

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 13 February 2023 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 CHEUNG Wan Sze ('Dr CHEUNG') (Registration No.: R000629) guilty of the disciplinary offence of misconduct or neglect in a professional respect in that: (a) on 9 April 2016, Dr CHEUNG failed to perform imaging of the abdomen of the complainant's cat, prior to carrying out exploratory laparotomy on the said cat; (b) on 9 April 2016, Dr CHEUNG carried out an exploratory laparotomy on the said cat in circumstances where such an operation was contraindicated in view of the then medical condition of the cat; and (c) on 18 April 2016, in the course of carrying out a second exploratory laparotomy on the said cat, Dr CHEUNG failed to repair or resolve the dehiscenced piece of duodenum of the cat.

Pursuant to section 19 of the Ordinance, the Inquiry Committee ordered on 13 February 2023 that: (1) Dr CHEUNG be reprimanded in writing with the reprimand to be recorded on the register of registered veterinary surgeons (the 'Register'); (2) Dr CHEUNG be required to undertake 40 hours of continuing professional development in small animal surgery and/or critical care to be approved by the Board in advance with such courses not to count towards any continuing professional development certification scheme of the Board and to be completed within 12 months from the date of the order; and (3) in the event that Dr CHEUNG fails to complete the said hours of continuing professional development within the said period, the Secretary shall remove her name from the Register and no application for restoration of her name to the Register pursuant to section 21(3) of the Ordinance shall be approved unless and until she has completed the continuing professional development so ordered.

*Particulars of the Matter to Which the Order Relates*

For charge (a), the Inquiry Committee found that imaging should have been performed in spite of the potential for not visualising the foreign body in the imaging. Failing to perform pre-operative imaging on the cat on 9 April 2016 was a falling short of the standard expected of Dr CHEUNG and the Inquiry Committee found her guilty of charge (a) accordingly.

For charge (b), the Inquiry Committee found that the exploratory laparotomy performed on 9 April 2016 by Dr CHEUNG was contraindicated by the medical condition of the cat. Dr CHEUNG's decision to perform the surgery concerned in the circumstances of this case was a falling short of the standard expected of her at that time and the Inquiry Committee found her guilty of charge (b).

For charge (c), the Inquiry Committee found that during the second surgery which took place on 18 April 2016, Dr CHEUNG ought to have repaired the dehiscence at the site of her surgical incision of the duodenum. Dr CHEUNG's decision instead to lavage the cat's abdomen was a falling short of the standard expected of her at the time and the Inquiry Committee found her guilty of charge (c).

Charles NG Wang-wai *Chairperson, Veterinary Surgeons Board of Hong Kong*