STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE VETERINARY EXAMINING BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS AGAINST	:	
	:	FINAL DECISION
MORRIS A. LINK, D.V.M., RESPONDENT.	:	AND ORDER
	:	ORDER0002967

Division of Legal Services and Compliance Case Nos. 12 VET 018, 12 VET 026, 13 VET 016, 13 VET 026.

The parties to this action for the purpose of Wis. Stat. § 227.53 are:

Morris A. Link, D.V.M.
5129 University Avenue
Madison, WI 53705

Wisconsin Veterinary Examining Board
P.O. Box 8935
Madison, WI 53708-8935

Division of Legal Services and Compliance
Department of Safety and Professional
Services P.O. Box 7190
Madison, WI 53708-8935

The parties in this matter have agreed to the terms and conditions of the attached Stipulation as the final disposition of this matter, subject to the approval of the Wisconsin Veterinary Examining Board ("Board"). The Board has reviewed this Stipulation and considers it acceptable.

Accordingly, the Board in this matter adopts the attached Stipulation and makes the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent Morris A. Link, D.V.M. (dob December 15, 1934) is licensed in the State of Wisconsin to practice veterinary medicine, having license number 992-50, first issued on January 1, 1968 and current through December 14, 2013. Dr. Link's business address on file with the Division of Legal Services and Compliance, Department of Safety and Professional Services ("Department") is 5129 University Avenue, Madison, Wisconsin 53705.

2. At all times relevant, Respondent practiced veterinary medicine at Spring Harbor Hospital in Madison, Wisconsin. Respondent owned Spring Harbor Animal Hospital from 1971 through November 30, 2012, first as a co-owner with another Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (D.V.M.) and then as sole owner. On November 30, 2012, Respondent sold Spring Harbor Animal Hospital to a third party and remained on as an employee of the new owner as part of a retirement plan. Spring Harbor Animal Hospital employs professional staff at Spring Harbor Animal Hospital, including other licensed DVMs.

3. As a result of arthritis, the aging process, and Respondent's decision to limit his professional practice during his retirement years, Respondent notified the Department of his decision to voluntarily cease performing surgical procedures as of August 27, 2013.

4. For these same reasons, Respondent has voluntarily agreed that his license be limited so that he may not perform any animal surgery during the current period of his license and all renewals thereof, but may continue to perform other duties as provided herein.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Board has jurisdiction to act in this matter and is authorized to enter into the attached Stipulation pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 227.44(5).

ORDER

1. The attached Stipulation is adopted and accepted.

2. The license of Morris A. Link, D.V.M. (license no. 992-50) to practice as a veterinarian in the State of Wisconsin is LIMITED in that he may not administer or perform any surgical technique on any patient that has any disease, illness, pain, deformity, defect, injury, or other physical, mental, or dental condition or perform a surgical procedure on any animal during the current period of his license and all renewals thereof.

3. Until Respondent successfully completes the course work in paragraph 9 below, Respondent agrees to limit his practice to seeing healthy patients for routine wellness examinations and may provide routine preventative care for those patients including immunizations and/or parasite control. Likewise, until Respondent successfully completes the course work in paragraph 9 below, Respondent agrees to refer all ill and injured patients to other colleagues in his practice or elsewhere. Upon completion of such required courses and verification by the Board or an authorized employee of the Department, the limitations in this paragraph shall automatically expire. The limitations listed in this paragraph do not take effect until this Order is signed by a Member of the Board.

4. This Final Decision and Order does not prevent Respondent from performing the following non-surgical services:

a. mentoring of veterinarians and office staff,

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b. administrative duties (e.g., payroll, coordination and management of records and/or patient information, purchasing of equipment and supplies, reviewing and/or creating office reports),

c. taking radiographs and interpreting radiographs. If surgery is recommended as a result of the radiograph, Respondent, as set forth above, will not perform such surgery.

d. providing consultations concerning radiographs and interpretation thereof, to other licensed veterinarians whose license to practice veterinary medicine is current and unlimited, whether licensed in Wisconsin or another jurisdiction, provided that the other veterinarian retains ultimate responsibility for the animal's care.

5. As part of mentoring, consultation, and administrative duties, Respondent may also observe surgeries so long as he does not perform the surgery or any part of the surgery.

6. Nothing herein shall prevent renewals of Respondent's license as limited herein.

7. Respondent shall undergo, at his own expense, a vision test by a licensed vision professional no later than March 1, of each calendar year, and submit the results of such vision tests to the Department Monitor. If the results of the vision test demonstrate that Respondent is no longer able to perform his veterinary duties in a safe manner, Respondent agrees to accept such finding as proven and will stipulate to an Order accepting the voluntary surrender of his license without a finding of wrongdoing.

8. Respondent shall undergo, at his own expense, a medical exam by a licensed physician no later than March 1, of each calendar year, and submit the results of such exam to the Department Monitor. If the results of the medical exam demonstrate that Respondent is no longer able to perform his veterinary duties in a safe manner, Respondent agrees to accept such finding as proven and will stipulate to an Order accepting the voluntary surrender of his license without a finding of wrongdoing.

9. Within sixty (60) days of the date of this Order, but not earlier than December 1, 2013, Respondent shall, at his own expense, successfully complete three (3) hours of education on the topic of record keeping, three (3) hours education on the topic of antibiotic therapy and three (3) hours of education on the topic of informed consent and client communications, all offered by a provider pre-approved by the Board's monitoring liaison, including taking and passing any exam offered for the courses. Nothing herein shall prevent Respondent from successfully completing such courses before this Order is signed by the Board, or one of its members and such courses taken before this Order is signed shall satisfy the terms of this Order when signed.

