practicing as a Veterinarian or Registered Vet Technician)

List employer, address, e-mail address, phone number, job title, and duties:

N/A

**EMPLOYMENT HISTORY** (list for the past 5 years only)

Provide the employer's name, address, phone number, job title and dates of employment:

Sherman Oaks Veterinary Group

Associate Veterinarian - 12/2017 - Current

Valencia Veterinary Center

**REHABILITATION**

Assoc Vet, 1/2016 - 11/2017

Describe any rehabilitative or corrective measures you have taken since your license/registration was disciplined. List dates, nature of programs or courses, and current status. You may include any community service or volunteer work.

Completed 3 1/2 years of Maximus Diversion.  
Continue AA meetings.



**CURRENT COMPLIANCE**

Since the effective date of your last Veterinary Medical Board disciplinary action have you:

- 1. Been placed on criminal probation or parole?  Yes  No
- 2. Been charged in any pending criminal action by any state, local or federal agency or court?  Yes  No
- 3. Been convicted of any criminal offense? (A conviction includes a no contest plea; disregard traffic offenses with a \$100 fine or less)  Yes  No
- 4. Been charged or disciplined by any other veterinary board?  Yes  No
- 5. Surrendered your license to any other veterinary board?  Yes  No
- 6. Had your license manager's premise permit disciplined?  Yes  No
- 7. Had any civil malpractice claims filed against you of \$10,000 or more?  Yes  No
- 8. Become addicted to the use of narcotics or controlled substances?  Yes  No
- 9. Become addicted to or received treatment for the use of alcohol?  Yes  No
- 10. Been hospitalized for alcohol or drug problems or for mental illness?  Yes  No

NOTE: If your answer is "Yes" to any of the above questions, please explain in the "Narrative Statement."

**COST RECOVERY**

Was cost recovery ordered?  Yes  No If yes, what is the remaining balance? 0.00  
When is payment anticipated? \_\_\_\_\_

**DECLARATION**

Executed on 2020, at THOUSAND OAKS, CA  
(City) (State)

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct and that all statements and documents attached in support of this petition are true and correct.

DANIEL SLATON  
Petitioner (print name)

[Signature]  
Signature

The information in this document is being requested by the Veterinary Medical Board (Board) pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4887. In carrying out its licensing or disciplinary responsibilities, the Board requires this information to make a determination on your petition for reinstatement or modification of penalty. You have a right to access the Board's records containing your personal information as defined in Civil Code section 1798.3. The Custodian of Records is the Executive Officer at the address shown on the first page.

# EXHIBIT 2



BUSINESS, CONSUMER SERVICES AND HOUSING AGENCY • GAVIN NEWSOM, GOVERNOR  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS • VETERINARY MEDICAL BOARD  
1747 North Market Blvd., Suite 230, Sacramento, CA 95834-2987  
P (916) 515-5520 | Toll-Free (866) 229-6849 | www.vmb.ca.gov



December 3, 2020

Daniel Slaton, DVM  
1119 Waverly Heights Dr  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360-5054

**RE: HEARING NOTICE  
OAH Case No. TBD  
Petition for Termination/Modification of Probation– Daniel Slaton, DVM**

Dear Dr. Slaton:

You are hereby notified that a hearing will be held before the Veterinary Medical Board, Department of Consumer Affairs:

**NOTE: Pursuant to Governor Gavin Newsom’s Executive Order N-29-20, issued on March 17, 2020, this hearing will be held by videoconference with no physical public locations. Instructions on how to participate are attached and can also be found on our website.**

**Date: Friday, January 29, 2021  
Time: 1:00 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)**

**Event address: <https://dca-meetings.webex.com/dca-meetings/onstage/q.php?MTID=eb1ac99538938bc3a1ad3304a3dea0ba7>**

**Event number: 146 276 5582  
Event password: VMB129**

The hearing will be conducted before the Veterinary Medical Board, Department of Consumer Affairs and an administrative law judge of the Office of Administrative Hearings, who will preside over the Petition for Termination of Probation matter.

If you object to the petition being heard by videoconference, you must notify the presiding officer within ten (10) days after this notice is served on you. Failure to notify the presiding officer within ten (10) days will deprive you of a change in the place of hearing.

You may be present at the hearing. You have the right to be represented by an attorney at your own expense. You are not entitled to the appointment of an attorney to represent you at public expense. You are entitled to represent yourself without legal counsel. You may present any relevant evidence and will be given full opportunity to cross-examine all witnesses testifying against you. You are entitled to the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of books, documents, or other things by applying to:

**Office of Administrative Hearings  
Attn: General Jurisdiction  
2349 Gateway Oaks, Suite 200  
Sacramento CA 95833**

**INTREPRETER:** Pursuant to section 11435.20 of the Government Code, the hearing shall be conducted in English language. If a party or party's witness does not proficiently speak or understand the English language and before commencement of the hearing requests language assistance, an agency subject to the language assistance requirement in section 11435.15 of the Government Code shall provide a certified interpreter or an interpreter approved by the administrative law judge conducting the proceedings. The cost of providing the interpreter shall be paid by the agency having jurisdiction over the matter if the administrative law judge or hearing officer so directs, otherwise by the party for whom the interpreter is provided. If you or a witness requires the assistance of an interpreter, ample advance notice of this fact should be given to the Office of Administrative Hearings so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

**CONTINUANCES:** Under section 11524 of the Government Code, the agency may grant a continuance, but when an administrative law judge of the Office of Administrative Hearings has been assigned to the hearing, no continuance may be granted except by him or her or by the presiding judge for good cause. When seeking a continuance, a party shall apply for the continuance within 10 working days following the time the party discovered or reasonably should have discovered the event or occurrence which establishes good cause for the continuance. A continuance may be granted for good cause after the 10 working days have lapsed only if the party seeking the continuance is not responsible for and has made a good faith effort to prevent the condition or even establishing the good cause.

Please visit the Board's website at [www.vmb.ca.gov](http://www.vmb.ca.gov) to get a copy of the agenda or feel free to contact me at (916) 515-5244 or (916)-318-6571.

Sincerely,

*Virginia Gerard*

Virginia Gerard  
Probation Monitor

cc: Karen Denvir, Supervising Deputy Attorney General  
Office of Administrative Hearings



**DECLARATION OF SERVICE BY CERTIFIED MAIL**

**RE: Daniel Slaton, DVM**

**LICENSE NO: VET 15324**

I, the undersigned declare that I am over 18 years of age; my business address is 1747 N. Market Boulevard, Suite 230, Sacramento, CA 95834. I served a true copy of the attached Notice of Hearing by Certified Mail on the following, by placing same in an envelope addressed as follows:

**NAME AND ADDRESS**

**CERTIFIED NUMBER:**

Daniel Slaton, DVM  
1119 Waverly Heights Dr  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360-5054

7016 1370 0001 2621 7712

Daniel Slaton, DVM  
1119 Waverly Heights Dr  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360-5054

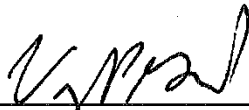
First Class Mail

Said envelope was then, December 3, 2020, sealed and deposited in the United States Mail at 1747 N. Market Boulevard, Suite 230, Sacramento, CA 95834, the county in which I am employed, as certified mail with postage thereon fully prepaid, return receipt requested.

