VETERINARY PRACTICE ACT 2026

(No. 11 of 2026)

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An Act to establish the Veterinary Council, to provide for the registration of veterinarians and the regulation of individuals practising veterinary medicine and for matters connected therewith, and to make consequential amendments to certain other Acts.

Be it enacted by the President with the advice and consent of the Parliament of Singapore, as follows:

Short title and commencement

1. This Act is the Veterinary Practice Act 2026 and comes into operation on a date that the Minister appoints by notification in the *Gazette*.

PART 1

PRELIMINARY

Interpretation

2. In this Act —

"animal" means a mammal (other than a human being), a bird, a reptile, an amphibian, or a fish (including a crustacean, mollusc or other aquatic invertebrate), and includes the young or egg of any animal;

"business name" means the name under which a person carries on a business;

"certificate of registration", in relation to a registered veterinarian, means a certificate of registration issued by the Council under section 22;

"complainant" means the person who brings a disciplinary case against a registered veterinarian and, if the disciplinary case is brought by the Council, includes the Council;

"Complaints Assessment Committee" means a Complaints Assessment Committee appointed by the Council under section 47;

"Complaints Panel" means the Complaints Panel appointed by the Council under section 39;

"Council" means the Veterinary Council established under section 4;

"Director-General, Animal Health and Welfare" means the Director-General, Animal Health and Welfare appointed under section 3(1) of the Animals and Birds Act 1965;

"disciplinary case" means a complaint made against, or any information provided about, a registered veterinarian under Part 5, and, if an interim suspension order is made against the registered veterinarian in relation to the complaint or information, includes any contravention or suspected contravention of the interim suspension order or any term specified for the interim suspension order;

"Disciplinary Committee" means a Disciplinary Committee appointed by the Council under section 53;

"interim order" means an interim restriction order or interim suspension order;

"Interim Orders Committee" means an Interim Orders Committee appointed by the Council under section 63;

"interim restriction order" means an order of an Interim Orders Committee under Division 6 of Part 5 providing that the registration of a registered veterinarian is conditional on his or her compliance with any condition or restriction specified in the order;

"interim suspension order" means an order of an Interim Orders Committee under Division 6 of Part 5 providing that the registration of a registered veterinarian is suspended;

"investigator" means an investigator appointed under section 79;

"layperson" means an individual who is not a veterinarian, and includes a legal professional;

"legal professional" means an individual who —

(*a*) has at any time held, but no longer holds, office as a Supreme Court Judge or Judicial Commissioner; or

(*b*) is —

(i) an advocate and solicitor of at least 10 years' standing;

(ii) a Judicial Service Officer or Legal Service Officer who has at least 10 years of full-time

employment in the Singapore Judicial Service or Singapore Legal Service (or both); or

(iii) an advocate and solicitor, a Judicial Service Officer or a Legal Service Officer who has any combination of standing mentioned in sub-paragraph (i) and employment mentioned in sub-paragraph (ii) which is at least 10 years;

"medical practitioner" means an individual who is a legally qualified medical practitioner within the meaning given by section 16 of the Medical Registration Act 1997;

"National Parks Board" means the National Parks Board established by the repealed National Parks Act (Cap. 198A, 1991 Revised Edition) as in force before 1 July 1996 and continued by section 3 of the National Parks Board Act 1996;

"practice of veterinary medicine" means the performance of any procedure on, the giving of any treatment to (or advice in relation to), or the attendance to, an animal that is usually carried out or given by veterinarians, such as —

(*a*) the diagnosis of any disease in, or injury to, the animal, including the performance of any test for the purpose of diagnosing the physiological or pathological condition of the animal;

(*b*) the giving of advice based on such diagnosis;

(*c*) the medical treatment (including of a dental or surgical nature) of the animal;

(*d*) the administration of anaesthetics to the animal;

(*e*) the prescription of any drug or medication for the animal;

(*f*) the issuance or endorsement of any certificate, report or document in relation to the animal that requires or implies the exercise of professional veterinary judgment, including a document stating or attesting to any of the following matters in relation to the animal:

(i) health status, disease status, vaccination status or physical condition;

(ii) identity, age, sex or neuter status;

(iii) cause of death or findings of a post-mortem examination;

(iv) the performance of any treatment, test or procedure,

and "practise veterinary medicine" is to be construed accordingly;

"practising certificate" means a practising certificate granted or renewed under section 23;

"president" means the president of the Council;

"public authority" means a body established or constituted by or under a public Act to perform or discharge a public function, excluding a Town Council established under section 4 of the Town Councils Act 1988;

"register" means any register mentioned in section 15;

"registered veterinarian" means an individual who is registered under this Act as —

(*a*) a veterinarian with full registration;

(*b*) a veterinarian with restricted registration; or

(*c*) a specialist;

"Registrar" means the Registrar of the Council appointed under section 14(1), and (except for section 4(2)(*c*) or 7(1)(*j*)) includes a Deputy Registrar appointed under section 14(2);

"specialist" means an individual who is registered as a specialist under this Act;

"veterinarian with full registration" means an individual registered as such under this Act;

"veterinarian with restricted registration" means an individual registered as such under this Act;

"veterinary medicine" means any branch of veterinary medicine, and includes veterinary surgery;

"veterinary student" means an individual who is enrolled in a university to receive, and receives, education for a degree in veterinary medicine, or any similar qualification, provided by the university.

Duly qualified veterinarian

3. *In this Act and any other written law, "duly qualified veterinarian", or any expression importing a person recognised by law as a veterinarian, means an individual who is a registered veterinarian and has a valid practising certificate, but excludes —*

(a) a registered veterinarian whose registration is suspended under this Act; and

(b) a registered veterinarian whose practising certificate is suspended under this Act.

