

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

In the Matter of the Citation Against:

Monika Harris

RVT No. 5538

Respondent

Citation No. 4602023000143

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 reveal that Monika Ann Harris ("Respondent"), has been issued a Registered Veterinary Technician License No. RVT 5538. Said license expired on August 31, 2013, and has not been renewed.

STATUTORY PROVISIONS

3. Business and Professions Code (BPC) sections 125.9 and 4875.2 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 an unlicensed person who has committed any acts or omissions in violation of the Veterinary Medicine Practice Act (Act).
4. 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.

5. 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 revoked license as provided in the Act.

6. BPC section 4826 states in pertinent part:

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

[. . .]

(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.

7. BPC 4839.5 section 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 requirement of Section 4839.

CAUSES FOR CITATION

8. On or about July 15, 2022, through May 1, 2024, Respondent used the title “RVT” without a valid registration with the Board. Such unlicensed conduct constitutes a violation of BPC 4825 as defined by BPC section 4839.5.
9. On or about July 15, 2022, through May 1, 2024 Respondent used the title “Licensed Veterinary Nurse” on their website without a valid registration with the Board. Such unlicensed conduct constitutes a violation of BPC 4825 as defined by BPC 4826, subdivision (g).

DETERMINATION OF ISSUES **CAUSES OF ACTION**

10. Violations exist pursuant to BPC 4825 as defined by BPC section 4839.5, as set forth in paragraph 8. A cause of action thereby exists.

11. Violations exist pursuant to BPC 4825 as defined by BPC 4826, subdivision (g), as set forth in paragraph 9. A cause of action thereby exists.

PENALTY

12. In compliance with BPC sections 125.9 and 4875.2 and CCR, Title 16, section 2043, it is determined that:

- 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 in paragraph 8 constitute violations of BPC 4825 as defined by BPC section 4839.5.
- b. 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 in paragraph 9 constitute violations of BPC 4825 as defined by BPC 4826, subdivision (g).

13. In compliance with BPC sections 125.9 and 4875.2, and CCR, title 16, section 2043, subsection (c), the total penalty for the above violation is \$4,000.00.

ORDER OF ABATEMENT

The Board hereby orders Respondent to cease and desist from violating BPC section 4825 as defined by BPC sections 4826(g) and 4839.5.

May 1, 2024

DATE

Signature on File

JESSICA SIEFERMAN

Executive Officer

Veterinary Medical Board

Department of Consumer Affairs

State of California