Executed on December 3, 2020, at Sacramento, California.

I DECLARE UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA THAT THE FOREGOING IS TRUE AND CORRECT.

**DECLARANT:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Virginia Gerard**  
Enforcement Analyst  
Veterinary Medical Board

# EXHIBIT 3





### CERTIFICATION OF LICENSE HISTORY

This is to certify that I, Robert Stephanopoulos, Enforcement Manager of the Veterinary Medical Board (Board), Department of Consumer Affairs, State of California, share the responsibility of maintaining control and custody of the official records of the Board. I made or caused to be made a diligent search of the files and records concerning the license history of Daniel Slaton. I have determined that the official records prepared by Board employees, acting within the scope of their duties, show the dates and time periods listed herein for the issuance, expiration, periods of invalidity, and renewals of the license, as well as citations issued and periods of formal Board discipline:

**VET No. 15324:**

Daniel Slaton, DVM  
1119 Waverly Heights Dr.  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360-5054

First Issued: January 28, 2004  
Expiration: April 30, 2022  
Status: Current  
Secondary Status: Probation

Discipline:

On September 15, 2018, a Decision and Order became effective adopting the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order in the matter of the First Amended Accusation Against Dr. Slaton. The initial Accusation was filed September 8, 2017, case #1002459449. The Order placed Dr. Slaton on probation for five years with terms and conditions.

Citations:

On March 14, 2017, citation 2672-C was issued in case # NV 2015 703, Ordering Dr. Slaton to pay a fine in the amount of \$1000.

On August 5, 2016, citation 2583-C was issued in case # NV 2012 258, Ordering Dr. Slaton to pay a fine in the amount of \$500.

On June 15, 2016, citation 2584-C was issued, in case #NV 2012 318, Ordering Dr. Slaton to pay a fine in the amount of \$1000.

Given under my hand at Sacramento, California, this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of December 2020.

Robert Stephanopoulos, Enforcement Manager

# EXHIBIT 4

RECEIVED

SEP 17 2020

VMB / RVTC

Dr. Daniel Slaton



Veterinary License No. VET 15324

August 20, 2020

Veterinary Medical Board  
Attention: Formal Discipline Unit  
1747 N. Market Blvd., Suite 230  
Sacramento, CA 95834-2978

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing with regards to my probation, case No. 1002459449, which was issued September 15, 2018. I would like to petition for early release of probation. I have done everything that has been asked of me. First and foremost I have stayed sober for 5 1/2 years, never once failing a drug test. I have completed the board appointed diversion program (MAXIMUS), which I voluntarily entered prior to my probation in May 2015. I have completed and passed the medical and psychological evaluations, as well as veterinary ethics training. I continue to practice high quality veterinary medicine as an associate position at a fast paced, well respected veterinary practice in Sherman Oaks, CA. I do believe I can maintain my sobriety and good standing with the board long after my probation has ended. Now I would like to like to explain what got me into probation, and why I believe I deserve to be released from probation.

It started with a numbing sensation in my arms and I felt very weak. I was admitted into the hospital and after every test under the sun, I was diagnosed with post viral neuropathy. I had the flu the week before, and they said it can cause a Guillain Barre like syndrome. It was scary but did resolve on its own after 5 days. During the the diagnostics they did a spinal tap that went horribly wrong, and I had spinal fluid leaking around my spinal cord. It caused uncontrollable headaches, to the point that I was vomiting anytime I would lift my head. That's when they started me on high doses of hydromorphone. This helped with the headaches tremendously, but they had to continue to inject me every 4-6 hours. They finally performed a blood patch, which stopped the leaking spinal fluid, and resolved the headaches. That was after 3 days of being on very high doses of hydromorphone. When I left the hospital I felt great, but I could feel the disease of addiction kick in, all I could think about was getting more hydromorphone. So I went from one disease to another, which was much worse and chronic.

When I got home from the hospital I started going through withdrawals for the first time. I started panicking, and looked through my house call kit and found a bottle of hydromorphone. That's when I started injecting myself. I felt great, and was ready to get back to work. That went on for a couple months before I realized what had happened, and that I was an addict. I finally opened up to my wife and family about my disease, and admitted to what I was doing. No one had a clue what was going on, and couldn't believe it. My parents were so shocked, yet they were supportive. We decided to go to an inpatient rehab. My therapist at the time recommended a fancy place in Malibu, and sold me on it because it wasn't a 12 step facility. Luckily I had grown my business and had a partner at the time, so I was able to take "personal time" for 30 days to go to rehab.

The rehab I went to was great as far as the amenities. I had my own room in a Malibu mansion, with gourmet meals, personal therapist, acupuncture, and tai chi. It was like a vacation. Grant it the first week was miserable because of the withdrawals, but after I got through that I started getting stronger physically and mentally. It was a very difficult time, because I never thought in my wildest dreams that I would find myself in rehab. It was very humbling, and I felt like a failure to myself and my family. It was difficult to pick myself up from that feeling emotionally.

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Despite 30 days of inpatient care with intense therapy I still felt something missing. This rehab promised a cure, and that's why they didn't believe in the 12 step program. At the time I loved that idea, but looking back I wish I had gone to a rehab that had that structure. I got out of rehab and still had that urge, and the disease was still there. No cure was evident. So I talked to my therapist and made a decision to start Seboxone. We decided this because of my high risk job, and being around my drug of choice. Seboxone was great and kept me from using for a long time, but the disease was still there. The Seboxone was just a bandaid.

During that time on Seboxone my partner and I sold our practice to VCA, in which I divulged my disease. They were understanding, and the sale went through. After selling to VCA I became very unhappy. I sold my practice that I built from nothing to a corporation. I sold out for money and it ate at me. I was so discontent despite having a beautiful family, and a great job, but I just couldn't shake the disease.

February 21, 2015 was a Saturday night, and was forced to work the overnight shift because we were short staffed. I had already worked 6 full days that week, but felt obligated to take the night shift since I was still an owner of the practice. Westlake Village Animal Hospital was my baby, and I put a lot of hours to build it up to a successful practice. It was a slow night and my mind started to wander. I was 2 years "sober" but on Seboxone. As an addict boredom is the absolute worst place you can be. I tried to think of something else, but all I could think about was my drug of choice, hydromorphone. I knew we had it locked up, and I knew that if I took it I couldn't feel the affects because of the Seboxone, and I also knew there was a video camera watching. For some reason none of that stopped me, and I did what I now feel is unthinkable, I broke in and stole a bottle

of my drug of choice. I was forced to resign from my position at my practice and sell my remaining ownership. I was devastated. That practice was my "baby." This was my bottom, and I knew it. I had to do something about it this time, and stop the downward spiral. I even contemplated giving up my career to stay away from my drug of choice. In the end I decided against it because I loved being a veterinarian. It is what I was meant to do with my life.