PART 2

VETERINARY COUNCIL

Establishment of Veterinary Council

4.—(1) A body called the Veterinary Council is established, which consists of members appointed by the Minister.

(2) The Minister may appoint one or more of the following individuals to be a member of the Veterinary Council:

(*a*) the Director-General, Animal Health and Welfare, or a representative (being an officer or employee of the National Parks Board) nominated by the Director-General, Animal Health and Welfare for this purpose;

(*b*) the president of the Singapore Veterinary Association, or a representative (being a member of the Singapore Veterinary Association) nominated by the president of the Singapore Veterinary Association for this purpose;

(*c*) the Registrar.

(3) In addition, the Minister must appoint to the Veterinary Council, as members —

(*a*) at least 4 veterinarians with full registration, of whom at least one has at least 10 years' experience as a veterinarian; and

(*b*) at least 2 laypersons.

(4) The members appointed under subsection (2) or (3) hold office for a term not exceeding 3 years and are eligible for re-appointment.

(5) For the purposes of subsection (3)(*a*), a reference to a veterinarian with full registration includes an individual who holds a licence issued under section 53(1) of the Animals and Birds Act 1965, except a licence that authorises the individual to treat, vaccinate or inoculate animals only —

(*a*) at a place of practice specified in the licence; and

(*b*) under the supervision of another individual who holds a licence issued under section 53(1) of the Animals and Birds Act 1965.

Functions of Council

5.—(1) The functions of the Council are —

(*a*) to register veterinarians;

(*b*) to renew the registration of specialists;

(*c*) to grant and renew practising certificates for registered veterinarians;

(*d*) to conduct, approve, recognise or accredit courses or programmes for the training or assessment of individuals seeking to become or continue as registered veterinarians, and to approve, recognise or accredit the providers of such training or assessment;

(*e*) to conduct, approve, recognise or accredit programmes for the continuing professional education of registered

veterinarians, and to approve, recognise or accredit the providers of such continuing professional education;

(*f*) to determine and regulate the standards of practice, competence, conduct and ethics of registered veterinarians;

(*g*) to coordinate and supervise the activities of any committees appointed under section 13;

(*h*) to appoint the Complaints Panel, Complaints Assessment Committees, Disciplinary Committees and Interim Orders Committees for the purposes of Part 5; and

(*i*) generally to do all acts, matters and things as are necessary or authorised to be carried out under or for the purposes of this Act.

(2) The Council has the power to do all things necessary or expedient to be done for, or in connection with, the performance of its functions.

President of Council

6. The Minister must appoint one of the members of the Council as the president of the Council.

Disqualifications from membership of Council

7.—(1) Despite anything in section 4, an individual must not, or must not continue to, hold office as a member of the Council if —

(*a*) the individual is not a citizen of Singapore or a permanent resident of Singapore within the meaning given by section 2 of the Immigration Act 1959;

(*b*) the individual is an undischarged bankrupt;

(*c*) the individual has been convicted in Singapore or elsewhere of any offence involving fraud, dishonesty or moral turpitude or implying a defect in character that makes him or her unfit for his or her profession;

(*d*) the individual has been found guilty in Singapore or elsewhere of any improper act or conduct which brings disrepute to his or her profession;

(*e*) the individual has been found guilty in Singapore or elsewhere of professional misconduct;

(*f*) in the case where the individual is appointed to the Council under section 4(2)(*a*) by reason of him or her being the Director-General, Animal Health and Welfare — the individual ceases to be the Director-General, Animal Health and Welfare;

(*g*) in the case where the individual is appointed to the Council under section 4(2)(*a*) by reason of him or her being the representative nominated by the Director-General, Animal Health and Welfare — the individual ceases to be an officer or employee of the National Parks Board;

(*h*) in the case where the individual is appointed to the Council under section 4(2)(*b*) by reason of him or her being the president of the Singapore Veterinary Association — the individual ceases to be the president of the Singapore Veterinary Association;

(*i*) in the case where the individual is appointed to the Council under section 4(2)(*b*) by reason of him or her being the representative nominated by the president of the Singapore Veterinary Association — the individual ceases to be a member of the Singapore Veterinary Association;

(*j*) in the case where the individual is appointed to the Council under section 4(2)(*c*) by reason of him or her being the Registrar — the individual ceases to be the Registrar;

(*k*) if the individual has held a licence granted under section 53(1) of the Animals and Birds Act 1965 before the date of commencement of section 88(1)(*b*) — the licence has been suspended or revoked under that Act;

(*l*) the registration of the individual as a registered veterinarian is suspended or cancelled under this Act; or

(*m*) for medical reasons, the individual is unable to perform his or her duties as a member, as assessed by a medical practitioner.

(2) The Minister may waive the disqualification in subsection (1)(*a*) in respect of any particular member.

Removal of member of Council

8.—(1) The Minister may, at any time and without giving any reason, remove from office a member of the Council appointed under section 4(2) or (3).

(2) Without limiting subsection (1), the Minister may remove from office any member of the Council appointed under section 4(2) or (3) who is absent without leave of the Council from 3 consecutive meetings of —

(*a*) the Council; or

(*b*) a Disciplinary Committee, an Interim Orders Committee or any committee appointed under section 13 of which he or she is a member.

Resignation of member of Council

9.—(1) A member of the Council may resign his or her office by written notice to the Minister (with a copy to the Council) signed by the member.

(2) The resignation is effective when the notice in subsection (1) is received by the Minister or at the time specified in the notice (whichever is the later).

Filling of vacancies

10.—(1) The office of a member of the Council becomes vacant if the member —

(*a*) dies;

(*b*) resigns his or her office under section 9;

(*c*) is subject to any of the disqualifications in section 7, unless (in the case of the disqualification in section 7(1)(*a*)) the Minister has waived the disqualification in respect of the member; or

(*d*) is removed from office under section 8.

