

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

**In the Matter of the Citation Against:**

**Ashley Ledford**

**Respondent**

**Citation No. 4602018000877**

**CITATION**

Complainant alleges:

**PARTIES**

1. Jessica Sieferman (“Complainant”) brings this Citation solely in her official capacity as the Executive Officer of the Veterinary Medical Board (“Board”), Department of Consumer Affairs, State of California.
2. The Board’s records fail to reveal that Ashley Ledford (“Respondent”) has been issued a veterinarian license.
3. The Board’s records fail to reveal that Ashley Ledford (“Respondent”) has been issued a veterinary technician registration.

**STATUTORY PROVISIONS**

4. Business and Professions Code (BPC) sections 125.9, 148, and 4875.2 and California Code of Regulations (CCR), title 16, section 2043 authorize the Executive Officer of the Board to issue citations containing orders of abatement and/or administrative fines against a licensee of the Board, or to an unlicensed person, who has committed any acts or omissions in violation of the Veterinary Medicine Practice Act (Act).

5. BPC section 149 authorizes the Board to issue citations to individuals who are advertising with respect to the offering or performance of services without being properly licensed by the Board.

6. BPC section 4825, provides:

It is unlawful for any person to practice veterinary medicine or any branch thereof in this State unless at the time of so doing, such person holds a valid, unexpired, and unrevoked license as provided in the Act.

7. BPC section 4826, provides, in pertinent part:

A person practices veterinary medicine, surgery, and dentistry, and the various branches thereof, when he or she does any one of the following:

(a) Represents oneself as engaged in the practice of veterinary medicine, veterinary surgery, or veterinary dentistry in any of its branches.

[...]

(g) Uses any words, letters, or titles in such connection or under such circumstances as to induce the belief that the person using them is engaged in the practice of veterinary medicine, veterinary surgery, or veterinary dentistry. This use shall be prima facie evidence of the intention to represent oneself as engaged in the practice of veterinary medicine, veterinary surgery, or veterinary dentistry.

8. BPC section 4839.5, provides:

No person shall use the title “registered veterinary technician” or “veterinary technician,” or any other words, letters, or symbols, including, but not limited to, the abbreviation “R.V.T.,” with the intent to represent that the person is authorized to act as a registered veterinary technician, unless that person meets the requirements of Section 4839.

### **CAUSE FOR CITATION**

9. On or about April 3, 2018 through April 9, 2018, the Respondent advertised on a Facebook Group that she offers “mobile tech services for the whole High Desert” and provides the following services:

- Dog and cat vaccines, including puppy and kitten packages (excluding rabies) \$15
- Dog and cat dewormings [sic] \$1 per 10lb
- Mite/lice/mange treatment (price varies)
- Artificial insemination for dogs, specializing in bull breeds \$100 for 3 collections
- Litter whelp help (price varies)

- Ear cleaning and infection treatment (price varies)

The Board has not issued a veterinary technician registration or a veterinarian license to Respondent. Such conduct constitutes a violation of BPC section 4825, as defined in BPC section 4826, subdivision (a).

10. On or about April 3, 2018 through April 9, 2018, the Respondent advertised on a Facebook Group that she is a “17-year vet tech.” The Board has not issued a veterinary technician registration to Respondent. Such conduct constitutes a violation of BPC section 4839.5.
11. Respondent’s statement that she is a “vet tech” is representation of engaging in the practice of veterinary medicine. Such conduct constitutes a violation of BPC sections 4825, as defined by 4826, subdivisions (a) and (g).
12. On or about September 2, 2018 through February 16, 2022, Respondent’s Facebook account had a photo of her business card that states she is a “Pet Technician.” The Board has not issued a veterinary technician registration to Respondent. Such conduct constitutes a violation of BPC section 4839.5.
13. Respondent’s statement that she is a “Pet Technician” is representation of engaging in the practice of veterinary medicine. Such conduct constitutes a violation of BPC sections 4825, as defined by 4826, subdivisions (a) and (g).
14. On or about December 7, 2021 through February 16, 2022, Respondent’s Facebook account stated she works at VCA Mesa Animal Hospital as a “Veterinary Technician.” The Board has not issued a veterinary technician registration to Respondent. Such conduct constitutes a violation of BPC section 4839.5.
15. Respondent’s statement that she is a “Veterinary Technician” is representation of engaging in the practice of veterinary medicine. Such conduct constitutes a violation of BPC sections 4825, as defined by 4826, subdivisions (a) and (g).

**DETERMINATION OF ISSUES**  
**CAUSE OF ACTION**

16. Violations exist pursuant to BPC section 4825, as defined in BPC 4826, subdivision (a), as set forth in Paragraph 9. A cause of action thereby exists.
17. Violations exist pursuant to BPC section 4839.5 as set forth in Paragraph 10. A cause of action thereby exists.
18. Violations exist pursuant to BPC section 4825, as defined in BPC section 4826, subdivisions (a) and (g), as set forth in Paragraph 11. A cause of action thereby exists.

