

PAGA SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

This PAGA Settlement Agreement (“Agreement”) is made by and between: **(1)** Plaintiffs Monique King and Kathryn Juhl (collectively “Plaintiffs”), individually and in their representative capacity as private attorneys general on behalf of the State of California; and **(2)** Defendant Animus, Inc., a California Corporation doing business as Animal Hospital of Sequel, Aguajito Veterinary Hospital, Parktown Veterinary Clinic, Ocean Animal Clinic, Alpine Animal Hospital, Animal Hospital of Palo Alto, Midtown Veterinary Hospital, Paso Robles Veterinary Medical Clinic, Petsvet, Pajaro Valley Veterinary Hospital, and Pets Vet Veterinary Hospital (“Defendant”). The Agreement refers to Plaintiffs and Defendant collectively as “Parties,” or individually as “Party.”¹

1. DEFINITIONS

- 1.1. “Action” means the Plaintiffs’ PAGA lawsuit alleging wage and hour violations against Defendant captioned Jennifer Oie, et al. v. Animus, Inc., a California Corporation doing business as Animal Hospital of Sequel, Aguajito Veterinary Hospital, Parktown Veterinary Clinic, Ocean Animal Clinic, Alpine Animal Hospital, Animal Hospital of Palo Alto, Midtown Veterinary Hospital, Paso Robles Veterinary Medical Clinic, Petsvet, and Pets Vet Veterinary Hospital, case number 21CV01391, initiated on February 19, 2021, and pending in the Superior Court of the State of California for the County of Santa Cruz.
- 1.2. “Administrator” means ILYM Group, Inc., the neutral entity the Parties have agreed to appoint to administer the Settlement.
- 1.3. “Administration Expenses Payment” means the amount the Administrator will be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount to reimburse its reasonable fees and expenses in accordance with the Administrator’s “not to exceed” bid submitted to the Court in connection with approval of this Settlement.
- 1.4. “Aggrieved Employee” means all individuals who are or were employed by Defendants as non-exempt employees in California during the PAGA Period.
- 1.5. “Aggrieved Employee Data” means Aggrieved Employee identifying information in Defendant’s possession including the Aggrieved Employee’s name, last-known mailing address, Social Security number, and number of PAGA Pay Periods.
- 1.6. “Aggrieved Employee Address Search” means the Administrator’s investigation and search for current Aggrieved Employee mailing addresses using all reasonably available sources, methods and means including, but not limited to, the

¹ This Agreement is based on the Los Angeles County Superior Court’s [Model] PAGA Settlement Agreement (LASC CIV 298) (“Model Agreement”), with minor modifications to reflect the agreement by the Parties and the facts of the case.

National Change of Address database, skip traces, and direct contact by the Administrator with Aggrieved Employees.

- 1.7. “Court” means the Superior Court of the State of California for the County of Santa Cruz.
- 1.8. “Defense Counsel” means Richard C. Vasquez and Jeffrey T. Lindgren of Vasquez Benisek & Lindgren LLP, the attorneys representing Defendant Animus, Inc.
- 1.9. “Effective Date” means the date by when both of the following have occurred:
(a) the Court enters a Judgment on its Order Approving the PAGA Settlement and
(b) the Judgment is final. The Judgment is final as of the latest of the following occurrences: **(a)** the day the Court enters Judgment.
- 1.10. “Gross Settlement Amount” means **\$72,500.00**, which is the total amount Defendant agrees to pay under the Settlement except as provided in Paragraph 8 below. The Gross Settlement Amount will be used to pay Individual PAGA Payments, the LWDA PAGA Payment, PAGA Counsel Fees Payment, PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, the PAGA Representative Service Payments, and the Administrator’s Expenses Payment.
- 1.11. “Individual PAGA Payment” means the Aggrieved Employee’s pro rata share of 25% of the PAGA Penalties calculated according to the number of Pay Periods the Aggrieved Employee worked during the PAGA Period.
- 1.12. “Judgment” means the judgment entered by the Court based upon the Approval Order.
- 1.13. “LWDA” means the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency, the agency entitled, under Labor Code section 2699, subd. (i).
- 1.14. “LWDA PAGA Payment” means the 75% of the PAGA Penalties paid to the LWDA under Labor Code section 2699, subd. (i).
- 1.15. “Net Settlement Amount” means the Gross Settlement Amount, less the following payments in the amounts approved by the Court: Individual PAGA Payments, the LWDA PAGA Payment, PAGA Representative Service Payments, PAGA Counsel Fees Payment, PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, and the Administration Expenses Payment. The remainder is to be paid to Aggrieved Employees as Individual PAGA Payments.
- 1.16. “PAGA Counsel” means Megan E. Ross and Hannah Becker of Melmed Law Group P.C., the attorneys representing the Plaintiffs in the Action.
- 1.17. “PAGA Counsel Fees Payment” and “PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment” mean the amounts allocated to PAGA Counsel for reimbursement of

reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses, respectively, incurred to prosecute the Action.

- 1.18. "PAGA Pay Period" means any Pay Period during which an Aggrieved Employee worked for Defendant for at least one day during the PAGA Period.
- 1.19. "PAGA Period" means the period from February 19, 2020, through the date of court approval of the settlement.
- 1.20. "PAGA" means the Private Attorneys General Act (Labor Code §§ 2698. et seq.).
- 1.21. "PAGA Notice" means Plaintiffs' letter(s) to Defendant and the LWDA providing notice pursuant to Labor Code section 2699.3, subd. (a).
- 1.22. "PAGA Penalties" means the total amount of PAGA civil penalties to be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount, allocated 25% to the Aggrieved Employees and the 75% to LWDA in settlement of PAGA claims.
- 1.23. "PAGA Representative Service Payments" means the payment to Plaintiffs for initiating the Action and providing services in support of the Action.
- 1.24. "Plaintiffs" means Monique King and Kathryn Juhl, the named plaintiffs in the Action.
- 1.25. "Approval Order" means the proposed Order Granting Approval of PAGA Settlement.
- 1.26. "Released PAGA Claims" means the claims being released by the Plaintiffs and PAGA Counsel and as described in Paragraph 5 below.
- 1.27. "Released Parties" means: Defendant and each of its former and present directors, officers, shareholders, owners, members, attorneys, insurers, predecessors, successors, assigns, subsidiaries, and affiliates.
- 1.28. "Settlement" means the disposition of the Action effected by this Agreement and the Judgment.
- 1.29. "Defendant" means named Defendant Animus, Inc., a California Corporation doing business as Animal Hospital of Sequel, Aguajito Veterinary Hospital, Parktown Veterinary Clinic, Ocean Animal Clinic, Alpine Animal Hospital, Animal Hospital of Palo Alto, Midtown Veterinary Hospital, Paso Robles Veterinary Medical Clinic, Petsvet, Pajaro Valley Veterinary Hospital, and Pets Vet Veterinary Hospital.

2. RECITALS

- 2.1. On June 3, 2023, Plaintiffs filed a Representative Action Complaint alleging one cause of action for penalties pursuant to PAGA (Lab. Code, §§ 2698–2699.6). On

August 11, 2021, Plaintiffs filed a First Amended Complaint. The First Amended Complaint is the operative complaint in the Action (the “Operative Complaint”). Defendant denies the allegations in the Operative Complaint, denies any failure to comply with the laws identified in the Operative Complaint, and denies any and all liability for the causes of action alleged.

- 2.2. Pursuant to Labor Code section 2699.3, subd. (a), Plaintiffs gave timely written notice to Defendant and the LWDA by sending the PAGA Notice.
- 2.3. Prior to scheduling a formal mediation, Plaintiffs obtained, through informal discovery, various documents and information that allowed both sides to evaluate the potential exposure and potential risk, such as the operative employee handbook, policies and procedures related to the claims alleged in the Operative Complaint, Plaintiffs' personnel files, payroll and time records, and a sample of time and pay records for the Aggrieved Employees.
- 2.4. Negotiations between PAGA Counsel and Defense Counsel led to this Agreement to settle the Action.
- 2.5. The Parties, PAGA Counsel, and Defense Counsel represent that they are not aware of any other pending matter or action asserting claims that will be extinguished or affected by the Settlement.