(2) Any question as to whether an individual has ceased to be a member of the Council is to be determined by the Minister whose decision is final.

(3) If a vacancy occurs in the office of any member of the Council appointed under section 4(2), the Minister may appoint an individual to fill the vacancy.

(4) If a vacancy occurs in the office of any member of the Council appointed under section 4(3) and —

(*a*) if, as a result of the vacancy, the composition of the Council does not meet the requirements under that provision — the Minister must, as soon as practicable, appoint an individual to fill the vacancy; or

(*b*) if paragraph (*a*) does not apply — the Minister may appoint an individual to fill the vacancy.

(5) An individual mentioned in subsection (3) or (4) must be appointed in the manner in which the appointment to the vacated office was made and holds that office for the remainder of the term for which the vacating member was appointed.

Validity of acts, etc.

11.—(1) Despite section 33 of the Interpretation Act 1965, the exercise of any power or performance of any function of the Council by the Council is not affected merely because at the relevant time —

(*a*) there was a vacancy in the membership of the Council, including a vacancy arising from the failure to appoint a member;

(*b*) there was some defect or irregularity existing in the appointment or continuance in office of an individual purporting to be a member of the Council; or

(*c*) there was an irregularity in the Council's decision-making procedure that does not affect the merits of the decision made.

(2) The acts of an individual as a member of the Council are not affected merely because —

(*a*) there was some defect or irregularity existing in the appointment or continuance in office of the individual purporting to be a member of the Council; or

(*b*) in the case of an individual acting in the capacity of a member of the Council, the president (or member of the Council elected under section 12(4)(*a*) to preside at any meeting) or the Registrar, the occasion for the individual so acting, or for his or her appointment, had not arisen or had ended.

Meetings of Council and payment of members of Council

12.—(1) The Council must meet at such times and places as the president or the Registrar may appoint.

(2) The quorum for a meeting of the Council is —

(*a*) for a meeting in relation to a decision of the Council, on its own motion, to bring a disciplinary case against a registered veterinarian under section 41(3) — 2 members of the Council;

(*b*) for a meeting in relation to a decision of the Council to make a referral, take an action or give a direction mentioned in section 75(1) for the continuation of a disciplinary case despite the withdrawal of the disciplinary case — 2 members of the Council; and

(*c*) for any other meeting — the higher of the following:

(i) one-third of the number of members of the Council;

(ii) 4 members of the Council.

(3) No business may be transacted at a meeting of the Council if a quorum is not present.

(4) Subject to subsection (5) —

(*a*) the president is to preside at any meeting of the Council and, in his or her absence, the members of the Council present may elect, from among those members, a member of the Council to preside at that meeting; and

(*b*) the president or member of the Council presiding at any meeting of the Council has an original vote and, in the case of an equality of votes, a casting vote.

(5) Subsection (4) does not apply to a meeting mentioned in subsection (2)(*a*) or (*b*).

(6) Subject to subsection (2), the Council may act despite any vacancy in the membership of the Council.

(7) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Council may regulate its own procedure.

(8) The Council must keep minutes of its proceedings in any form or manner that it thinks fit.

(9) The Minister may determine the remuneration (if any) to be paid to each member of the Council.

(10) If a member of the Council is an employee, any remuneration payable to the member under subsection (9) may be paid to the member's employer.

Appointment and establishment of committees and delegation of powers

13.—(1) The Council may appoint one or more committees for any general or special purpose which in the opinion of the Council may be better dealt with or managed by a committee.

(2) The purpose mentioned in subsection (1) includes the making of recommendations on any decision to be made by the Council under this Act.

(3) The Council must fix the number and term of office of the members of a committee appointed under this section and the number of those members necessary to form a quorum.

(4) A committee appointed under this section may include any individual who is not a member of the Council.

(5) The Council may delegate to any committee appointed under this section any of its powers or functions (except the Council's powers under subsections (1) and (3), the power of delegation

conferred by this subsection and the powers under sections 83 and 87), subject to any condition or restriction that the Council thinks fit.

(6) The Council may continue to exercise any power conferred on it or perform any function under this Act despite the delegation of the power or function under subsection (5).

(7) The Minister may determine the remuneration (if any) to be paid to each member of a committee appointed under this section.

(8) If a member of a committee appointed under this section is an employee, any remuneration payable to the member under subsection (7) may be paid to the member's employer.

PART 3

REGISTRATION OF VETERINARIANS

Registrar of Council

14.—(1) For the purposes of this Act, the Minister must appoint a public officer or an officer or employee of a public authority to be the Registrar of the Council.

(2) The Minister may appoint one or more Deputy Registrars to assist the Registrar in carrying out the Registrar's functions and duties under this Act.

(3) The Registrar may, subject to any condition or restriction that the Registrar thinks fit, delegate to a Deputy Registrar any of the Registrar's powers or functions under this Act, except the power of delegation conferred by this subsection.

(4) The Registrar may continue to exercise any power conferred on him or her or perform any function under this Act despite the delegation of the power or function under subsection (3).

Registers

***15.**—(1) The Registrar must keep and maintain the following registers:*

(a) a register called "The Register of Veterinarians with Full Registration", containing the particulars mentioned in

subsection (2) of individuals who are registered as veterinarians with full registration;

(b) a register called "The Register of Veterinarians with Restricted Registration", containing the particulars mentioned in subsection (2) of individuals who are registered as veterinarians with restricted registration;

(c) a register called "The Register of Specialists", containing the particulars mentioned in subsection (2) of individuals who are registered as specialists.

