

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 31 August 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 PAHL Gerard Joseph ('Dr PAHL') (Registration No.: R000091) guilty of the disciplinary offence of misconduct or neglect in a professional respect in that on 26 August 2016, Dr PAHL submitted to the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department ('AFCD') two health certificates in relation to a cat which contained false information, viz. the dates of the second internal parasite treatment and second external parasite treatment were both stated to be 29 August 2016, and the said certificates were purportedly signed by the attending veterinary surgeon on 29 August 2016.

Pursuant to section 19 of the Ordinance, the Inquiry Committee ordered on 31 August 2022 that Dr PAHL be reprimanded in writing with the reprimand to be recorded on the register of registered veterinary surgeons.

Particulars of the Matter to Which the Order Relates

Dr PAHL pleaded guilty to the charge and confirmed his agreement to a statement of agreed facts of the case.

Having considered the facts set out in the agreed statement of facts and the documents referred to in them, the Inquiry Committee found Dr PAHL guilty of misconduct or neglect in a professional respect on his own plea of guilty for the following reasons.

As admitted by him in the statement of agreed facts, Dr PAHL signed the two health certificates certifying that he had carried out the second internal parasite treatment and second external parasite treatment on the cat concerned, and submitted them to the AFCD, before the time when the treatments were due to be done. In so doing, he failed to exercise proper care in providing the certificates as required by paragraph 27 of the Code of Practice for the Guidance of Registered Veterinary Surgeons. In the view of the Inquiry Committee, Dr PAHL's conduct fell short of the standard expected of registered veterinary surgeons at the time.

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