

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 27 May 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 LEUNG Kok Lam Colleen ('Dr LEUNG') (Registration No.: R000719) guilty of the disciplinary offence of misconduct or neglect in a professional respect in that: (a) on 22 September 2015, when the complainant brought her dog to Dr LEUNG for consultation and treatment, Dr LEUNG informed the complainant that the dog was suffering from heartworm disease, and proposed treatments for the said disease, when there was no or no sufficient medical evidence to support such a diagnosis; and (b) Dr LEUNG failed and/or refused to provide, in a timely manner, the medical records and other information and documents in relation to the said dog to the Board, to assist the Board in carrying out its statutory duty of determining whether to refer a complaint alleging a disciplinary offence to an inquiry committee of the Board for decision, despite the Board's express request for the said records, information and documents.

Pursuant to section 19 of the Ordinance, the Inquiry Committee ordered on 27 May 2022 that: (1) Dr LEUNG be reprimanded in writing with the reprimand in relation to charge (b) to be recorded on the register of registered veterinary surgeons (the 'Register') and the reprimand in relation to charge (a) not to be recorded on the Register; (2) Dr LEUNG be required to complete 20 hours of continuing professional development ('CPD') in courses in canine internal 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 LEUNG fails to comply with paragraph (2), her name is to be removed from the Register and not restored unless and until she has completed the 20 hours of CPD so ordered and applied successfully to the Board for restoration of her name to the Register pursuant to section 21(3) of the Ordinance.

*Particulars of the Matter to Which the Order Relates*

Dr LEUNG pleaded not guilty to charge (a) and guilty to charge (b).

For charge (b), a statement of agreed facts had been confirmed as agreed by Dr LEUNG. In those agreed facts, Dr LEUNG admitted having refused in a letter dated 18 February 2016 to provide medical records relevant to the case to the Board. That was contrary to the requirements of paragraph 18.2 of the Code of Practice for the Guidance of Registered Veterinary Surgeons. The Inquiry Committee found that was a falling short of the standard expected of Dr LEUNG in the circumstances of the case and, hence, amounted to misconduct or neglect in a professional respect. Accordingly, the Inquiry Committee entered a finding of guilty on charge (b) on Dr LEUNG's own plea of guilty.

Having considered all the evidence presented, including all the documentary evidence in the hearing bundle, the Inquiry Committee found Dr LEUNG guilty on charge (a) for the following reasons. The Inquiry Committee found that there was insufficient medical evidence to support a diagnosis of heartworm disease given the possibility that the microfilaria detected in the blood smear test were not heartworm microfilaria, the negative antigen test and presentation of the dog. Informing the owner of that diagnosis without further verification was a falling short of the standard expected of Dr LEUNG. Accordingly, that was misconduct or neglect in a professional respect and the Inquiry Committee found her guilty on charge (a).

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