(2) The particulars of each individual to be contained in a register are the following:

(a) the individual's name and residential address;

(b) the business name and address of the individual's primary place of practice, if any;

(c) the date of the registration of the individual;

(d) the individual's qualification for registration and the date the individual obtained that qualification;

(e) in the case of a specialist, each branch of veterinary medicine in which the individual is registered as a specialist;

(f) any other particulars as the Council may determine.

(3) Every individual whose name is entered in a register must inform the Registrar in writing of —

(a) subject to subsection (5), any change in the individual's name or residential address;

(b) any change in the business name or address of the individual's primary place of practice;

(c) any withdrawal or cancellation of the individual's qualification for registration; or

(d) any change in any other prescribed particulars,

within 28 days after the change, withdrawal or cancellation.

(4) An individual who contravenes subsection (3) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding $1,000.

(5) An individual who makes a report of a change in his or her residential address under section 10 of the National Registration Act 1965 is deemed to have complied with subsection (3)(a) on the date that he or she makes the report.

(6) The Registrar may disclose any information in a register to any prescribed person, subject to any prescribed condition.

(7) Subsection (6) does not affect any other right or duty to disclose the information under general or written law.

Alterations in registers

16. *The Registrar must —*

(a) insert in the appropriate register any alteration which may come to the Registrar's knowledge to any particulars or qualifications of any registered veterinarian;

(b) correct any error in a register; and

(c) remove from the appropriate register the registration of any individual —

(i) whose registration is cancelled under this Act;

(ii) who is deceased; or

(iii) for the Register of Specialists — whose registration has lapsed.

Full registration

17.*—(1) Subject to subsection (6) and section 21(6), the Council may register an individual as a veterinarian with full registration if the individual holds any prescribed qualification in veterinary medicine.*

(2) Subject to subsection (6) and section 21(6), the Council may register an individual who does not hold any prescribed qualification mentioned in subsection (1) as a veterinarian with full registration if the individual —

(a) holds any other qualification in veterinary medicine, which is, in the opinion of the Council, not lower in standing than a prescribed qualification mentioned in subsection (1); and

(b) satisfies the Council that he or she has the knowledge and skill, and has acquired the experience, which is necessary for the practice of veterinary medicine.

(3) For the purpose of satisfying itself that an individual's qualification mentioned in subsection (2)(a) is not lower in standing than a prescribed qualification mentioned in subsection (1), the Council may require the individual to undergo and pass an examination conducted or arranged by the Council or any person recognised by the Council.

(4) Any registration under subsection (1) or (2) is subject to any condition that the Council may impose.

(5) Without limiting subsection (4), the Council may impose all or any of the following conditions on the registration of an individual under subsection (1) or (2):

(a) that, for a period (not exceeding 3 years) specified by the Council, the individual must only practise veterinary medicine under the supervision (that meets the Council's requirements) of an approved veterinarian;

(b) that, for a period (not exceeding 3 years) specified by the Council, the individual's performance as a veterinarian is subject to review by an approved veterinarian;

(c) that, for a period (not exceeding 3 years) specified by the Council, the individual must only practise veterinary medicine in an establishment, or an establishment that is within a class of establishments, specified by the Council;

(d) that, for a period (not exceeding 3 years) specified by the Council, the individual must only practise in a branch of veterinary medicine, or undertake a type or description of work in the practice of veterinary medicine, specified by the Council.

(6) Despite subsection (1) or (2), the Council may, if it is of the opinion that it is not in the public interest for an individual mentioned in that subsection to be registered as a veterinarian with full registration, register the individual as a veterinarian with restricted registration, subject to any condition or restriction, including any condition or restriction mentioned in section 18(4).

(7) In this section —

"approved veterinarian" means a duly qualified veterinarian with full registration who is approved by the Council;

"prescribed qualification" means a prescribed qualification conferred by a prescribed university in or outside Singapore.

Restricted registration

***18.**—(1) Subject to section 21(6), the Council may register an individual as a veterinarian with restricted registration if the individual —*

(a) holds a qualification in veterinary medicine other than a qualification mentioned in section 17(1) or (2)(a) which has, in the opinion of the Council, provided the individual with adequate training;

(b) satisfies the Council that he or she has the knowledge and skill, and has acquired the experience, which is necessary for the practice of veterinary medicine; and

(c) has been selected for employment in Singapore as a veterinarian in an establishment recognised by the Council.

(2) For the purpose of satisfying itself that an individual's qualification mentioned in subsection (1)(a) has provided adequate training to the individual, the Council may require the individual to undergo and pass an examination conducted or arranged by the Council or any person recognised by the Council.

(3) Any registration under subsection (1) is subject to any condition or restriction that the Council may impose.

(4) Without limiting subsection (3), the Council may impose one or more of the following conditions or restrictions on the registration of an individual under subsection (1):

(a) that the individual must only practise veterinary medicine under the supervision (that meets the Council's requirements) of an approved veterinarian;

(b) that the individual's performance as a veterinarian is subject to review by an approved veterinarian;

(c) that the individual must only practise veterinary medicine —

(i) in the establishment mentioned in subsection (1)(c) in which the individual had been selected for employment prior to the individual's registration; or

(ii) in an establishment, or an establishment that is within a class of establishments, specified by the Council;

(d) that the individual must only practise in a branch of veterinary medicine, or undertake a type or description of work in the practice of veterinary medicine, specified by the Council.

(5) In this section, "approved veterinarian" means a duly qualified veterinarian with full registration who is approved by the Council.

Registration of specialists

***19.**—(1) Subject to section 21(6), the Council may register, or renew the registration of, a veterinarian with full registration as a specialist in any particular branch of veterinary medicine if he or she —*

(a) holds any postgraduate degree or qualification approved by the Council in that branch of veterinary medicine; or

(b) satisfies the Council that he or she has acquired any special knowledge of, and skill and experience in, that branch of veterinary medicine.

