

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 4 July 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 MUIR Michael James ('Dr MUIR') (Registration No.: R000089) guilty of the disciplinary offence of misconduct or neglect in a professional respect in that during a period from about 21 December 2015 to 25 December 2015, when the complainant's dog was under Dr MUIR's treatment and care, he failed to provide, or refer the complainant to seek, appropriate or adequate treatment therefor.

Pursuant to section 19 of the Ordinance, the Inquiry Committee ordered on 4 July 2022 that: (1) Dr MUIR be reprimanded in writing with the reprimand not to be recorded on the register of registered veterinary surgeons (the 'Register'); (2) Dr MUIR be required to complete 20 hours of continuing professional development ('CPD') in courses in small animal cardiology 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 or include any CPD undertaken to meet the requirement of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons; and (3) in the event that Dr MUIR fails to comply with paragraph (2) of the order, his name shall be removed from the Register and not be restored 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 sections 21(3) and 21(4) of the Ordinance.

*Particulars of the Matter to Which the Order Relates*

Dr MUIR pleaded guilty to the charge and confirmed his agreement to a statement of agreed facts in relation to the charge.

Having considered all the evidence presented, including the content of the hearing bundle, the Inquiry Committee found Dr MUIR guilty on his own plea of guilty for the following reasons.

Dr MUIR admitted in the statement of agreed facts that he failed to recommend in-house medication, including in particular intravenous frusemide, and hospitalisation for the complainant's dog, which was suffering from acute congestive heart failure, at the consultation on 25 December 2015. The Inquiry Committee agreed with the expert witness's opinion that this was a falling short of the standard expected of Dr MUIR as a general practitioner at the time. Accordingly, the Inquiry Committee found Dr MUIR guilty of the charge on his own plea of guilty.

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