So I decided to get help, and this time I entered Maximus Diversion Program and went to a proper 12 step rehab. I went to Promises, which had a professionals program for doctors, lawyers, veterinarians, etc. Again I couldn't believe I was at another rehab, but this time in my mind I was ready. I missed my wife and my kids, and my career, and I was spiritually and emotionally broken. But instead of giving up, I decided to put everything into the program for myself, my family, and my career. It was a very difficult 45 days, but I was determined to beat the disease.

After getting out of inpatient I started with the Maximus program. I had to check in daily, randomly drug test 4 times a month, attend health support group meetings twice weekly, see my therapist weekly, attend a 12 step meeting every day for 90 days followed by 5/week, attend an outpatient program for 3 months, and after that attend a year of a weekly relapse prevention group. I also met with the Maximus DEC every quarter to be evaluated with my progress. All of that wasn't even the worst of it. I wasn't allowed to work for about 8 months, followed by only part time work and restricted hours. Once I was allowed to work I had to abide with the non-compete that I signed with VCA, so I had to work at least 20 miles away from my home. It made everything that much harder. I was very resistant at first, but realized I had no choice if I wanted to stay alive and save my career. It was a very difficult program, but exactly what I needed to beat the disease of addiction.

I haven't touched a drug or alcohol since that horrible night in February 2015. I haven't failed a single drug test, and I have done everything that has been asked of me. I earned my way through Maximus. I still check in daily, and get randomly drug tested. Even though I am not required to attend AA meetings, I continue to attend 1-2 per week, and see my therapist monthly.

Despite this disease costing me hundreds of thousands of dollars and more strife than I could ever imagine, I am happier and more content than I have ever been. Looking back at my situation I was very unhappy, despite having a great job and amazing family. I didn't appreciate what I had. That night I do believe, subconsciously I made a cry for help. I wanted to get caught to get out of my situation, and finally put an end to my addiction. It was the worst and best decision of my life. I am not proud of that decision, I put my entire life at risk, literally. I almost lost my life, family, and career, but I also grew as a veterinarian, husband, and father. I am a better person today than I was before that night.

My goals professionally have never wavered, I want to open my own practice again. I have waited a long time, and have jumped through many hurdles to be able to open a practice again. I believe I am ready and deserving of that opportunity. I believe I can open my own practice, and practice high quality medicine while maintaining my sobriety.

I have always been a family man, that's how I was raised. But now I prioritize my wife and kids, and instead of making sacrifices with them for work, I sacrifice work to be with them. I am practical and know I have to work to make a living and support my family, but I also understand that I only get one chance to be there for my kids, and watch them grow as individuals. I honestly don't want to miss anything.

Emotionally I am so much more stable and even keeled. I was always a positive person, but after going through this ordeal I can see the positive with every situation. I have tried to pass this on to my family, especially my wife, who is more of a "glass half empty" kind of person. I really do feel it is a more peaceful and calming way of looking at life. I don't experience extreme highs and lows like before.

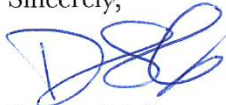
My main goal is to continue and maintain a sober lifestyle. Initially I had doubts about wanting to stay sober, and felt like it wouldn't be for me. After being sober for 5 1/2 years I have no doubt staying sober is absolutely for me. It is one day at a time, but each day I am stronger with my sobriety, and more confident that I can stay sober.

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That awful night in February 2015 has ended up being a blessing in disguise. Although I know I am not currently at my final destination with my career, I have learned to appreciate just being able to work in the profession I love, regardless of the situation. I know I will continue to grow emotionally and spiritually, and be the best veterinarian, husband and father I can be.

I hope this helps with your decision to consider my petition for early release. I do strongly believe I can continue to make a positive contribution to the veterinary profession and my community. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Dr. Daniel Slaton



Brian Norman, DVM  
Dog and Cat Hospital Calabasas



August 20, 2020

Veterinary Medical Board  
Formal Discipline Unit  
1747 N. Market Blvd. Suite 230  
Sacramento, CA 95834-2978

Veterinary Medical Board,

I am writing this letter in support of Dr. Dan Slaton. I have interacted with him both personally and professionally. Since the board invoked disciplinary action, Dr. Slaton has followed all of the stipulations and has changed his life. He is a family man that loves his wife and kids. He is an avid tri-athlete that has stayed clean and sober with no signs of falter.

Professionally, I have consulted on his cases and interacted with him at Sherman Oaks Veterinary Group on a weekly basis. His cases are always worked up appropriately. His charts and history are legible and easy to follow. If questioned about the case, he always has a good understanding of the disease process and the next step. In many cases, I have also interacted with his clients and they have always praised his bedside manner and attention to detail. It is obvious to myself and his clients that he takes pride in his work. He follows up on patients and makes sure his owners understand their pets disease process even if he has to stay late. He is friendly and professional with staff.

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I have worked as in veterinary internist in multiple specialty centers and general practices from Santa Barbara to Orange County over the past 20 years and can unequivocally state that Dr. Slaton's veterinary medical treatment, diagnosis and ethics are outstanding.

I believe Dr. Slaton has fulfilled all the requirements of his sanction and that he has shown that he can succeed and be an asset to the veterinary community.

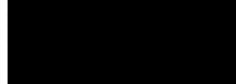
I fully support the early release of Dr. Slaton's probation and would be happy to talk to anyone that has questions.

" I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of California that the foregoing is true and correct."

Brian Norman, DVM  
Diplomate ACVIM ( Small Animal Internal Medicine)

California Veterinary License # 13540

Dog and Cat Hospital Calabasas



Work   
Cell

# Sherman Oaks Veterinary Group

www.shermanoaksveterinarygroup.com

September 1, 2020

Veterinary Medical Board

Formal Discipline Unit

1747 N. Market Blvd

Suite 230

Sacramento, Ca 95834-2978

To Whom this May Concern,

*Dr. Daniel Slaton has worked with me for almost 3 years now. In this time, I have witnessed a true professional, caring person, and talented Veterinarian. Dan has always been a hard working asset to our practice. He is a talented surgeon, and all of his medical cases are always well thought out , and written up correctly.*

*Our Clients have felt confident in his decisions for their pets. He can work quickly but efficiently.*

*He has a knack with people and is well liked by our clients as well as our team members.*

*Dan is a team player.*

*I have only ever seen Dan sober, with his life style, his love of family, his exercise, and his passion for his work. I can't image him ever faltering.*