(2) The Council may register, or renew the registration of, a veterinarian with full registration as a specialist under subsection (1) for any period that the Council thinks fit.

(3) Any registration or renewal of registration under subsection (1) is subject to any condition that the Council may impose.

Power to amend, vary or revoke condition or restriction, etc.

***20.**—(1) Subject to subsection (2), the Council may, at any time after registering an individual as a registered veterinarian under this Act —*

(a) for an individual registered as a veterinarian with full registration or as a specialist — amend, vary or revoke any condition of the registration that is imposed, amended or varied by the Council under this Act, or impose any new or additional condition on the registration; and

(b) for an individual registered as a veterinarian with restricted registration — amend, vary or revoke any condition of or restriction on the registration that is imposed, amended or varied by the Council under this Act, or impose any new or additional condition or restriction on the registration.

(2) Any condition or restriction imposed, amended or varied by the Council with the agreement of a registered veterinarian under section 38(2)(c) or (d) may only be amended, varied or revoked under subsection (1) with the written agreement of the veterinarian.

(3) Without affecting subsection (2), the Council is not required to give an individual mentioned in subsection (1) an opportunity to be heard before taking any action under that subsection in respect of the individual's registration.

Application for registration, etc.

***21.**—(1) An application for registration under section 17, 18 or 19, or for renewal of registration under section 19, must be made in the form and manner required by the Council and must be accompanied by —*

(a) any document, information or declaration (including a statutory declaration) required by the Council; and

(b) the prescribed fee, if any.

(2) An application for the renewal of registration under section 19 must be made no later than 30 days before the end of the period of registration or renewed registration (as the case may be) mentioned in section 19(2).

(3) A registered veterinarian who applies for the renewal of registration as a specialist under section 19 after the period specified in subsection (2) must also pay to the Council the prescribed late application fee, if any.

(4) The Council may require the applicant to submit himself or herself to a medical examination by a medical practitioner approved by the Council to determine if the applicant is fit to practise veterinary medicine as a registered veterinarian.

(5) The applicant must bear the costs of any medical examination mentioned in subsection (4).

(6) The Council may refuse to register any applicant under section 17, 18 or 19, or to renew the registration of any applicant under section 19, who —

(a) has had his or her registration as a veterinarian (or its equivalent) in any other country or territory withdrawn, suspended or cancelled; or

(b) in the opinion of the Council —

(i) is not eligible to be registered;

(ii) is not of good reputation and character;

(iii) is unfit to practise veterinary medicine —

(A) because his or her fitness to practise veterinary medicine has been impaired by reason of his or her physical or mental condition; or

(B) for any other reason;

(iv) has failed without reasonable cause to submit to a medical examination when required to do so under subsection (4);

(v) has contravened any condition or restriction of any previous registration imposed on him or her under this Act; or

(vi) should not be registered because this would not be in the public interest.

(7) If the Council refuses to register, or renew the registration of, an applicant, the Registrar must, as soon as practicable, give written notice to the applicant of the refusal.

(8) An individual who is dissatisfied with any refusal of the Council under subsection (6) may, within 30 days after service of the notice mentioned in subsection (7), appeal to the Minister whose decision is final.

Certificate of registration

22. *Upon the registration of an individual, the Council must issue to the individual a certificate of registration specifying the registration of the individual.*

Practising certificate

23.*—(1) A registered veterinarian who desires to obtain or renew a practising certificate must make an application to the Council.*

(2) An application for the grant or renewal of a practising certificate must be made in the form and manner required by the Council and must be accompanied by —

(a) any document, information or declaration (including a statutory declaration) required by the Council; and

(b) the prescribed fee, if any.

(3) An application for the renewal of a practising certificate must be made no later than 30 days before the end of the period of validity of the practising certificate mentioned in subsection (5).

(4) A registered veterinarian who applies for the renewal of his or her practising certificate after the period specified in subsection (3) must also pay to the Council the prescribed late application fee, if any.

(5) The Council may grant or renew a practising certificate for any period, not exceeding any period prescribed under subsection (12) (if any), that the Council determines.

(6) A registered veterinarian is not eligible for the grant or renewal of a practising certificate, or to continue to hold a practising certificate, unless the registered veterinarian complies with —

(a) any prescribed requirement, including any requirement relating to continuing professional education; and

(b) any condition specified by the Council for the application for the grant or renewal of the practising certificate.

(7) The Council may —

(a) refuse to grant a practising certificate to a registered veterinarian;

(b) refuse to renew the practising certificate of a registered veterinarian; or

(c) cancel the practising certificate of a registered veterinarian,

if the registered veterinarian does not comply with any prescribed requirement or specified condition mentioned in subsection (6).

(8) Before the Council cancels a registered veterinarian's practising certificate under subsection (7)(c), the Registrar must give written notice to the registered veterinarian —

(a) informing of the Council's intention to cancel the practising certificate; and

(b) specifying the time within which the registered veterinarian may submit to the Council reasons why the practising certificate should not be cancelled.

(9) A registered veterinarian's practising certificate is cancelled immediately upon the cancellation or suspension of his or her

registration as a veterinarian with full registration or as a veterinarian with restricted registration.

(10) If the Council refuses to grant or renew a practising certificate, or cancels a practising certificate under subsection (7), the Registrar must, as soon as practicable, give written notice to the individual concerned of the refusal or cancellation.

(11) An individual who is dissatisfied with any decision of the Council under subsection (7) may, within 30 days after service of the notice mentioned in subsection (10), appeal to the Minister whose decision is final.

(12) The Minister may, by notification in the Gazette, prescribe the maximum period of validity for a practising certificate.

