

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 21 September 2016 an inquiry committee of the Veterinary Surgeons Board of Hong Kong (the 'Board'), after due inquiry on 24 March 2016 and 21 September 2016 in accordance with section 18 of the Veterinary Surgeons Registration Ordinance, Chapter 529 of the Laws of Hong Kong (the 'Ordinance'), found Dr. CHU Yan Lam, Jenny ('Dr. CHU') (Registration No.: R000736) guilty of misconduct or neglect in a professional respect in respect of two charges, that: (1) on 24 August 2011, while the complainant's dog was under Dr. CHU's treatment and care, she administered an inappropriate dosage of Malarone® to the said dog ('charge (1)'); and (2) Dr. CHU failed to compile an appropriate or adequate record of the said dog's medical conditions, as well as of the medical treatments that she provided to the dog ('charge (2)').

Pursuant to section 19 of the Ordinance, the inquiry committee ordered on 21 September 2016 that: (1) Dr. CHU be reprimanded in writing with the reprimand not to be recorded on the register; (2) Dr. CHU be required to undertake 20 hours of continuing professional education in internal medicine, such courses to be approved by the Board in advance with such courses not to count towards any continuing professional education certification scheme of the Board and to be completed within 24 months from the date thereof; (3) Dr. CHU be required, in addition, to attend a seminar or other professional training course on the keeping of medical records, such seminar or course to be approved by the Board in advance within 24 months from the date thereof; and (4) in the event that Dr. CHU fails to complete the said hours of continuing professional education or attend the seminar or course as ordered within the period of 24 months from the date thereof, 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 Veterinary Surgeons Registration Ordinance shall be approved unless and until she has completed the continuing professional education and seminar or course ordered therein.

*Particulars of the Matter to Which the Order Relates*

As regards charge (1), the inquiry committee considered it was Dr. CHU's own evidence that she was on duty at the clinic concerned on 24 August 2011. The roster record showed no other veterinarian was on duty at the clinic on that day. According to the ward chart Malarone® was administered to the dog on that day with a dosage of four Malarone® 100 mg tablets three times a day. This was an excessive dosage for the dog. As the only veterinary surgeon on duty at the clinic on 24 August 2011, Dr. CHU was responsible for direction of nurses in the administration of Malarone®. In the inquiry committee's view, the administration of such a large dosage of Malarone® under the direction of Dr. CHU on 24 August 2011 was a falling short of the standard expected of a veterinary surgeon at the time.

As regards charge (2), while recognising that Dr. CHU made a sincere attempt at recording data, the inquiry committee considered that the amount of data she recorded in the medical record was inconsistent with the expectations of the profession at the material time. The inquiry committee agreed with the expert witness that veterinary medical records should reveal not only the basic clinical parameters of a case, the diagnostic tests and the medications administered, but also the clinical reasoning and plans of the veterinarian, including problem lists and differential diagnoses. Dr. CHU's records did not include, or were inadequate, with respect to her clinical reasoning and plans in particular. In the inquiry committee's view, the deficiencies in Dr. CHU's medical records were a falling short of the standard expected of veterinary surgeons at the time.

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