*I feel he is a good candidate for early release of probation.*

*" I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state od California that the foregoing is true and correct"*

Sincerely,



Weston Richter, DVM

Owner of Sherman Oaks Veterinary Group

**Thank you for choosing the Sherman Oaks Veterinary Group** as your animal's hospital. We are dedicated to providing your pet with the best possible care. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call us at [REDACTED]. **We are open 7 days a week:**



Monday thru Wednesday	7:30 am to 7:00 pm
Thursday	7:30 am to 8:00 pm
Friday	7:30 am to 6:00 pm
Saturday	8:00 am to 4:00 pm
Sunday	9:00 am to 4:00 pm

# Sherman Oaks Veterinary Group

www.shermanoaksveterinarygroup.com

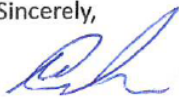
Veterinary Medical Board  
Formal Discipline Unit  
1747 N. Market Blvd suite 230  
Sacramento, Ca 95834-2978

To Whom it may concern,

I began working with Dr. Slaton June 6, 2019 at the Sherman Oak Veterinary Clinic. I was surprised that one of my first conversations with him he disclosed his disciplinary penalty that was imposed by the board. He discussed that he made a mistake, but that was a thing of the past. He is dedicated to the work environment by being the first one to the clinic every morning and the last one out (besides when he had to leave early for drug testing). I know him now as a goal oriented individual and family man with strong ethics and beliefs. I have also learned that he has now taken up a lot of outdoor activities that include but are not limited to triathlons. I consider him an asset to the veterinary profession as both a clinician and as a mentor to other veterinarians and clients. Please feel free to contact me with any addition questions or concerns.

"I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of California that the foregoing is true and correct."

Sincerely,



Mathew D. Cohen DVM MS CVA

Thank you for choosing the Sherman Oaks Veterinary Group as your animal's hospital. We are dedicated to providing your pet with the best possible care. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call us at [REDACTED] We are open 7 days a week:



Monday thru Wednesday 7:30 am to 7:00 pm  
Thursday 7:30 am to 8:00 pm  
Friday 7:30 am to 6:00 pm  
Saturday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm  
Sunday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

# Sherman Oaks Veterinary Group

• [www.shermanoaksveterinarygroup.com](http://www.shermanoaksveterinarygroup.com)

Veterinary Medical Board

1747 N Market Blvd #230

Sacramento, CA 95834

Veterinary Medical Board,

I am writing this letter in support of Dr. Daniel Slaton. I have worked alongside Dr. Slaton for almost three years now. Dan is extremely passionate and holds himself to the highest standards. He practices quality medicine, is always polite to clients, and had been a great addition to our team. Dan is punctual, he is always the first person to arrive at the hospital in the morning, and always has his medical records meticulously written. Since I have known Dr. Slaton he is sober, and takes pride in his physical fitness and mental health. I personally feel Dan has a strong sense of self and is proud of the way he practices medicine and maintains his sobriety.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of California that the foregoing is true and correct.



Matthew Lockhart DVM

Sherman Oaks Veterinary Group

Thank you for choosing the Sherman Oaks Veterinary Group as your animal's hospital. We are dedicated to providing your pet with the best possible care. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call us at [REDACTED]. We are open 7 days a week:



Monday thru Wednesday	7:30 am to 7:00 pm
Thursday	7:30 am to 8:00 pm
Friday	7:30 am to 6:00 pm
Saturday	8:00 am to 4:00 pm
Sunday	9:00 am to 4:00 pm



# Sherman Oaks Veterinary Group

• [www.shermanoaksveterinarygroup.com](http://www.shermanoaksveterinarygroup.com)

August 24, 2020

Veterinary Medical Board

Formal Discipline Unit

1747 N. Market Blvd Suite 230

Sacramento, Ca 95834-2978

To Whom It: May Concern,

My name is Dr. Jonathan Mendoza. I am an employee of Sherman Oaks Veterinary Group. I have worked alongside Dr. Dan Slaton for well over a year. I can attest to the fact that Dr. Slaton has displayed utmost professionalism at his workspace. He takes pride in his sobriety by always being punctual to work, interacting with his clients and colleagues with enthusiasm and being diligent in his veterinary duties. He makes time to contribute help to his fellow coworkers, and he continues to show characteristics that a DVM should strive to be. These are qualities he possesses that makes him an ideal person to work with.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.



Dr. Jonathan Mendoza, DVM

**Thank you for choosing the Sherman Oaks Veterinary Group as your animal's hospital. We are dedicated to providing your pet with the best possible care. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call us at [REDACTED]. We are open 7 days a week:**



Monday thru Wednesday	7:30 am to 7:00 pm
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Saturday	8:00 am to 4:00 pm
Sunday	9:00 am to 4:00 pm

# EXHIBIT 5





## PETITION FOR MODIFICATION OF PENALTY PROBATION COMPLIANCE STATUS REPORT

**PETITIONER:** Daniel Slaton, DVM, VET 15324

**TYPE OF PETITION:** Termination of Probation

**CASE NUMBER:** 1002459449

**CONDITIONS AND STATUS:**

- Obey All Laws** : In compliance.
- Quarterly Reports & Interviews** : In compliance.
- Cooperation w/ Probation Surveillance** : In compliance. \$2600.00 due by time of this report; \$6000 received. Paid in full 7/7/20.
- No Preceptorships** : In compliance.
- Notice to Employers** : In compliance. Received for *Sherman Oaks Veterinary Group* dated 9/27/18.
- Notice to Employees** : In compliance. Received from *Sherman Oaks Veterinary Group* signed by M.L. on 9/27/18; A.R. on 9/25/18; and W.R. on 9/26/18.
- Cost Recovery** : In compliance. Amount in Decision is \$15,794.00. Paid in full on 10/2/20.
- Limitations on Practice** : In compliance.
- Supervised Practice** : In compliance. Dr. Weston Richter approved 10/2/18.
- Owners and Officers** : In compliance.
- No Management or Admin** : In compliance. Not MGL of any premises.
- Psychological Evaluation** : In compliance. Received from Maximus 11/9/18.
- Medical Evaluation** : In compliance. Received from Maximus 11/9/18.
- Rehabilitation Program** : In compliance. Successful completion of Maximus 2/8/19.
- Submit to Drug Testing** : In compliance. On 3/21/20 and 3/23/20, Dr. Slaton did not provide a sample when selected; however, on 3/20/20, he provided medical substantiation as to why he was unable.

On 5/13/20, Dr. Slaton did not provide a sample when selected to. FirstSource Solutions(FSS), our vendor for our biological fluid testing program, verified that collection sites closed early due to Covid, and the 24 hour facility could not be confirmed to be open by telephone. Dr. Slaton provide the sample on 5/14/20.

On 6/2/20, Dr. Slaton was selected for testing and was given until 6/4/20 (an extended window) to provide his sample due to early closures at his usual sites and difficulty finding a male observer at the after hours site. Dr. Slaton provided sample on 6/3/20.