3. **MONETARY TERMS**

- 3.1. Gross Settlement Amount. Except as otherwise provided by Paragraph 8 below, Defendant promises to pay **\$72,500.00** and no more as the Gross Settlement Amount. Defendant has no obligation to pay the Gross Settlement Amount prior to the deadline stated in Paragraph 4.3 of this Agreement. The Administrator will disburse the entire Gross Settlement Amount without asking or requiring Aggrieved Employees to submit any claim as a condition of payment. None of the Gross Settlement Amount will revert to Defendant.
- 3.2. Payments from the Gross Settlement Amount. The Administrator will make and deduct the following payments from the Gross Settlement Amount, in the amounts specified by the Court in the Approval Order:
 - 3.2.1. To Plaintiffs: PAGA Representative Service Payments to the Plaintiffs of not more than \$1,000.00 for Monique King and \$1,000.00 for Kathryn Juhl (in addition to any Individual PAGA Payments the Plaintiffs are entitled to receive as Aggrieved Employees). Defendant will not oppose Plaintiffs' requests for PAGA Representative Service Payments that does not exceed this amount. As part of the application or motion for the approval of the Settlement or as a separate application or motion for PAGA Counsel Fees Payment and PAGA Litigation Expenses Payment, Plaintiffs will seek Court approval for any PAGA Representative Service Payments. If the Court approves PAGA Representative Service Payments less than the amount requested, the Administrator will retain the remainder

in the Net Settlement Amount to be distributed as PAGA Penalties. The Administrator will pay the PAGA Representative Service Payments using IRS Form 1099. Plaintiffs assume full responsibility and liability for employee taxes owed on the PAGA Representative Service Payments.

- 3.2.2. To PAGA Counsel: A PAGA Counsel Fees Payment of not more than one-third of the Gross Settlement Amount, which is currently estimated to be \$24,166.67 and a PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment of not more than \$16,000.00. Defendant will not oppose requests for these payments provided that they do not exceed these amounts. As part of the motion for approval of the Settlement or as a separate application or motion for PAGA Counsel Fees Payment and PAGA Litigation Expenses Payment, Plaintiffs and/or PAGA Counsel will seek Court approval for any PAGA Counsel Fees Payment and PAGA Litigation Expenses Payment. If the Court approves a PAGA Counsel Fees Payment and/or a PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment less than the amounts requested, the Administrator will allocate the remainder to the Net Settlement Amount to be distributed as PAGA Penalties. Released Parties shall have no liability to PAGA Counsel or any other Plaintiffs' counsel arising from any claim to any portion of any PAGA Counsel Fee Payment and/or PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment. The Administrator will pay the PAGA Counsel Fees Payment and PAGA Counsel Expenses Payment using one or more IRS 1099 Forms. PAGA Counsel assumes full responsibility and liability for taxes owed on the PAGA Counsel Fees Payment and the PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment and holds Defendant harmless, and indemnifies Defendant, from any dispute or controversy regarding any division or sharing of any of these payments.
- 3.2.3. To the Administrator: An Administrator Expenses Payment not to exceed \$10,000.00 except for a showing of good cause and as approved by the Court. To the extent the Administration Expenses are less or the Court approves payment less than \$10,000.00, the Administrator will retain the remainder in the Net Settlement Amount.
- 3.2.4. To the LWDA and Aggrieved Employees: PAGA Penalties in the amount of approximately \$20,333.33 to be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount, with 75% allocated to the LWDA PAGA Payment and 25% allocated to the Individual PAGA Payments. The PAGA Penalties will be the Gross Settlement Amount less the PAGA Representative Service Payments, PAGA Counsel's fees and costs, and the Settlement Administrator expenses payment.
 - 3.2.4.1. The Administrator will calculate each Individual PAGA Payment by **(a)** dividing the amount of the Aggrieved Employees' 25% share of PAGA Penalties by the total number of PAGA Period Pay Periods worked by all Aggrieved Employees during the PAGA Period, and **(b)** multiplying the result by each Aggrieved

Employee's PAGA Period Pay Periods. Aggrieved Employees assume full responsibility and liability for any taxes owed on their Individual PAGA Payment.