Publication of list of duly qualified veterinarians

24. *The Registrar must publish on the Council's Internet website, or on any other medium which is accessible to members of the public that the Minister may determine, the following information:*

(a) the name of each duly qualified veterinarian;

(b) the business name and address of the primary place of practice (if any) of each duly qualified veterinarian;

(c) the qualification for registration, and date that the qualification was obtained, of each duly qualified veterinarian;

(d) the date of registration of each duly qualified veterinarian.

Registered veterinarians to use only qualifications entered in registers and approved titles, etc.

25.*—(1) A registered veterinarian must not —*

(a) use, or exhibit or publish in, any card, letter, stationery, nameplate, signboard, placard, circular or handbill, or any notice displayed at any premises used by him or her for the practice of veterinary medicine, any qualification other than the qualifications which are entered against his or her

name in the appropriate register or which has been approved by the Council; or

(b) use any title, addition or designation other than the title, addition or designation which has been approved by the Council.

(2) A registered veterinarian who contravenes subsection (1) may be subject to disciplinary proceedings under this Act.

Cancellation of registration

***26.**—(1) Despite the provisions of this Act, the Council may, upon any evidence available to the Council, cancel the registration of an individual under this Act if —*

(a) the individual has contravened this Act or any condition or restriction imposed on his or her registration;

(b) the Council is of the opinion, having regard to a report of an approved veterinarian mentioned in section 17(5)(a) or 18(4)(a) (as the case may be), that the individual is unable to perform the duties of a veterinarian with full registration or veterinarian with restricted registration (as the case may be) satisfactorily;

(c) the Council is of the opinion, having regard to any review by an approved veterinarian mentioned in section 17(5)(b) or 18(4)(b) (as the case may be), that the individual is unable to perform the duties of a veterinarian with full registration or veterinarian with restricted registration (as the case may be) satisfactorily;

(d) in the case where the individual is registered as a specialist — the individual's registration as a veterinarian with full registration has been cancelled;

(e) the individual has obtained his or her registration fraudulently or by an incorrect statement;

(f) the individual's qualification that satisfied section 17(1) or (2)(a) or 18(1)(a), or the individual's postgraduate degree or qualification that satisfied section 19(1)(a), (as the case may be) for registration under that provision has been

withdrawn or cancelled by the authority or university through which it was acquired or by which it was awarded;

(g) the individual has had his or her registration (or its equivalent) in any other country or territory withdrawn, suspended or cancelled by a competent authority in that country or territory; or

(h) the individual has requested (not being a request made under section 37) and shown sufficient reason for the individual's registration to be cancelled (not being a reason mentioned in section 37) and a disciplinary case is not pending against the individual under Part 5.

(2) The Registrar may cancel the registration of an individual who has not renewed his or her practising certificate for a continuous period of 2 years.

(3) Before the Council or Registrar (as the case may be) cancels the registration of a registered veterinarian under subsection (1) (except on the ground mentioned in paragraph (h) of that subsection) or (2), the Registrar must give written notice to the registered veterinarian —

(a) informing of the intention of the Council or Registrar (as the case may be) to cancel the registration; and

(b) specifying the time within which the registered veterinarian may submit to the Council or Registrar (as the case may be) reasons why the registration should not be cancelled.

(4) If the Council or Registrar (as the case may be) cancels the registration of an individual under subsection (1) or (2) —

(a) the Registrar must, as soon as practicable, give written notice to the individual of the cancellation; and

(b) if the cancellation is on a ground mentioned in subsection (1)(a), (b), (c), (d) or (h) or (2) — the Council or Registrar (as the case may be) may specify terms that the individual must comply with for the purpose

of restoration of the individual's registration under section 27.

(5) An individual who is dissatisfied with any decision of the Council or Registrar (as the case may be) under subsection (1) (excluding paragraph (h) of that subsection) or (2) may, within 30 days after service of the notice mentioned in subsection (4)(a), appeal to the Minister whose decision is final.

Restoration of registration cancelled under section 26

***27.**—(1) Subject to subsections (2) and (4), if the registration of an individual has been cancelled under section 26(1)(a), (b), (c), (d) or (h) or (2), the Council may, on its own motion or on an application by the individual —*

(a) in the case where the individual was a veterinarian with full registration before the cancellation — register the individual as a veterinarian with restricted registration, subject to any condition or restriction, including any condition or restriction mentioned in section 18(4); or

(b) in any case — restore the individual's registration.

(2) An application under subsection (1) must not be made to the Council more than once in any period of 6 months.

(3) An application under subsection (1) must be made in the form and manner required by the Council and must be accompanied by —

(a) any document, information or declaration (including a statutory declaration) required by the Council; and

(b) the prescribed fee, if any.

(4) If the registration of the individual has been cancelled under section 26(1)(a), (b), (c), (d) or (h) or (2), the Council must not take any action under subsection (1)(a) or (b) unless the individual has complied with the terms (if any) specified under section 26(4)(b).

Registrar's certificate

28. *A certificate purporting to be signed by the Registrar —*

(a) to the effect that at any time or during any period specified in the certificate an individual was or was not a registered veterinarian, or had or did not have a valid practising certificate; or

(b) as to any entry in a register, or the removal of any entry from a register,

is, in the absence of proof to the contrary, and without further proof of the signature appended to the certificate, sufficient evidence of the matters specified in the certificate.

PART 4

OFFENCES AND RELATED MATTERS

Prohibition of practice of veterinary medicine

29.*—(1) Subject to subsections (2) to (5), an individual must not practise veterinary medicine in Singapore unless the individual is a duly qualified veterinarian.*

(2) Subsection (1) does not apply to the doing of any act within the practice of veterinary medicine, other than any prescribed act, by any veterinary student if the act is done —

(a) in accordance with any prescribed condition;

(b) in the course of the veterinary student's training to become a veterinarian; and

(c) under the supervision of a duly qualified veterinarian.