On 6/17/20, Dr. Slaton was selected to provide a sample. He emailed me that he was busy at work and after hours facilities were problematic. He provided the sample on 6/18/20. On 6/29/20, I emailed Dr. Slaton and advised him "being busy at work is not an acceptable reason for missing a collection." I advised him to contact FSS to accommodate him. He replied that he has been in contact with FSS and is having trouble finding male observers. He cc'ed the FSS representative who did not respond to refute this.

On 8/1/20, Dr. Slaton did not provide a sample until 8/3/20. I was cc'ed on an email chain between my FSS representative and Dr. Slaton indicating the facility that should have been open was not open on the weekend at his location.

**Abstain from Controlled Substances** : In compliance. 55 collections, one positive which was consistent with prescription for ailment in April 2020.

**Abstinence from Alcohol Use** : In compliance. No Alcohol positives.

**Ethics Training** : Not in compliance. No certificate received for Ethics course.

This status report is based on all available information in the file.

Submitted by: Virginia Gerard Date 12/29/20  
Probation Monitor

# EXHIBIT 6

**BEFORE THE  
VETERINARY MEDICAL BOARD  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

In the Matter of the First Amended Accusation  
Against:

**DANIEL SLATON  
1119 Waverly Heights Dr.  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360**

**Veterinarian License No. VET 15324**

Respondent.

Case No. 1002459449

OAH No. 2017070642

**DECISION AND ORDER**

The attached Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby adopted by the  
Veterinary Medical Board, Department of Consumer Affairs, as its Decision in this matter.

This Decision shall become effective on September 15, 2018.

It is so ORDERED August 16, 2018.

*Richard Sullivan, DVM*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
FOR THE VETERINARY MEDICAL BOARD  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

1 XAVIER BECERRA  
Attorney General of California  
2 ARMANDO ZAMBRANO  
Supervising Deputy Attorney General  
3 BRIAN LEE  
Deputy Attorney General  
4 State Bar No. 253592  
300 So. Spring Street, Suite 1702  
5 Los Angeles, CA 90013  
Telephone: (213) 269-6621  
6 Facsimile: (213) 897-2804  
*Attorneys for Complainant*  
7

8 **BEFORE THE**  
**VETERINARY MEDICAL BOARD**  
9 **DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS**  
**STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

10 In the Matter of the First Amended Accusation  
11 Against:  
12 **DANIEL SLATON**  
13 **1119 Waverly Heights Dr.**  
**Thousand Oaks, CA 91360**  
14 **Veterinarian License No. VET 15324**  
15 Respondent.

Case No. 1002459449  
OAH No. 2017070642

**STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND  
DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

16  
17  
18  
19 IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and between the parties to the above-  
20 entitled proceedings that the following matters are true:

21 **PARTIES**

22 1. Ethan Mathes (Complainant) is the Interim Executive Officer of the  
23 Veterinary Medical Board (Board). On or about March 14, 2017, Annmarie Del Mugnaio, former  
24 Executive Officer of the Veterinary Medical Board, brought the original Accusation; and on or  
25 about September 11, 2017 brought the First Amended Accusation, solely in her official capacity,  
26 against Respondent Daniel Slaton (Respondent). Both Annemarie Del Mugnaio and Ethan  
27 Mathes are represented in this matter by Xavier Becerra, Attorney General of the State of  
28 California, by Brian Lee, Deputy Attorney General.





1 **CULPABILITY**

2 9. Respondent admits the truth of each and every charge and allegation in First  
3 Amended Accusation No. 1002459449.

4 10. Respondent agrees that his Veterinarian License is subject to discipline and he agrees  
5 to be bound by the Board's probationary terms as set forth in the Disciplinary Order below.

6 **CONTINGENCY**

7 11. This stipulation shall be subject to approval by the Veterinary Medical Board.  
8 Respondent understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the Veterinary  
9 Medical Board may communicate directly with the Board regarding this stipulation and  
10 settlement, without notice to or participation by Respondent or his counsel. By signing the  
11 stipulation, Respondent understands and agrees that he may not withdraw his agreement or seek  
12 to rescind the stipulation prior to the time the Board considers and acts upon it. If the Board fails  
13 to adopt this stipulation as its Decision and Order, the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary  
14 Order shall be of no force or effect, except for this paragraph, it shall be inadmissible in any legal  
15 action between the parties, and the Board shall not be disqualified from further action by having  
16 considered this matter.

17 12. The parties understand and agree that Portable Document Format (PDF) and facsimile  
18 copies of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, including PDF and facsimile  
19 signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals.

20 13. This Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is intended by the parties to be an  
21 integrated writing representing the complete, final, and exclusive embodiment of their agreement.  
22 It supersedes any and all prior or contemporaneous agreements, understandings, discussions,  
23 negotiations, and commitments (written or oral). This Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary  
24 Order may not be altered, amended, modified, supplemented, or otherwise changed except by a  
25 writing executed by an authorized representative of each of the parties.

26 14. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that  
27 the Board may, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the following  
28 Disciplinary Order:

1 **DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

2 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Veterinarian License No. VET 15324 issued to  
3 Respondent Daniel Slaton is revoked. However, the revocation is stayed and Respondent is  
4 placed on probation for five (5) years on the following terms and conditions.

5 **1. Obey All Laws.**

6 Respondent shall obey all federal and state laws and regulations substantially related to the  
7 practice of veterinary medicine. Further, within thirty (30) days of any arrest or conviction.  
8 Respondent shall report to the Board and provide proof of compliance with the terms and  
9 conditions of the court order including, but not limited to, probation and restitution requirements.

10 **2. Quarterly Reports and Interviews**

11 Respondent shall report quarterly to the Board or its designee, under penalty of perjury, on  
12 forms provided by the Board, stating whether there has been compliance with all terms and  
13 conditions of probation. In addition, the Board at its discretion may request additional in-person  
14 reports of the probationary terms and conditions. If the final written quarterly report is not made  
15 as directed, the period of probation shall be extended until such time as the final report is received  
16 by the Board. Respondent shall make available all patient records, hospital records, books, logs,  
17 and other documents to the Board, upon request.

18 **3. Cooperation with Probation Surveillance**

19 Respondent shall comply with the Board's probation surveillance program. All costs for  
20 probation monitoring shall be borne by Respondent. Probation monitoring costs are set at a rate of  
21 \$100 per month for the duration of the probation. Respondent shall notify the Board of any  
22 change of name or address or address of record within thirty (30) days of the change. Respondent  
23 shall notify the Board immediately in writing if Respondent leaves California to reside or practice  
24 in another state. Respondent shall notify the Board immediately upon return to California.

