

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 19 October 2022 an Inquiry Committee of the Veterinary Surgeons Board of Hong Kong (the 'Board'), after due inquiry in accordance with section 18 of the Veterinary Surgeons Registration Ordinance, Chapter 529 of the Laws of Hong Kong (the 'Ordinance'), found Dr LIU Kuang Min ('Dr LIU') (Registration No.: R000556) guilty of the disciplinary offence of misconduct or neglect in a professional respect in that: (a) during the period from 19 September 2015 to 8 October 2015, while the complainant's cat was under his treatment and care, Dr LIU failed to provide proper or adequate diagnosis to the medical conditions of the cat, and/or to provide treatment therefor; (b) during the aforesaid period, Dr LIU compiled medical records of the cat with insufficient clinical details; and (c) on 29 September 2015, while taking radiographs of the cat, Dr LIU failed to take appropriate or adequate preventive measures to protect from x-ray exposure the person who handled the cat in the course of taking radiographs.

Pursuant to section 19 of the Ordinance, the Inquiry Committee ordered on 19 October 2022 that: (1) Dr LIU be reprimanded in writing with the reprimand to be recorded on the register of registered veterinary surgeons (the 'Register'); (2) Dr LIU be required to complete 20 hours of continuing professional development ('CPD') in courses in feline medicine approved by the Board in advance within two years 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 (3) in the event that Dr LIU fails to comply with paragraph (2) of the order, his name shall be removed from the Register and not be restored unless and until he has completed the 20 hours of CPD so ordered and applied successfully to the Board for restoration of his name to the Register pursuant to section 21(3) of the Ordinance.

Particulars of the Matter to Which the Order Relates

For charge (a), the Inquiry Committee found that Dr LIU failed to: (i) identify the presence of a small urinary calculi in the pelvic urethra from the lateral radiograph taken on 19 September 2015; (ii) perform blood tests to assess the cat's status in general, and renal status in particular, prior to prescribing meloxicam; and (iii) investigate properly the cat's loss of weight of 900 grams over the previous seven days and permitted the cat to be discharged after the first operation with the catheter in place and without advising the owner, or ensuring the owner was advised, that the cat should be hospitalised overnight. The foregoing failings were a falling short of the standard expected of Dr LIU and the Inquiry Committee found him guilty of charge (a) accordingly.

In the statement of agreed facts for charge (b), to which Dr LIU pleaded guilty, he admitted that his medical records for each of his four consultations involving the cat failed to include important clinical details. The omission of these details from the medical records was a falling short of the standard expected of a general practitioner at the material time. Accordingly the Inquiry Committee entered a finding of guilty on charge (b) on Dr LIU's own plea of guilty.

For charge (c), the Inquiry Committee found that several x-rays taken on 29 September 2015 at Dr LIU's direction showed the bones of a human hand and forearm restraining the cat. The Inquiry Committee did not accept that Dr LIU, being the veterinarian giving instructions to the clinic staff to take the x-rays, should be relieved from responsibility for ensuring that they were protected from x-ray exposure on the defence that he had told the staff not to expose themselves to x-rays. Dr LIU's failure to ensure that they were so protected was a falling short of the standard expected of him at the time and the Inquiry Committee found him guilty of charge (c) accordingly.

CHING Pak-chung *Chairperson, Veterinary Surgeons Board of Hong Kong*