CAUSE NO. D-1-GN-18-000441

HEATHER KUTYBA,	§	IN THE DISTRICT COURT
Plaintiff,	§	
	§	
v.	§	
	§	98TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
TEXAS STATE BOARD OF	§	
VETERINARY MEDICAL	§	
EXAMINERS,	§	
Defendant.	§	TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

DEFENDANT'S ORIGINAL ANSWER AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES

Defendant, the Texas State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners ("Board"), by and through the Office of the Attorney General of Texas and the undersigned Assistant Attorney General, files this Original Answer and Affirmative Defenses in the captioned proceeding. In support thereof, Defendant would respectfully show the Court the following:

I. GENERAL DENIAL

1.1. Defendant generally denies all of the allegations in Plaintiff's Petition, and demands strict proof thereof.

II. AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES

- 2.1. Defendant asserts the defense of sovereign immunity to any and all requests for relief not specifically authorized by statute.
- 2.2. Defendant asserts its right to raise additional defenses that become apparent throughout the further development of the case.

III. PRAYER

Defendant requests this Court to enter a judgment that Plaintiff take nothing by reason of this suit, and that all court costs be taxed and adjudged against her.

Defendant further prays for such other relief to which it may be justly entitled.

Dated: February 23, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

KEN PAXTON Attorney General of Texas

JEFFREY C. MATEER First Assistant Attorney General

BRANTLEY STARR
Deputy First Assistant Attorney General

JAMES E. DAVIS
Deputy Attorney General for Civil Litigation

NICHOLE BUNKER-HENDERSON Chief, Administrative Law Division

/s/ Ted A. Ross

Ted A. Ross
Assistant Attorney General
State Bar No. 24084158
Administrative Law Division
Office of the Attorney General of Texas
P.O. Box 12548, Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711-2548
Telephone: (512) 475-4191

Telephone: (512) 475-4191 Facsimile: (512) 457-4674 Email: ted.ross@oag.texas.gov

Attorneys for Defendant

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the above and forgoing document has been served to the following on the 23rd day of February, 2018 to the following parties:

Kristen Schlemmer SBN 24075029 Irvine & Conner, PLLC 4709 Austin Street Houston, Texas 77004 Tel: 713-533-1704

Fax: 713-524-5165

Email: kristen@irvineconner.com

Attorney for Plaintiff

/s/ Ted A. Ross

Ted A. Ross

Assistant Attorney General

Via E-Service