25 **4. No Preceptorships or Supervision of Interns**

26 Respondent shall not supervise a registered intern and shall not perform any of the duties of  
27 a preceptor.

28 ///

1           **5. Notice to Employers**

2           Respondent shall notify all present and prospective employers of the decision in this case  
3 and the terms, conditions, and restrictions imposed on Respondent by the decision in this case.  
4           Within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this decision and within fifteen (15) days of  
5 Respondent undertaking new employment, Respondent shall cause his employer to report to the  
6 Board in writing, acknowledging the employer has read the First Amended Accusation and  
7 decision in this case and understands Respondent's terms and conditions of probation. Relief  
8 veterinarians shall notify employers immediately.

9           **6. Notice to Employees**

10          Respondent shall, upon or before the effective date of this decision, post or circulate a  
11 notice which actually recites the offenses for which Respondent has been disciplined and the  
12 terms and conditions of probation, to all registered veterinary employees, and to any preceptor,  
13 intern or extern involved in his veterinary practice. Within fifteen (15) days of the effective date  
14 of this decision, Respondent shall cause his employees to report to the Board in writing,  
15 acknowledging the employees have read the First Amended Accusation and decision in the case  
16 and understand Respondent's terms and conditions of probation.

17          **7. Owners and Officers (Corporations or Partnerships): Knowledge of the Law**

18          Respondent shall provide, within thirty (30) days after the effective date of the decision,  
19 signed and dated statements from the owners, officers, or any owner or holder of ten percent  
20 (10%) or more of the interest in Respondent or Respondent's stock, stating said individuals have  
21 read and are familiar with federal and state laws and regulations governing the practice of  
22 veterinary medicine.

23          **8. Tolling of Probation**

24          If Respondent resides out of state upon or after effective date of the decision, he must  
25 comply with the following conditions only: obey all laws, quarterly reports and interviews, tolling  
26 of probation, continuing education and cost recovery. If Respondent returns to California, he or  
27 she must comply or be subject to all probationary conditions for the period of probation.

28          ///

1 Respondent, during probation, shall engage in the practice of veterinary medicine in  
2 California for a minimum of 24 hours per week or as determined by the Board. Should  
3 Respondent fail to engage in the practice of veterinary medicine in California as set forth above,  
4 the time outside of the practice shall not apply to reduction of the probationary terms.

5 **9. Violation of Probation**

6 If Respondent violates probation in any respect, the Board, after giving Respondent notice  
7 and the opportunity to be heard, may revoke probation and carry out the disciplinary order that  
8 was stayed. If an accusation or petition to revoke probation is filed against Respondent during  
9 probation, or if the Attorney General's office has been requested to prepare any disciplinary  
10 action against Respondent's license, the Board shall have continuing jurisdiction until the matter  
11 is final, and the period of probation shall be extended until the matter is final.

12 **10. Completion of Probation**

13 All costs for probation monitoring and/or mandatory premises inspections shall be borne by  
14 Respondent. Failure to pay all costs due shall result in an extension of probation until the matter  
15 is resolved and costs paid. Upon successful completion of probation and all payment of all fees  
16 due, Respondent's license will be fully restored.

17 **11. Cost Recovery**

18 Pursuant to Section 125.3 of the California Business and Professions Code, within one (1)  
19 year prior to the end of the probation term, Respondent shall pay to the Board its enforcement  
20 costs, including investigation and prosecution, in the amount of \$15,794.00 or the Respondent  
21 shall make payments according to a payment plan arranged and approved by the Probation  
22 Monitor or Board's designee on or after the first day of probation.

23 **12. Limitation on Practice/Inspections**

24 During probation, Respondent is prohibited from practicing veterinary medicine from a  
25 location or mobile veterinary practice which does not have a current premises permit issued by  
26 the Board.

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1           **13. Supervised Practice**

2           Respondent shall practice only under the supervision of a veterinarian approved by the  
3 Board. The supervision directed may be continuous supervision, substantial supervision, partial  
4 supervision, or supervision by daily review, as deemed necessary by the Board. All costs involved  
5 with practice supervision shall be borne by Respondent.

6           Each supervisor shall have been licensed in California for at least five (5) years and not  
7 have ever been subject to any disciplinary action by the Board. The supervisor shall be  
8 independent, with no prior business or personal relationship with Respondent and the supervisor  
9 shall not be in a familial relationship with or be an employee, partner, or associate of Respondent.

10          Within thirty (30) days of the effective date of the decision, Respondent shall have his  
11 supervisor submit a report to the Board in writing stating the supervisor has read the decision in  
12 case number 1002459449. Should Respondent change employment, Respondent shall have  
13 his/her new supervisor, within fifteen (15) days after employment commences, submit a report to  
14 the Board in writing stating the supervisor has read the decision in case number 1002459449.

15          Respondent's supervisor shall, on a basis to be determined by the Board, review and  
16 evaluate all or a designated portion of patient records of those patients for whom Respondent  
17 provides treatment or consultation during the period of supervised practice. The supervisor shall  
18 review these records to assess:

- 19           1) the medical necessity and appropriateness of Respondent's treatment;
- 20           2) Respondent's compliance with community standards of practice in the diagnosis and  
21 treatment of animal patients;
- 22           3) Respondent's maintenance of necessary and appropriate treatment;
- 23           4) Respondent's maintenance of necessary and appropriate records and chart entries; and
- 24           5) Respondent's compliance with existing statutes and regulations governing the practice of  
25 veterinary medicine.

26          Respondent's supervisor shall file monthly reports with the Board. These reports shall be in  
27 a form designated by the Board and shall include a narrative section where the supervisor  
28 provides his or her conclusions and opinions concerning the issues described above and the basis

1 for his or her conclusions and opinions. Additionally, the supervisor shall maintain and submit  
2 with his or her monthly reports a log designating the patient charts reviewed, the date(s) of  
3 service reviewed, and the date upon which the review occurred. If the supervisor terminates or is  
4 otherwise no longer available, Respondent shall not practice until a new supervisor has been  
5 approved by the Board.

6 If respondent is an employee rather a veterinary hospital owner, the supervisor shall  
7 additionally notify the Board of the dates and locations of all employment of respondent, during  
8 each month covered by his/her report.

9 **14. No Ownership**

10 Respondent shall not have any legal or beneficial interest in any business, firm, partnership,  
11 or corporation currently or hereinafter licensed or registered by the Board and shall not own any  
12 veterinary hospital.

13 **15. No Management or Administration**

14 Respondent shall not manage or be the administrator of any veterinary hospital.

15 **16. Psychological Evaluation**

16 On a periodic basis as may be required by the Board or its designee, Respondent shall  
17 undergo a psychiatric evaluation by a Board-approved psychotherapist (psychiatrist or  
18 psychologist), to determine Respondent's ability to practice veterinary medicine safely, who shall  
19 furnish a psychological report to the Board or its designee. All costs shall be borne by  
20 Respondent.