3.2.4.2. The Administrator will report the Individual PAGA Payments on IRS 1099 Forms.

- 3.3. Taxes. Defendant will not deduct any taxes or other withholdings from the Gross Settlement Amount described in Section 2.1 above and Plaintiffs and each Aggrieved Employee are fully responsible for all taxes, if any, to the Internal Revenue Service, California Franchise Tax Board, or other taxing authorities, pertaining to any payments received under this Agreement. Plaintiffs and each Aggrieved Employee bear full responsibility for the payment of any taxes or withholdings arising from the Individual PAGA Payments or enhancement payments paid to them. Neither Plaintiffs' Counsel nor counsel for Defendant intend anything contained herein to constitute advice regarding the taxability of any amount paid hereunder, nor shall it be relied upon as such. The tax issues for each Individual PAGA Payment are unique, and each Aggrieved Employee is advised to obtain tax advice from his or her own advisor with respect to any payments resulting from this Settlement.

4. SETTLEMENT FUNDING AND PAYMENTS

- 4.1. Aggrieved Employee Pay Periods. Based on a review of its records to date, Defendant estimates there are 316 Aggrieved Employees who worked a total 9,930 of PAGA Pay Periods.
- 4.2. Aggrieved Employee Data. Within fifteen (15) days of the Approval Order, Defendant will simultaneously deliver the Aggrieved Employee Data to the Administrator in the form of a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. To protect the Aggrieved Employees' privacy rights, the Administrator must maintain the Aggrieved Employee Data in confidence, use the Aggrieved Employee Data only for purposes of this Settlement and for no other purpose, and restrict access to the Aggrieved Employee Data to Administrator employees who need access to the Aggrieved Employee Data to effect and perform under this Agreement. Defendant has a continuing duty to immediately notify PAGA Counsel if it discovers that the Aggrieved Employee Data omitted employee identifying information and to provide corrected or updated Aggrieved Employee Data as soon as reasonably feasible. Without any extension of the deadline by which Defendant must send the Aggrieved Employee Data to the Administrator, the Parties and their counsel will expeditiously use best efforts, in good faith, to reconstruct or otherwise resolve any issues related to missing or omitted Aggrieved Employee Data.
- 4.3. Funding of Gross Settlement Amount. Defendant shall fully fund the Gross Settlement Amount by transmitting the funds to the Administrator no later than fourteen (14) days after the Effective Date.

- 4.4. Payments from the Gross Settlement Amount. Within fourteen (14) days after Defendant funds the Gross Settlement Amount, the Administrator will mail checks for all Individual PAGA Payments, the LWDA PAGA Payment, the Administration Expenses Payment, the PAGA Counsel Fees Payment, the PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, and the PAGA Representative Service Payments. Disbursement of the PAGA Counsel Fees Payment, the PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, and the PAGA Representative Service Payments shall not precede disbursement of Individual PAGA Payments.
- 4.4.1. The Administrator will issue checks for the Individual PAGA Payments and send them to the Aggrieved Employees via First Class U.S. Mail, postage prepaid. The face of each check shall prominently state the date (not less than one hundred eighty (180) days after the date of mailing) when the check will be voided. The Administrator will cancel all checks not cashed by the void date. Before mailing any checks, the Settlement Administrator must update the recipients' mailing addresses using the National Change of Address Database.
- 4.4.2. The Administrator must conduct an Aggrieved Employee Address Search for all Aggrieved Employees whose checks are returned undelivered without USPS forwarding address. Within seven (7) days of receiving a returned check the Administrator must re-mail checks to the USPS forwarding address provided or to an address ascertained through the Aggrieved Employee Address Search. The Administrator need not take further steps to deliver checks to Aggrieved Employees whose re-mailed checks are returned as undelivered. The Administrator shall promptly send a replacement check to any Aggrieved Employee whose original check was lost or misplaced, requested by the Aggrieved Employee prior to the void date.
- 4.4.3. For any Aggrieved Employee whose Individual PAGA Payment check is uncashed and cancelled after the void date, the Administrator shall transmit the funds represented by such checks to the California Controller's Unclaimed Property Fund in the name of the Aggrieved Employee.
- 4.4.4. The payment of Individual PAGA Payments shall not obligate Defendant to confer any additional benefits or make any additional payments to the Aggrieved Employees (such as 401(k) contributions or bonuses) beyond those specified in this Agreement.