19. Violations exist pursuant to BPC section 4839.5 as set forth in Paragraph 12. A cause of action thereby exists.
20. Violations exist pursuant to BPC section 4825, as defined in BPC section 4826, subdivisions (a) and (g), as set forth in Paragraph 13. A cause of action thereby exists.
21. Violations exist pursuant to BPC section 4839.5 as set forth in Paragraph 14. A cause of action thereby exists.
22. Violations exist pursuant to BPC section 4825, as defined in BPC section 4826, subdivisions (a) and (g), as set forth in Paragraph 15. A cause of action thereby exists.

### **PENALTY**

23. In compliance with BPC sections 148 and 4875.2 and CCR, title 16, section 2043, it is determined that:

Respondent be cited for a Class "C" violation in the amount of \$2,000.00 for the Cause for Citation, based upon a determination that the above-described facts set forth above in Paragraph 9 constitute a violation of BPC section 4825, as defined in BPC section 4826, subdivision (a).

Respondent be cited for a Class "C" violation in the amount of \$2,000.00 for the Cause for Citation, based upon a determination that the above-described facts set forth above in Paragraphs 10 and 11 constitute a violation of BPC section 4825, as defined in BPC section 4826, subdivisions (a) and (g), and BPC section 4839.5.

Respondent be cited for a Class "C" violation in the amount of \$2,000.00 for the Cause for Citation, based upon a determination that the above-described facts set forth above in Paragraphs 12 and 13 constitute a violation of BPC section 4825, as defined in BPC section 4826, subdivisions (a) and (g), and BPC section 4839.5.

Respondent be cited for a Class "C" violation in the amount of \$2,000.00 for the Cause for Citation, based upon a determination that the above-described facts set forth above in Paragraphs 14 and 15 constitute a violation of BPC section 4825, as defined in BPC section 4826, subdivisions (a) and (g), and BPC section 4839.5.

24. In compliance with BPC sections 125.9 and 4875.2, and CCR, title 16, section 2043, subsection (e), the total penalty for the above violations is \$8,000.00. However, pursuant to BPC section 125.9(b)(3) in no event shall the administrative fine assessed by the Board exceed \$5,000.00. Therefore, total fine amount due to the Board is \$5,000.00.

**ORDER OF ABATEMENT**

The Board hereby orders Respondent to cease and desist from violating BPC sections 4825, 4826, subdivisions (a) and (g), and 4839.5.

2/17/2022  
DATE

SIGNATURE ON FILE  
JESSICA SIEFERMAN  
Executive Officer  
Veterinary Medical Board  
Department of Consumer Affairs  
State of California

## **CONTEST OF CITATION**

### **(Business and Professions Code (BPC) Sections 125.9 and 4875.6)**

If you desire to administratively contest the citation or the proposed assessment of a civil penalty therefor and want to request an informal conference, you must, within 10 business days after you receive the citation, notify the Executive Officer in writing of your request for an informal conference with the Executive Officer or his or her designee. (BPC, § 4875.6, subd. (a).)

If you desire a hearing to contest the finding of a violation, you must submit a written request for hearing to the Veterinary Medical Board (Board) within 30 days of the date of issuance of the citation or assessment. (BPC, § 125.9, subd. (b)(4).)

Submit your request for an informal conference or hearing to contest the citation to the following address:

Veterinary Medical Board  
1747 N. Market Blvd., Suite 230  
Sacramento, CA 95834.

If you fail to notify the Executive Officer or Board in writing that you intend to contest the citation or the proposed assessment of a civil penalty therefor, by either submitting a request for an informal conference or hearing as described above, the citation or the proposed assessment of a civil penalty shall be deemed a final order of the Board and shall not be subject to further administrative review. (BPC, § 4875.6, subd. (a).)

You may, in lieu of contesting a citation, transmit to the Board the amount assessed in the citation as a civil penalty, within 10 business days after receipt of the citation. (BPC, § 4875.6, subd. (b).)

Failure of a licensee or registrant to pay a civil penalty within 30 days of the date of receipt of the assessment, unless the citation is being appealed, may result in disciplinary action being taken by the Board. When a citation is not contested and a civil penalty is not paid, the full amount of the assessed civil penalty shall be added to the fee for renewal of the license or registration. A license or registration shall not be renewed without payment of the renewal fee and civil penalty. (BPC, § 125.9, subd. (b)(5).)

If you are an unlicensed person, you may notify the Board and file a petition for a writ of administrative mandamus under section 1094.5 of the Code of Civil Procedure within 30 calendar days after receipt of the citation, without engaging in an informal conference or administrative hearing. Payment of any fine shall not constitute an admission of the violation charged. (BPC, § 4875.6, subd. (b).)