10. Respondent shall submit proof of successful completion of the ordered education in the form of verification from the institution providing the education to the Department Monitor at the address stated below. None of the education completed pursuant to this requirement may be used to satisfy any continuing education requirements that have been or may

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be instituted by the Board or Department, and parties acknowledge that none of the courses listed in paragraph 9 shall be used for renewal purposes of his credential in Wisconsin.

11. Respondent understands that by agreeing to the conditions and limitations set by this Final Decision and Order, all matters referred to, or pending before the Department and/or Board involving Cases Nos. 12 VET 018, 12 VET 026, 13 VET 016, and 13 VET 026 are resolved in their entirety. The Department and/or the Board will not to pursue any further proceedings related to the above listed cases.

12. Within ninety (90) days of the date of this Order, Morris A. Link, D.V.M., shall pay costs of this matter in the amount of $2,905.18.

13. The deadlines listed herein may be extended by mutual agreement with an authorized employee of the Department and may be done by email or other informal means.

14. Payment of costs shall be made payable to the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services and sent to the Department Monitor at the address below:

Department Monitor
Division of Legal Services and Compliance
Department of Safety and Professional Services
P.O. Box 7190
Madison, WI 53707-7190
Telephone (608) 267-3817
Fax (608) 266-2264
DSPSMonitoring@wisconsin.gov

15. Violation of any of the terms of this Order may be construed as conduct imperiling public health, safety and welfare and may result in a summary suspension of Respondent's license. The Board in its discretion may in the alternative impose additional conditions and limitations or other additional discipline for a violation of any of the terms of this Order. In the event respondent fails to timely comply with the terms set above, the Respondent's license (license no. 992-50) may, in the discretion of the Board or its designee, be SUSPENDED, without further notice or hearing, until Respondent has complied with the terms as set forth above.

16. This Order is effective on the date of its signing.

WISCONSIN VETERINARY EXAMINING BOARD

By: Wesley S. Eldridge DVM
A Member of the Board

1-29-14
Date

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STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE VETERINARY EXAMINING BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS AGAINST	:	
	:	STIPULATION
MORRIS A. LINK, D.V.M., RESPONDENT.	:	0002967

Division of Legal Services and Compliance[1] Cases Nos. 12 VET 018, 12 VET 026, 13 VET 016, and 13 VET 026.

Respondent, Morris A. Link, D.V.M. and the Division of Legal Services and Compliance, Department of Safety and Professional Services stipulate as follows:

1. This Stipulation is entered into as a result of a pending investigation by the Division of Legal Services and Compliance. Respondent consents to the resolution of this investigation by Stipulation.

2. Respondent understands that by signing this Stipulation, Respondent voluntarily and knowingly waives the following rights:

- the right to a hearing on the allegations against Respondent, at which time the State has the burden of proving those allegations by a preponderance of the evidence;
- the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against Respondent;
- the right to call witnesses on Respondent's behalf and to compel their attendance by subpoena;
- the right to testify on Respondent's own behalf;
- the right to file objections to any proposed decision and to present briefs or oral arguments to the officials who are to render the final decision;
- the right to petition for rehearing; and
- all other applicable rights afforded to Respondent under the United States Constitution, the Wisconsin Constitution, the Wisconsin Statutes, the Wisconsin Administrative Code, and other provisions of state or federal law.

3. Respondent is aware of Respondent's right to seek legal representation and has been provided an opportunity to obtain legal counsel before signing this Stipulation. Respondent is represented by Attorney Jon P. Axelrod and Attorney Donald L. Bach.

4. Respondent agrees to the adoption of the attached Final Decision and Order by the Wisconsin Veterinary Board (Board). The parties to the Stipulation consent to the entry of the attached Final Decision and Order without further notice, pleading, appearance or consent of the parties. Respondent waives all rights to any appeal of the Board's order, if adopted in the form as attached.

[1] The Division of Legal Services and Compliance was formerly known as the Division of Enforcement.

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5. If the terms of this Stipulation are not acceptable to the Board, the parties shall not be bound by the contents of this Stipulation, and the matter shall then be returned to the Division of Legal Services and Compliance for further proceedings. In the event that the Stipulation is not accepted by the Board, the parties agree not to contend that the Board has been prejudiced or biased in any manner by the consideration of this attempted resolution.

6. The parties to this Stipulation agree that the attorney or other agent for the Division of Legal Services and Compliance and any member of the Board ever assigned as an advisor in this investigation may appear before the Board in open or closed session, without the presence of Respondent or Respondent's attorney, for purposes of speaking in support of this agreement and answering questions that any member of the Board may have in connection with deliberations on the Stipulation. Additionally, any such advisor may vote on whether the Board should accept this Stipulation and issue the attached Final Decision and Order.

7. Respondent is informed that should the Board adopt this Stipulation, the Board's Final Decision and Order is a public record and will be published in accordance with standard Department procedure.

8. The Division of Legal Services and Compliance joins Respondent in recommending the Board adopt this Stipulation and issue the attached Final Decision and Order.

Morris A. Link, D.V.M. Respondent
5129 University Avenue
Madison, WI 53705
License no. 992-50

12/12/13
Date

Jon P. Axelrod, Attorney for Respondent
DeWitt, Ross & Stevens
Two East Mifflin Street, Suite 600
Madison, WI 53703

12/12/13
Date

Donald L. Bach, Attorney for Respondent
DeWitt, Ross & Stevens
Two East Mifflin Street, Suite 600
Madison, WI 53703

12/12/13
Date

Micabil Diaz-Martinez, Attorney
Division of Legal Services and Compliance
P.O. Box 7190
Madison, WI 53707-7190

DECEMBER 12, 2013
Date