5. RELEASES OF CLAIMS

Effective on the date when Defendant fully funds the entire Gross Settlement Amount, Plaintiffs and PAGA Counsel will release claims against all Released Parties as follows:

- 5.1. Plaintiffs' Release. Plaintiffs and Plaintiffs' respective former and present spouses, representatives, agents, attorneys (including PAGA Counsel), heirs,

administrators, successors, and assigns generally, release and discharge Released Parties from all claims, transactions, or occurrences that occurred during the PAGA Period, including, but not limited to: all claims that were, or reasonably could have been, alleged, based on the facts contained in the Operative Complaint and the PAGA Notice (“Plaintiffs’ Release”). Plaintiffs’ Release does not extend to any claims or actions to enforce this Agreement, or to any claims for vested benefits, unemployment benefits, disability benefits, social security benefits, workers’ compensation benefits that arose at any time, or based on occurrences outside the PAGA Period. Plaintiffs acknowledge that Plaintiffs may discover facts or law different from, or in addition to, the facts or law that Plaintiffs now know or believe to be true but agree, nonetheless, that Plaintiffs’ Release shall be and remain effective in all respects, notwithstanding such different or additional facts or Plaintiffs’ discovery of them.

5.1.1. Plaintiffs’ Waiver of Rights Under California Civil Code Section 1542.

For purposes of Plaintiffs’ Release, Plaintiffs expressly waive and relinquish the provisions, rights, and benefits, if any, of section 1542 of the California Civil Code, which reads:

“A general release does not extend to claims that the creditor or releasing party does not know or suspect to exist in his or her favor at the time of executing the release and that, if known by him or her, would have materially affected his or her settlement with the debtor or released party.”

- 5.2. Release by Plaintiffs on Behalf of the LWDA: Upon approval by the Court of this Agreement, Plaintiffs, individually and as representatives acting as a proxy or agent of the LWDA in this Action, agree to release and discharge the Released Parties from all claims for PAGA penalties that were alleged, or reasonably could have been alleged, based on the PAGA Period facts stated in the Operative Complaint and the PAGA Notice. Based on the foregoing, all Aggrieved Employees are deemed to release, on behalf of themselves and their respective former and present representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns, the Released Parties from all claims for PAGA penalties that were alleged, or reasonably could have been alleged, based on the PAGA Period facts stated in the Operative Complaint and the PAGA Notice. The express purpose of this Agreement and the Judgment to be entered by the Court following approval of this Agreement is to forever bar Plaintiff, the LWDA, and any other individual or entity acting on behalf of or purporting to act on behalf of the LWDA (including all Aggrieved Employees) from asserting any of the Released Claims in an future litigation. It is the intent of the Parties that, to the greatest extent provided by law, including under the holding of *Arias v. Superior Court*, 46 Cal. 4th 969, 986 (2009), the ability of Plaintiff, the State of California or any Aggrieved Employee to bring a PAGA claim on behalf of the LWDA is completely and forever foreclosed. Any Party to this Agreement may use the Agreement to assert that this settlement and the judgment to be entered by the Court following approval by this settlement bars any later-filed action asserting any of the Released Claims against any of the Released Parties for any period falling within the PAGA Period.

- 5.3. Release by PAGA Counsel: PAGA Counsel release on behalf of their present and former attorneys, employees, agents, successors and assigns the Released Parties from all claims for PAGA Fees incurred in connection with the Operative Complaint and the PAGA Period facts stated in the Operative Complaint and the PAGA Notice.

6. MOTION OR APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF SETTLEMENT

The Parties agree to jointly prepare and file an application or motion for approval of this Settlement.

