



## **NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **VENTURA COUNTY WOMAN CONVICTED OF PRACTICING VETERINARY MEDICINE WITHOUT A LICENSE**

*Conviction Underscores Veterinary Medical Board's efforts to halt unlicensed operators*

WILMINGTON – A Ventura County woman has been convicted of practicing veterinary medicine without a license following an investigation by the Veterinary Medical Board.

Katheryn Shafer, who was doing business as Houndstooth Pet Teeth Cleaning, 1547 Banning Boulevard in Wilmington, pleaded guilty to performing a dental operation upon an animal without being properly licensed and without the supervision of a licensed veterinarian. She has been placed on two years' probation, fined \$2,225.00, and ordered to serve 80 hours of community service. Senior Deputy District Attorney, Linda Groberg, of Ventura County was the prosecuting attorney on this case.

Shafer's conviction was the result of an investigation prompted by a consumer complaint. Investigators with the board conducted an undercover operation in which a dog was brought into her shop to have its teeth cleaned. After the cleaning Shafer was asked for her license and issued a citation for unlicensed and unlawful practice of veterinary medicine.

"Unlicensed activity is illegal," said Susan Geranen, Executive Officer of the Veterinary Medical Board. "In addition to the potential harm for animals, unlicensed activity undermines the credibility and undercuts the business of licensed professionals, and costs California billions of dollars in lost revenue."

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*The mission of the Veterinary Medical Board (VMB) is to provide protection for consumers and animals through proper licensing of veterinarians and registered veterinary technicians, and through vigorous, objective enforcement of the California Veterinary Medicine Practice Act. The VMB is an agency within the California Department of Consumer Affairs.*