21 If the psychotherapist (psychiatrist or psychologist) recommends and the Board or its  
22 designee directs psychotherapeutic treatment, Respondent shall, within thirty (30) days of written  
23 notice of the need for psychotherapy, submit the name and qualification of one or more  
24 psychotherapists of Respondent's choice to the Board for its prior approval. Upon approval of the  
25 treating psychotherapist by the Board, Respondent shall undergo and continue psychotherapy  
26 until further notice from the Board. Respondent shall have the treating psychotherapist submit  
27 quarterly written reports to the Board. All costs shall be borne by Respondent.

28 ///

1           **17. Medical Evaluation**

2           On a periodic basis as may be required by the Board or its designee, Respondent shall  
3 undergo a medical evaluation by a Board appointed physician, to determine Respondent's ability  
4 to practice veterinary medicine safely, who shall furnish a medical report to the Board or its  
5 designee. If Respondent is required by the Board or its designee to undergo medical treatment,  
6 Respondent shall, within thirty (30) days of written notice from the Board, submit the name and  
7 qualifications of a physician of Respondent's choice to the Board for its prior approval. Upon  
8 approval of the treating physician by the Board, Respondent shall undergo and continue medical  
9 treatment until further notice from the Board. Respondent shall have the treating physician submit  
10 quarterly written reports to the Board. All costs shall be borne by Respondent.

11           **18. Rehabilitation Program – Alcohol or Drug**

12           Within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this decision, Respondent shall sign up with  
13 and complete all required paperwork and prerequisite actions for enrolling in the Board's  
14 designated alcohol and drug diversion program, MAXIMUS Inc., and begin treatment in this  
15 program, in which Respondent shall participate for the duration of the program until successful  
16 completion of the program by Respondent. In the quarterly written reports to the Board,  
17 Respondent shall provide documentary evidence of continuing satisfactory participation in this  
18 program. All costs shall be borne by Respondent.

19           **19. Submit to Drug Testing**

20           Respondent shall immediately submit to drug testing, at Respondent's cost, upon request by  
21 the Board or its designee. There will be no confidentiality in test results; positive test results will  
22 be immediately reported to the Board and to Respondent's current employer.

23           **20. Abstain from Controlled Substances**

24           Respondent shall completely abstain from the personal use or possession of controlled  
25 substances, as defined in the California Uniform Controlled Substances Act, and dangerous drugs  
26 as defined in Section 4022 of the Business and Professions Code, except when lawfully  
27 prescribed by a licensed practitioner for a bona fide illness. Respondent shall submit to random  
28 drug testing during the period of probation.

1           **21. Abstention from Alcohol Use**

2           Respondent shall abstain completely from the use of alcoholic beverages.

3           **22. Ethics Training**

4           Respondent shall submit to the Board for its prior approval, an ethics training course for a  
5           minimum of 10 hours during the first year of the probationary period. Upon successful  
6           completion of the course, Respondent shall provide proof to the Board. All costs shall be borne  
7           by Respondent.

8           **23. License Surrender While on Probation**

9           Following the effective date of this Decision, should Respondent cease to practice  
10          veterinary medicine due to retirement or health issues, or be otherwise unable to satisfy the terms  
11          and conditions of probation, Respondent may tender his license to practice veterinary medicine to  
12          the Board for surrender. The Board or its designee has the discretion to grant the request for  
13          surrender or to take any other action it deems appropriate and reasonable. Upon formal  
14          acceptance of the license surrender, Respondent will no longer be subject to the terms and  
15          conditions of probation. The surrender constitutes a record of discipline and shall become a part  
16          of the Respondent's license history with the Board. Respondent must relinquish his license to the  
17          Board within ten (10) days of receiving notification from the Board that the surrender has been  
18          accepted.

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ACCEPTANCE

I have carefully read the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order and have fully discussed it with my attorney, Carlo Spiga. I understand the stipulation and the effect it will have on my Veterinarian License. I enter into this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Veterinary Medical Board.

DATED: 6/11/2018



DANIEL SLATON  
*Respondent*

I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Daniel Slaton the terms and conditions and other matters contained in the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order. I approve its form and content.

DATED: 6/12/2018




CARLO SPIGA  
*Attorney for Respondent*

ENDORSEMENT

The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby respectfully submitted for consideration by the Veterinary Medical Board.

Dated: 6/13/18

Respectfully submitted,  
XAVIER BECERRA  
Attorney General of California  
ARMANDO ZAMBRANO  
Supervising Deputy Attorney General

  
BRIAN LEE  
Deputy Attorney General  
*Attorneys for Complainant*

1 XAVIER BECERRA  
Attorney General of California  
2 MARC D. GREENBAUM  
Supervising Deputy Attorney General  
3 ZACHARY T. FANSELOW  
Deputy Attorney General  
4 State Bar No. 274129  
300 So. Spring Street, Suite 1702  
5 Los Angeles, CA 90013  
Telephone: (213) 897-2562  
6 Facsimile: (213) 897-2804  
*Attorneys for Complainant*

7  
8 **BEFORE THE**  
**VETERINARY MEDICAL BOARD**  
9 **DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS**  
**STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

10 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:  
11  
12 **DANIEL SLATON**  
421 Whitegate Rd.  
13 Newbury Park, CA 91320  
14 **Veterinarian License No. VET 15324**  
15 Respondent.

Case No. 1002459449  
**FIRST AMENDED ACCUSATION**

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20 Complainant alleges:

21 **PARTIES**

- 22 1. Annemarie Del Mugnaio ("Complainant") brings this First Amended Accusation solely  
23 in her official capacity as the Executive Officer of the Veterinary Medical Board, Department of  
24 Consumer Affairs.  
25 2. On or about January 28, 2004, the Veterinary Medical Board issued Veterinarian  
26 License Number VET 15324 to Daniel Slaton ("Respondent"). The Veterinarian License was in  
27 full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on April 30,  
28 2018, unless renewed.

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**JURISDICTION**

3. This First Amended Accusation is brought before the Veterinary Medical Board, Department of Consumer Affairs ("Board"), under the authority of the following laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code unless otherwise indicated.

4. Section 118, subdivision (b), provides, in pertinent part, that the expiration of a license shall not deprive a board of jurisdiction to proceed with a disciplinary action during the period within which the license may be renewed, restored, reissued or reinstated. Under section 4843.5, the Board may renew an expired license at any time within five years after the expiration.

5. Section 4875 provides, in pertinent part, that the Board may revoke or suspend the license of any person to practice veterinary medicine, or any branch thereof, in this state for any causes provided in the Veterinary Medicine Practice Act (Bus. & Prof. Code, ' 4800, et seq.). In addition, the Board has the authority to assess a fine not in excess of \$5,000 against a licensee for any of the causes specified in section 4883 of that code. Such fine may be assessed in lieu of, or in addition to, a suspension or revocation.