- 6.1. Plaintiffs' Responsibilities. Plaintiffs will prepare and deliver to Defense Counsel all documents necessary for obtaining approval of this Settlement under Labor Code Section 2699, subd. (f)(2), including **(i)** a draft proposed Order Granting Approval of PAGA Settlement; **(ii)** a signed declaration from the Administrator attaching its "not to exceed" bid for administering the Settlement and attesting to its willingness to serve; competency; operative procedures for protecting the security of Aggrieved Employee Data; amounts of insurance coverage for any data breach, defalcation of funds or other misfeasance; all facts relevant to any actual or potential conflicts of interest with Aggrieved Employees or the LWDA; and the nature and extent of any financial relationship with Plaintiffs, PAGA Counsel or Defense Counsel; **(iii)** a signed declaration from PAGA Counsel firm attesting to its timely transmission to the LWDA of all necessary PAGA documents (initial notice of violations (Labor Code section 2699.3, subd. (a)), Operative Complaint (Labor Code section 2699, subd. (l)(1)), this Agreement (Labor Code section 2699, subd. (l)(2)); **(iv)** a redlined version of the parties' Agreement showing all modifications made to the Model Agreement ready for filing with the Court; and **(v)** all facts relevant to any actual or potential conflict of interest with Aggrieved Employees and/or the Administrator. In their declarations, Plaintiffs and PAGA Counsel shall aver that they are not aware of any other pending matter or action asserting claims that will be extinguished or adversely affected by the Settlement.
- 6.2. Responsibilities of PAGA Counsel. PAGA Counsel and Defense Counsel are jointly responsible for expeditiously finalizing and filing the application or motion for approval of this Settlement no later than sixty (60) days after the full execution of this Agreement and, if necessary, obtaining a prompt hearing date for the motion and appearing in Court to advocate in favor of the motion. PAGA Counsel is responsible for delivering the Court's Approval Order to the Administrator.
- 6.3. Duty to Cooperate. If the Parties disagree on any aspect of the proposed application or motion for approval of this Settlement and/or the supporting declarations and documents, PAGA Counsel and Defense Counsel will expeditiously work together on behalf of the Parties by meeting in person or by telephone, and in good faith, to resolve the disagreement. If the Court does not grant the motion for approval of this Settlement, PAGA Counsel and Defense Counsel will expeditiously work together on behalf of the Parties by meeting in person or by telephone, and in good faith, to modify the Agreement and otherwise

satisfy the Court's concerns. Invalidation of any material portion of this Agreement shall invalidate this Agreement in its entirety unless the Parties shall subsequently agree in writing that the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect. Material terms of this Agreement include: the definition of Aggrieved Employees (Section 1.4); the definition of the Effective Date (Section 1.9); the definition of the PAGA Period (Section 1.19); the definition of Released Parties (Section 1.27); the definition of the Gross Settlement Amount (Section 1.10); the requirement for entry of the Approval Order and entering Judgment as contemplated in this Agreement. The following terms are not material to this Agreement: the allocation of fees to PAGA Counsel under Section 3.2.2; the not-to-exceed amount of the Administrator Expense Payment (Section 3.2.3); the PAGA Representative Service Payments to Plaintiffs under Section 3.2.1.

7. SETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION

- 7.1. Selection of Administrator. The Parties have jointly selected ILYM Group, Inc. to serve as the Administrator and verified that, as a condition of appointment, ILYM Group, Inc. agrees to be bound by this Agreement and to perform, as a fiduciary, all duties specified in this Agreement in exchange for payment of Administration Expenses. The Parties and their Counsel represent that they have no interest or relationship, financial or otherwise, with the Administrator other than a professional relationship arising out of prior experiences administering settlements.
- 7.2. Employer Identification Number. The Administrator shall have and use its own Employer Identification Number for purposes of calculating payroll tax withholdings and providing reports state and federal tax authorities.
- 7.3. Qualified Settlement Fund. The Administrator shall establish a settlement fund that meets the requirements of a Qualified Settlement Fund ("QSF") under US Treasury Regulation section 468B-1.
- 7.4. Administrator Duties. The Administrator has a duty to perform or observe all tasks to be performed or observed by the Administrator contained in this Agreement or otherwise.

8. AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEE SIZE ESTIMATES AND ESCALATOR CLAUSE

Based on its records, Defendant estimates that, as of the date of this Settlement Agreement, there are approximately 316 Aggrieved Employees who worked approximately 9,930 Pay Periods during the PAGA Period. If the number of Workweeks worked by the Class Members as of the date of this Settlement Agreement is greater than 15% above that estimated by Defendants, then the portion of the Gross Settlement Amount attributable to non-PAGA claims (i.e., the Gross Settlement Amount less the PAGA Penalties) shall be increased proportionately for each additional Workweek above the 15% buffer. If the number of Pay Periods worked by the Aggrieved Employees as of the date of this Settlement Agreement is greater than 15% above that estimated by Defendants, then the portion Gross Settlement Amount attributable to PAGA claims (i.e., the PAGA Penalties) shall be increased proportionately for each additional Pay Period worked above

the 15% buffer. If this provision is triggered so as to increase the Gross Settlement Amount, the Parties agree that the Class Counsel Fees Payment will increase proportionally such that the total amount of attorneys' fees remains one-third of the Gross Settlement Amount after the upward adjustment required by this provision is implemented.

