

Clerk to Bills Committee on Veterinary Surgeons Registration (Amendment) Bill 2014  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central, Hong Kong

17<sup>th</sup> November 2014

Mancy Lau BVSc, MVSc, MACVSc

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Sai Kung

Dear Sirs,

**Bills Committee on Veterinary Surgeons Registration Cap 529 (Amendment) Bill 2014**

I commend the Legislative Council for their effort to improve the standard of veterinary practice in Hong Kong. Since I cannot attend the meeting as planned, I want to register my opinions and concerns here in writing.

It is my belief that no other people understand the veterinary profession better than the veterinarians themselves and most of the members of the veterinary board should be made up of veterinarians practising in Hong Kong. Most of us have practised elsewhere prior to coming to Hong Kong, and can make comparison of the countries we have worked at. We notice trivial and nonsense cases which never would be considered for investigation in other countries are being considered by the PIC HKVSB. It is obvious that although lay people on the veterinary board might ensure transparency of the process but these people do not truly understand animal welfare, nor the process of veterinary medicine. Just one lay person on the veterinary board will be sufficient to ensure a fair process for the clients. This ratio of lay person should be compatible to other medical board elsewhere in the world.

I also share many of my colleagues' concern re charity veterinary clinics. First of all there should be an income means test for the clients attending these clinics. Secondly, there should be minimal standards of clinical practice for these charity clinics, especially with animal welfare issues. In the name of charity and non profit, these charity clinics advertise their services in unprofessional manners, and compete unfairly with other clinics by obtaining discounts on drugs and equipments. In the name of charity, their staff are often paid minimal wage for working long hours. The non killing policy employed by some of the charities also mean prolonged suffering for many pets. There should be enforced standards for the charity clinics by regular evaluation by members of the VSB or SPCA.

In summary, the objective of raising the standard of veterinary practice in HK is best served by a self regulatory and unbiased veterinary board. One single lay person is sufficient to ensure the transparency of the process. The rest of the board can be respectable veterinarians voted in by the veterinary community, or self- volunteers.

I am contactable on my mobile [REDACTED], or email [REDACTED]

Sincerely,

Dr Mancy Lau