

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 10 October 2017 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. TAM Vivien ('Dr. TAM') (Registration No.: R000793) guilty of the disciplinary offence of misconduct or neglect in a professional respect in that, on 26 December 2012, Dr. TAM performed an ovariectomy on the complainant's cat, which was not up to the standard expected of a registered veterinary surgeon by reason that ovarian tissues remained in the cat's abdominal cavity after the procedure.

Pursuant to section 19 of the Ordinance, the inquiry committee ordered on 10 October 2017 that: (1) Dr. TAM be reprimanded in writing with the reprimand not to be recorded on the register; (2) Dr. TAM be required to undertake 10 hours of continuing professional education in soft tissue surgery 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 12 months from the date thereof; and (3) in the event that Dr. TAM 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*

According to the medical record of the clinic where the second surgery was performed, ovarian remnant syndrome was confirmed from the clinical evidence as well as from its laboratory report. Exploratory laparotomy was performed, in the course of which ovarian and fallopian tissues were found at the anatomical location thereby ruling out ectopic ovarian tissue. The presence of ovarian and fallopian tissues was confirmed in the histopathology report. It followed that the spay performed by Dr. TAM was incomplete.

As a general matter, the inquiry committee agreed with the expert witness that a failure to remove all ovarian tissue in a spay operation was below the minimum standard of accepted practice. In all the circumstances of this case, the inquiry committee found that Dr. TAM's carrying out of the spay operation in question fell below the standard expected of a general practitioner in Hong Kong at the material time. Accordingly, the inquiry committee found her guilty of the charge against her of misconduct or neglect in a professional respect.

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