9. CONTINUING JURISDICTION OF THE COURT

The Parties agree that, after entry of Judgment, the Court will retain jurisdiction over the Parties, Action, and the Settlement solely for purposes of **(i)** enforcing this Agreement and/or Judgment, **(ii)** addressing settlement administration matters, and **(iii)** addressing such post-Judgment matters as are permitted by law.

- 9.1. Waiver of Right to Appeal. Provided the Judgment is consistent with the terms and conditions of this Agreement, specifically including the PAGA Counsel Fees Payment and PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, the Parties, their respective counsel waive all rights to appeal from the Judgment, including all rights to post-judgment and appellate proceedings, the right to file motions to vacate judgment, motions for new trial, extraordinary writs, and appeals. The waiver of appeal does not include any waiver of the right to oppose such motions, writs or appeals. If another party appeals the Judgment, the Parties' obligations to perform under this Agreement will be suspended until such time as the appeal is finally resolved and the Judgment becomes final, except as to matters that do not affect the amount of the Net Settlement Amount.

10. ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS

- 10.1. No Admission of Liability or Representative Manageability for Other Purposes. Defendant contends that all of its employees were compensated in compliance with all federal, state, and local laws. Defendant has denied, and continues to deny, each of the claims and contentions in the Operative Complaint. This Agreement represents a compromise and settlement of highly disputed claims. Nothing in this Agreement is intended or should be construed as an admission by Defendant that any of the allegations in the Operative Complaint have merit or that Defendant has any liability for any claims asserted; nor should it be intended or construed as an admission by Plaintiffs that Defendant's defenses in the Action have merit. The Parties agree that representative treatment is for purposes of this Settlement only. If, for any reason the Court does not approve this Settlement, Defendant reserves all available defenses to the claims in the Action, and Plaintiffs reserve the right to contest Defendant's defenses. The Settlement, this Agreement and Parties' willingness to settle the Action will have no bearing on, and will not be admissible in connection with, any litigation (except for proceedings to enforce or effectuate the Settlement and this Agreement).
- 10.2. No Publicity. Except as required to obtain approval in this case and/or in declarations detailing PAGA Counsel's experience in other matters, Plaintiffs and PAGA Counsel agree not to publicize the amount or other terms of this settlement to any person. Nothing in this provision shall preclude the Parties from making any required disclosure (including, but not limited to, tax professionals, attorneys,

or spouses). It shall not be a violation of this paragraph for PAGA Counsel to reference this case or settlement in other court filings to establish adequacy or experience.

- 10.3. Integrated Agreement. Upon execution by all Parties and their counsel, this Agreement together with its attached exhibits shall constitute the entire agreement between the Parties relating to the Settlement, superseding any and all oral representations, warranties, covenants, or inducements made to or by any Party.
- 10.4. Attorney Authorization. PAGA Counsel and Defense Counsel separately warrant and represent that they are authorized by Plaintiffs and Defendant, respectively, to take all appropriate action required or permitted to be taken by such Parties pursuant to this Agreement to effectuate its terms, and to execute any other documents reasonably required to effectuate the terms of this Agreement including any amendments to this Agreement.
- 10.5. Cooperation. The Parties and their counsel will cooperate with each other and use their best efforts, in good faith, to implement the Settlement by, among other things, modifying the Settlement Agreement, submitting supplemental evidence and supplementing points and authorities as requested by the Court. In the event the Parties are unable to agree upon the form or content of any document necessary to implement the Settlement, or on any modification of the Agreement that may become necessary to implement the Settlement, the Parties will seek the assistance of a mediator and/or the Court for resolution.
- 10.6. No Prior Assignments. The Parties separately represent and warrant that they have not directly or indirectly assigned, transferred, encumbered, or purported to assign, transfer, or encumber to any person or entity and portion of any liability, claim, demand, action, cause of action, or right released and discharged by the Party in this Settlement.
- 10.7. No Tax Advice. Neither Plaintiffs, PAGA Counsel, Defendant nor Defense Counsel are providing any advice regarding taxes or taxability, nor shall anything in this Settlement be relied upon as such within the meaning of United States Treasury Department Circular 230 (31 CFR Part 10, as amended) or otherwise.
- 10.8. Modification of Agreement. This Agreement, and all parts of it, may be amended, modified, changed, or waived only by an express written instrument signed by all Parties or their representatives, and approved by the Court.
- 10.9. Agreement Binding on Successors. This Agreement will be binding upon, and inure to the benefit of, the successors of each of the Parties.
- 10.10. Applicable Law. All terms and conditions of this Agreement and its exhibits will be governed by and interpreted according to the internal laws of the state of California, without regard to conflict of law principles.

