

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 1 June 2021 an Inquiry Committee of the Veterinary Surgeons Board of Hong Kong, 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 MAK Chi Kin Phillip ('Dr MAK') (Registration No.: R000042) guilty of the disciplinary offence of misconduct or neglect in a professional respect in that during the period from 22 February 2015 to 9 March 2015, while Dr CRAVEN Melanie Dawn was practising as a veterinary surgeon in the Peace Avenue Veterinary Clinic, of which Dr MAK was the veterinary surgeon responsible for its administration, Dr MAK caused or permitted Dr CRAVEN to profess (and/or to be held out) to be a specialist, or failed to take adequate steps to ensure that Dr CRAVEN would not profess (and/or be held out) to be a specialist, in circumstances where she was not a person authorised by the Veterinary Surgeons Board of Hong Kong to profess as a specialist.

Pursuant to section 19 of the Ordinance, the Inquiry Committee ordered on 1 June 2021 that Dr MAK be reprimanded in writing with the reprimand not to be recorded on the register.

Particulars of the Matter to Which the Order Relates

Dr MAK pleaded not guilty to the charge.

Having considered all the evidence, the Inquiry Committee found Dr MAK guilty of the charge of misconduct or neglect in a professional respect for the following reasons.

Many steps were taken by the clinic general manager and her assistant to complete the registration process and set in motion the process of obtaining authorisation for Dr CRAVEN to hold herself out as a specialist, which Dr CRAVEN was required to complete but failed to do so. However, the critical final step of checking that Dr CRAVEN had successfully completed the authorisation process was not done. In the view of the Inquiry Committee, Dr MAK, as the registered veterinary surgeon with overall responsibility for the operation of his clinic, was required to ensure that final step was taken either by the staff of his clinic or, failing that, by himself. That is especially so given the higher public expectations of, and the need to maintain public confidence in, the work of specialists. In all the circumstances of the case, therefore, Dr MAK's failure to ensure that the critical final checking step was taken was, in the view of the Inquiry Committee, a falling short of the standard expected of him and accordingly amounted to misconduct or neglect in a professional respect.

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