

VETERINARY SURGEONS REGISTRATION ORDINANCE (Chapter 529)

ORDER MADE BY AN INQUIRY COMMITTEE OF THE  
VETERINARY SURGEONS BOARD OF HONG KONG

It is hereby notified that on 2 September 2022 an Inquiry Committee of the Veterinary Surgeons Board of Hong Kong (the 'Board'), after due inquiry on 23 August and 2 September 2022 in accordance with section 18 of the Veterinary Surgeons Registration Ordinance, Chapter 529 of the Laws of Hong Kong (the 'Ordinance'), found Dr LAU Yin Ping ('Dr LAU') (Registration No.: R000142) guilty of the disciplinary offence of misconduct or neglect in a professional respect in that: (a) on 17 July 2016, Dr LAU failed to carry out proper and/or adequate investigation(s) into the medical condition of the complainant's dog before performing ovariohysterectomy on it; and (b) during the period from 17 July to 22 July 2016, while the said dog was under Dr LAU's treatment and care, Dr LAU failed to provide proper and/or adequate post-operative care to the dog following the said ovariohysterectomy.

Pursuant to section 19 of the Ordinance, the Inquiry Committee ordered on 2 September 2022 that:—

- (1) Dr LAU be reprimanded in writing with the reprimand to be recorded on the register of registered veterinary surgeons (the 'Register');
- (2) the Secretary shall remove Dr LAU's name from the Register\* for a period of 3 months with her name not to be restored to the Register unless and until Dr LAU applies successfully to the Board for this pursuant to sections 21(3) and 21(4) of the Ordinance;
- (3) Dr LAU be required to complete 40 hours of continuing professional development ('CPD') in courses in small animal cardiology and/or nephrology approved by the Board in advance within one year of the date of the order with such hours of CPD not to count towards any CPD recognition or requirement scheme of the Board; and
- (4) in the event that Dr LAU fails to comply with paragraph (3) of the order, her name shall be removed from the Register and not be restored unless and until Dr LAU has completed the 40 hours of CPD so ordered and applied successfully to the Board for restoration of her name to the Register pursuant to sections 21(3) and 21(4) of the Ordinance.

*Particulars of the Matter to Which the Order Relates*

Dr LAU represented herself and pleaded not guilty to charges (a) and (b).

Having considered all the evidence presented to the Inquiry Committee, including the documents in the hearing bundle, and the written and oral submissions of counsel for the Secretary and Dr LAU, the Inquiry Committee found Dr LAU guilty of charge (a) and charge (b).

For charge (a), the Inquiry Committee found that the dog's high temperature and presenting clinical condition on the day of surgery warranted the performance of a repeat blood test to further evaluate the dog's clinical condition before the surgery. The fact that Dr LAU's clinic did not have the facilities to carry out the blood test was no excuse for not recommending it given the dog's clinical situation on the day in question. Dr LAU's failure to do so was a falling short of the standard expected of her.

For charge (b), the Inquiry Committee found that the dog should have been hospitalised overnight following the operation so that it could have at least 24 hours of fluid therapy. Dr LAU's failure to arrange post-operative overnight hospitalisation for continued fluid therapy was a falling short of the standard expected of her in the view of the Inquiry Committee. The Inquiry Committee also found that when the dog was seen by Dr LAU on 22 July 2016, a blood test ought to have been done given the dog's post-operative clinical status and further diagnostics should have been carried out to assess the dog's medical condition. Again, the fact that Dr LAU's clinic did not have the facilities to carry out the blood test was no excuse for not recommending it. Dr LAU's failure to do so was also a falling short of the standard expected of her.

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\*Note: By virtue of section 21(2) of the Veterinary Surgeons Registration Ordinance (Chapter 529), the removal of Dr LAU Yin Ping's name from the register of registered veterinary surgeons pursuant to this order was effective upon the expiry of 3 months from the date of service of the order on 16 September 2022. Accordingly, Dr LAU Yin Ping's name has been removed from the register of registered veterinary surgeons from 19 December 2022.