- 10.11. Cooperation in Drafting. The Parties have cooperated in the drafting and preparation of this Agreement. This Agreement will not be construed against any Party on the basis that the Party was the drafter or participated in the drafting.
- 10.12. Confidentiality. To the extent permitted by law, all agreements made, and orders entered during Action and in this Agreement relating to the confidentiality of information shall survive the execution of this Agreement.
- 10.13. Use and Return of Aggrieved Employee Data. Information provided to PAGA Counsel pursuant to Cal. Evid. Code §1152, and all copies and summaries of the PAGA Data provided to PAGA Counsel by Defendant in connection with the mediation, other settlement negotiations, or in connection with the Settlement, may be used only with respect to this Settlement, and no other purpose, and may not be used in any way that violates any existing contractual agreement, statute, or rule of court. Not later than ninety (90) days after the Administrator discharges its obligation to pay out all Settlement funds, Plaintiffs shall destroy all paper and electronic versions of Aggrieved Employee Data received from Defendant unless, prior to the Administrator's payment of all Settlement Funds, Defendant makes a written request to PAGA Counsel for the return, rather than the destructions, of Aggrieved Employee Data.
- 10.14. Headings. The descriptive heading of any section or paragraph of this Agreement is inserted for convenience of reference only and does not constitute a part of this Agreement.
- 10.15. Calendar Days. Unless otherwise noted, all reference to "days" in this Agreement shall be to calendar days. In the event any date or deadline set forth in this Agreement falls on a weekend or federal legal holiday, such date or deadline shall be on the first business day thereafter.
- 10.16. Notice. All notices, demands or other communications between the Parties in connection with this Agreement will be in writing and deemed to have been duly given as of the third business day after mailing by United States mail, or the day sent by email or messenger, addressed as follows:

To Plaintiffs:

Melmed Law Group P.C.

Megan E. Ross

megan@melmedlaw.com

Hannah Becker

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To Defendant:

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Walnut Creek, CA 94549

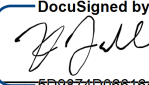
10.17. Execution in Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts by facsimile, electronically (i.e. DocuSign), or email which for purposes of this Agreement shall be accepted as an original. All executed counterparts and each of them will be deemed to be one and the same instrument if counsel for the Parties will exchange between themselves signed counterparts. Any executed counterpart will be admissible in evidence to prove the existence and contents of this Agreement.

10.18. Stay of Litigation. The Parties agree that upon the execution of this Agreement the litigation shall be stayed, except to effectuate the terms of this Agreement. The Parties further agree that upon the signing of this Agreement that pursuant to CCP section 583.330 to extend the date to bring a case to trial under CCP section 583.310 for the entire period of this settlement process.

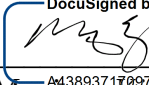
APPROVAL AND EXECUTION BY PARTIES

PLAINTIFFS:

Dated: 1/4/2024

DocuSigned by:

5D9874D066104B1...
Kathryn Juhl
Plaintiff and Private Attorney General

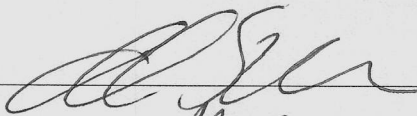
Dated: 1/4/2024

DocuSigned by:

A1389371709746A...
Monique King
Plaintiff and Private Attorney General

DEFENDANT:

Dated: 1/5/24

Animus, Inc., a California Corporation
doing business as Animal Hospital of
Sequel, Aguajito Veterinary Hospital,
Parktown Veterinary Clinic, Ocean Animal
Clinic, Alpine Animal Hospital, Animal
Hospital of Palo Alto, Midtown Veterinary
Hospital, Paso Robles Veterinary Medical
Clinic, Petsvet, Pajaro Valley Veterinary
Hospital, and Pets Vet Veterinary Hospital


By: M. Gummer
Title: CFO