(3) Subsection (1) does not apply to the inoculation of an animal with any veterinary biologics by —

(a) an authorised officer; or

(b) an individual who holds a valid licence mentioned in section 55(1) of the Animals and Birds Act 1965, if the inoculation is performed in accordance with the conditions of that licence.

(4) Subsection (1) does not apply to an individual who keeps or uses any animal for any scientific purpose in any premises if the keeping or use of the animal in those premises and for that purpose —

(a) is authorised by a licence issued under the Animals and Birds Act 1965; and

(b) is carried out in accordance with that Act and the conditions of that licence.

(5) Subsection (1) does not apply to the doing of any act (not being an excluded act) within the practice of veterinary medicine by an individual (not being an individual whose registration as a veterinarian or whose practising certificate is suspended under Part 5) if the act is done in accordance with any prescribed condition and under the supervision of a duly qualified veterinarian.

(6) An individual who contravenes subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding $50,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both.

(7) In this section —

"authorised officer" and "veterinary biologics" have the respective meanings given by section 2(1) of the Animals and Birds Act 1965;

"excluded act" means —

(a) the diagnosis of any disease in, or injury to, an animal, including the performance of a test for the purpose of diagnosing the physiological or pathological condition of the animal;

(b) any treatment (of a surgical nature) of an animal;

(c) the prescription of any drug or medication for an animal;

(d) the issuance or endorsement of any certificate, report or document in relation to an animal that requires or implies the exercise of professional veterinary judgment, including a document stating or attesting

to any of the following matters in relation to the animal:

(i) health status, disease status, vaccination status or physical condition;

(ii) identity, age, sex or neuter status;

(iii) cause of death or findings of a post-mortem examination;

(iv) the performance of any treatment, test or procedure; or

(e) any other act that may be prescribed.

Unauthorised individual acting as duly qualified veterinarian, etc.

***30.**—(1) An individual who is not a duly qualified veterinarian shall be guilty of an offence if the individual —*

(a) wilfully and falsely pretends to be a duly qualified veterinarian;

(b) practises veterinary medicine —

(i) under the name or title of a veterinarian; or

(ii) under any name, title, addition or description implying that he or she holds any degree or qualification in veterinary medicine;

(c) takes or uses any name or title of a veterinarian, or any other word in any language having the same meaning or being to the like intent;

(d) takes or uses any name, title, sign, uniform, badge or any other addition or description implying, whether in itself or in the circumstances in which it is used, that he or she is qualified to practise veterinary medicine; or

(e) advertises or holds himself or herself out as a veterinarian.

(2) Subsection (1)(d) does not apply to any act carried out by a veterinary student in the course of the veterinary student's training to

become a veterinarian, if that training is done under the supervision of a duly qualified veterinarian.

(3) An individual who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding $50,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both.

(4) Subject to subsection (5), it is a defence for an individual charged with an offence under subsection (1)(c), (d) or (e) to prove that the individual acted without the intention to deceive or to gain any advantage, benefit or financial gain for a business, trade, profession, vocation or employment carried on by the individual.

(5) Subsection (4) does not apply to an individual charged with an offence under subsection (1)(e) if the individual so advertised or held himself or herself out in the prescribed circumstances.

(6) If an offence is committed under subsection (1) by an individual (A) acting as an employee, an agent or a partner of another person (B), B shall also be guilty of an offence.

(7) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (6) shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding $50,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both.

(8) It is a defence for a person (B) charged with an offence under subsection (6) to prove that the offence under subsection (1) was committed by A without B's knowledge and that B has taken all reasonable precautions and exercised due diligence to prevent the commission of that offence by A.

Causing or permitting another to make representation of oneself as duly qualified veterinarian, etc.

***31.**—(1) An individual (A) shall be guilty of an offence if A causes or permits a person (B) to make any representation with regard to A which, if made by A with the requisite intent, would be an offence by A under section 30.*

(2) An individual who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding $50,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both.

(3) Subject to subsection (4), it is a defence for an individual charged with an offence under subsection (1) to prove that the individual acted without the intention to deceive or to gain any advantage, benefit or financial gain for a business, trade, profession, vocation or employment carried on by the individual.

(4) Subsection (3) does not apply to an individual charged with an offence under subsection (1) with respect to a representation mentioned in section 30(1)(e) if the representation is made in the prescribed circumstances.

Making representation of another as duly qualified veterinarian, etc.

***32.**—(1) A person (A) shall be guilty of an offence if A makes, with regard to an individual (B), any representation which, if made by B with the requisite intent, would be an offence by B under section 30.*

(2) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding $50,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both.

(3) It is a defence for a person (A) charged with an offence under subsection (1) to prove that A acted without the intention to deceive or to gain any advantage, benefit or financial gain for —

(a) a business, trade, profession, vocation or employment carried on by A or a person on whose behalf A committed the act; or

(b) if A or the person on whose behalf A committed the act is established for a charitable purpose or for purposes which include a charitable purpose — any activity carried out or service provided by A or the person for that purpose.

Liability of registered veterinarian for enabling another to act in contravention of section 30

***33.**—(1) A registered veterinarian shall be guilty of an offence if the registered veterinarian, by his or her presence, countenance, advice, assistance or cooperation, knowingly enables an individual (whether described as an assistant or otherwise) to assume a title in contravention of section 30.*

(2) It is a defence for a registered veterinarian charged with an offence under subsection (1) to prove that —

(a) the contravention of section 30 was due to —

(i) a mistake on the registered veterinarian's part;

(ii) reliance on information supplied to the registered veterinarian; or

(iii) the act of another person or some other cause beyond the registered veterinarian's control; and

(b) the registered veterinarian took all reasonable precautions and exercised due diligence to prevent the contravention of section 30.

