

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 5 October 2016 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 JIWA Yasmin Susan ('Dr Jiwa') (Registration No.: R000339) guilty of misconduct or neglect in a professional respect in that on or about 6 January 2013, when the complainant's dog was under Dr Jiwa's treatment and care, she failed to detect and completely remove all foreign bodies in the caudal oesophagus of the dog.

Pursuant to section 19 of the Ordinance, the inquiry committee ordered on 5 October 2016 that: (1) Dr Jiwa be reprimanded in writing with the reprimand not to be recorded on the register; (2) Dr Jiwa be required to undertake 10 hours of continuing professional education in radiology, such courses to be approved by the Board in advance and not to count towards any continuing professional education certification scheme of the Board and to be completed within 24 months from the date thereof; and (3) in the event that Dr Jiwa fails to complete the said hours of continuing professional education 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 education ordered therein.

Particulars of the Matter to Which the Order Relates

Dr Jiwa was the treating veterinarian who carried out the gastrostomy on the dog on 6 January 2013 with the aim of removing any foreign body present. The inquiry committee agreed with the expert witness that the post-operative radiographs taken at the clinic on 6 January 2013 clearly showed the presence of a foreign body in the dog's caudal oesophagus in the same location and with the same appearance as shown on the same clinic's pre-operative radiographs. In fact, in Dr Jiwa's own representation to the Preliminary Investigation Committee of the Board by a letter dated 17 May 2013, she stated that she was devastated to find out that not only her, but also two colleagues, one of whom was the co-defendant, had missed this. The post-operative x-rays taken on 6 January 2013 demonstrated that Dr Jiwa had failed to remove all the foreign bodies in the dog's caudal oesophagus.

In the inquiry committee's view, Dr Jiwa's failure to do so and failure to detect the continued presence of a foreign body in the dog's caudal oesophagus was a falling short of the standard expected of a veterinary surgeon in general practice in Hong Kong at the material time. Accordingly, the inquiry committee found her guilty of misconduct or neglect in a professional respect as charged.

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