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**STATUTORY PROVISIONS**

6. Section 4022 states

"Dangerous drug" or "dangerous device" means any drug or device unsafe for self-use in humans or animals, and includes the following:

"(a) Any drug that bears the legend: "Caution: federal law prohibits dispensing without prescription," "Rx only," or words of similar import.

"(b) Any device that bears the statement: "Caution: federal law restricts this device to sale by or on the order of a \_\_\_\_\_," "Rx only," or words of similar import, the blank to be filled in with the designation of the practitioner licensed to use or order use of the device.

"(c) Any other drug or device that by federal or state law can be lawfully dispensed only on prescription or furnished pursuant to Section 4006."

7. Section 4875.1 states, in pertinent part:

"(a) In order to ensure that its resources are maximized for the protection of the public, the board shall prioritize its investigative and prosecutorial resources to ensure that veterinarians and

1 registered veterinary technicians representing the greatest threat of harm are identified and  
2 disciplined expeditiously. Cases involving any of the following allegations shall be handled on a  
3 priority basis, as follows, with the highest priority being given to cases in paragraph (1):

4 ....

5 “(4) Practicing veterinary medicine while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

6 ....

7 “(6) Self-prescribing of any dangerous drug, as defined in Section 4022, or any controlled  
8 substance, as defined in Section 4021.”

9 8. Section 4883 states, in pertinent part:

10 “The board may deny, revoke, or suspend a license or assess a fine as provided in Section  
11 4875 for any of the following:

12 ....

13 “(c) Violation or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, any of the provisions of this  
14 chapter [the Veterinary Medicine Practice Act].

15 ....

16 “(g) Unprofessional conduct, that includes, but is not limited to, the following:

17 ....

18 “(2) (A) The use of or prescribing for or administering to himself or herself, any controlled  
19 substance.

20 “(B) The use of any of the dangerous drugs specified in Section 4022, or of alcoholic  
21 beverages to the extent, or in any manner as to be dangerous or injurious to a person licensed  
22 under this chapter [the Veterinary Medicine Practice Act], or to any other person or to the public,  
23 or to the extent that the use impairs the ability of the person so licensed to conduct with safety the  
24 practice authorized by the license.

25 ....

26 “(3) A violation of any federal statute, rule, or regulation or any of the statutes, rules, or  
27 regulations of this state regulating dangerous drugs or controlled substances.

28 ....



1 three minutes prying the locked controlled substance cabinet open using a tool similar to a pocket  
2 knife. Respondent then diverted three 40mg vials of Dilaudid and two 300mg vials of Morphine  
3 from the cabinet.

4 c. Later on February 14, 2015, Respondent re-entered the Westlake hospital manager's  
5 office and again forced the primary controlled substance cabinet open. Respondent then placed the  
6 vials of Dilaudid and Morphine back into the cabinet. Westlake staff later discovered that  
7 Respondent had removed the security caps from the vials and then unsuccessfully used an adhesive  
8 to attempt to reseal the vials. Westlake staff also later discovered several used syringes in a shared  
9 staff bathroom.

10 **SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

11 **(Possession of Controlled Substances)**

12 13. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section Health and Safety Code  
13 section 11350, in conjunction with section 4883, subdivision (g)(3), in that Respondent unlawfully  
14 possessed controlled substances without a prescription. The circumstances include that  
15 Respondent diverted the controlled substances Dilaudid and Morphine from Westlake, was caught  
16 on camera diverting the controlled substances, and admitted that he diverted the controlled  
17 substances. Complainant refers to, and by this reference incorporates, the allegations set forth in  
18 paragraphs 12, subparagraphs (a) through (c), inclusive, as though set forth fully.

19 **THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

20 **(Use of Controlled Substances)**

21 14. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 4883, subdivision (g)(2)(A),  
22 in that Respondent used controlled substances without a prescription. The circumstances include  
23 that Respondent diverted the controlled substances Dilaudid and Morphine from Westlake and  
24 admitted that he was addicted to and used the controlled substances he had diverted. Complainant  
25 refers to, and by this reference incorporates, the allegations set forth in paragraphs 12,  
26 subparagraphs (a) through (c), inclusive, as though set forth fully.

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DISCIPLINARY CONSIDERATIONS

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15. To determine the degree of discipline, if any, to be imposed on Respondent, Complainant alleges the following:

a. On or about June 15, 2016, the Board issued Respondent Citation No. 2584-C with a \$1,000.00 fine. Respondent complied with the citation and it is final. The citation alleged that, between September 15, 2011, and November 22, 2011, Respondent failed to document and include required information in an animal patient’s medical record, and during four re-check laser treatment appointments failed to re-evaluate knee stability in an animal patient experiencing lameness after patella surgery.

b. On or about August 4, 2016, the Board issued Respondent Citation No. 2583-C with a \$500.00 fine. Respondent complied with the citation and it is final. The citation alleged that, between 2011 and 2012, Respondent used an unregulated, experimental protocol with unproven effectiveness, to treat animal patients. The citation further alleged that Respondent sold injections of a biological product for administration to animals he never examined or diagnosed, and failed to keep proper medical records of animal patients he treated.

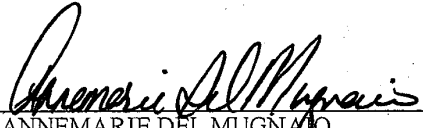
c. On or about March 14, 2017, the Board issued Respondent Citation No. 2672-C with a \$1,000.00 fine. Respondent complied with the citation and it is final. The citation alleged that, in January of 2015, Respondent was asked to perform a Femoral Head Ostectomy (“FHO”) on an animal patient. Respondent called the owner to discuss doing a bilateral FHO instead of two single FHO surgeries to save money. Bilateral FHO’s are hard on patients with two front legs. The animal patient here had an amputated foreleg. After the surgery, the animal patient was described as in extreme pain, biting the owner, unable to get up, and urinating and defecating all over himself. When questioned about performing the bilateral FHO on an animal patient with an amputated foreleg, Respondent stated that the owner was insistent on performing the bilateral procedure claiming that otherwise they would need to euthanize the patient. Performing a bilateral FHO at the owner’s request on a three legged patient is a departure from the standard of care and there was no documentation in the medical records of any mention of euthanasia, or that recovery from the procedure would be extremely painful and difficult.

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PRAYER

WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged, and that following the hearing, the Veterinary Medical Board issue a decision:

1. Revoking or suspending Veterinarian License Number VET 15324 issued to Daniel Slaton;
2. Assessing a fine against Daniel Slaton not in excess of \$5,000 for any of the causes specified in Business and Professions Code section 4883;
3. Ordering Daniel Slaton to pay the Veterinary Medical Board the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case, pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 125.3; and,
4. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

DATED: September 11, 2017   
ANNEMARIE DEL MUGNAIO  
Executive Officer  
Veterinary Medical Board  
Department of Consumer Affairs  
State of California  
*Complainant*

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