



6th November, 2012

Ref: JG/L003/11/2012

Ms. Liza Lam
Clerk to Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene
Legislative Council
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China

Dear Ms. Lam,

**Written Submission on Agenda item V- Proposals to Amend the Veterinary Surgeons
Registration Ordinance (Cap. 529)**

The Society of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Hong Kong) fully supports the proposals to amend the Veterinary Surgeons Registration Ordinance (Cap. 529) as outlined in the consultation document circulated in October 2012. It is an important step forward in improving the Veterinary Surgeons Board's (VSB) capacity and efficiency in handling its responsibilities.

Whilst supporting the proposals in principle we would like to make the following recommendations for consideration. We feel the incorporation of these points would further enhance the functioning of the board with regard to dealing with complaints and performing its statutory duties.

1. We agree the number of persons sitting on the Preliminary Investigation Committee (PIC) should be expanded to 3 persons (from 2). A further refinement would be the PIC be comprised of 2 veterinary surgeons and 1 lay person and that at least one of the veterinary surgeons is in clinical practice (preferably in a field relevant to the case).
2. That the Chairman of the Veterinary Surgeons Board be selected by a method agreed to by the board which might mean being appointed by the Secretary for Food and Health or by another method such as direct election from the board itself.
3. With the increase to three members the PIC should be empowered to make a decision based on a majority vote and not on a consensus of opinion.

If you have any questions regarding the above please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Jane Gray BVSc MRCVS
Chief Veterinary Surgeon
Deputy Director (Veterinary Services)