(3) A registered veterinarian who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding $50,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both.

False assumption of title of specialist

***34.**—(1) A registered veterinarian who is not registered under section 19 as a specialist in a branch of veterinary medicine, or whose registration as a specialist in a branch of veterinary medicine is suspended, must not —*

(a) practise veterinary medicine under the name or title of a specialist in that branch of veterinary medicine, or under any name, title, addition or description implying that the registered veterinarian is such a specialist or has any degree, qualification, special knowledge, skill or experience in that branch of veterinary medicine; or

(b) advertise, cause or permit another person to advertise, or hold himself or herself out as a specialist in that branch of veterinary medicine.

(2) A registered veterinarian (A) must not cause or permit a person (B) to make any representation with regard to A which, if made by A with the requisite intent, would contravene subsection (1).

(3) A disciplinary case may be brought under Part 5 against any registered veterinarian who contravenes subsection (1) or (2).

Making representation of another as specialist, etc.

35.—*(1) A registered veterinarian must not make any representation with regard to another registered veterinarian (A) which, if made by A with the requisite intent, would contravene section 34(1).*

(2) A registered veterinarian must not, by his or her presence, countenance, advice, assistance or cooperation, knowingly enable another registered veterinarian (whether described as an assistant or otherwise) to assume a title in contravention of section 34(1).

(3) A disciplinary case may be brought under Part 5 against any registered veterinarian who contravenes subsection (1) or (2).

Fraudulent registration as registered veterinarian, etc.

36.—*(1) An individual must not —*

(a) obtain or attempt to obtain registration as a registered veterinarian, a certificate of registration or a practising certificate, by knowingly making or producing or causing to be made or produced any false or fraudulent declaration, certificate, application, information or representation, whether in writing or otherwise;

(b) wilfully make or cause to be made any false entry in a register;

(c) forge or alter a certificate of registration or a practising certificate;

(d) use or represent as genuine a certificate of registration or a practising certificate which he or she knows or has reason to believe is forged or altered; or

(e) buy, sell or fraudulently obtain a certificate of registration or a practising certificate.

(2) An individual who contravenes subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding $50,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both.

PART 5

DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS AND OTHER MATTERS

Division 1 — Voluntary cancellation and suspension of registration, etc.

Request for voluntary cancellation or suspension of registration, etc.

37. *A registered veterinarian may request the Council to take one or more of the actions mentioned in section 38(2) if the registered veterinarian believes that —*

(a) his or her fitness to practise veterinary medicine is impaired by reason of his or her physical or mental condition; or

(b) the quality of the professional services provided by him or her does not meet the standard that is reasonable to expect of a veterinarian.

Voluntary cancellation or suspension of registration, etc.

38.*—(1) This section applies if —*

(a) a request is made by a registered veterinarian under section 37; or

(b) the Council decides under section 46(1) (read with section 45(c)(ii)) to proceed under subsection (2) with the written agreement of the registered veterinarian.

(2) The Council may, with the written agreement of the registered veterinarian, do one or more of the following:

(a) cancel the registered veterinarian's registration;

(b) suspend the registered veterinarian's registration for a period not exceeding 3 years;

(c) if the registered veterinarian is a veterinarian with full registration, cancel his or her registration and register him or her as a veterinarian with restricted registration, subject to any condition or restriction, including any condition or restriction mentioned in section 18(4);

(d) if the registered veterinarian is —

(i) a veterinarian with full registration or a specialist — impose any new or additional condition on the registration, or amend or vary any condition imposed, amended or varied under this Act; or

(ii) a veterinarian with restricted registration — impose any new or additional condition or restriction on the registration, or amend or vary any condition or restriction imposed, amended or varied under this Act;

(e) subject to section 23(9), suspend or cancel the registered veterinarian's practising certificate.

(3) However, the Council must not take any action under subsection (2) in relation to a registered veterinarian if —

(a) the Council believes that there is evidence for the making of a complaint relating to the registered veterinarian's act or conduct mentioned in section 40(3)(a);

(b) the Council believes that there is evidence of any matter mentioned in section 40(4)(a) or (b); or

(c) except in the case where subsection (1)(b) applies — a disciplinary case has been brought against the registered veterinarian under this Part and is pending against the registered veterinarian.

(4) If the Council cancels the registration of an individual under subsection (2)(a) or (c) or (6)(c), or the practising certificate of an individual under subsection (2)(e), the Council may specify terms that the individual must comply with for the purposes of restoration of the individual's registration under section 76 or reinstatement of the individual's practising certificate, as the case may be.

(5) If the Council suspends the registration of a registered veterinarian under subsection (2)(b) or (6)(d), or suspends the practising certificate of a registered veterinarian under subsection (2)(e), the Council may specify terms that the registered veterinarian must comply with under the suspension.

(6) If a registered veterinarian whose registration is suspended under paragraph (d) or subsection (2)(b) has contravened —

(a) the suspension; or

(b) any term specified under subsection (5) for the suspension,

the Council must make one of the following orders and the Registrar must, as soon as practicable, give written notice to the registered veterinarian of the order:

(c) cancel the registration;

(d) extend, for a further period not exceeding 12 months, the period of suspension of the registration;

(e) if the registered veterinarian is —

(i) a veterinarian with full registration or a specialist — impose any new or additional condition on the registration, or amend or vary any condition imposed, amended or varied under this Act; or

(ii) a veterinarian with restricted registration — impose any new or additional condition or restriction on the registration, or amend or vary any condition or restriction imposed, amended or varied under this Act.

(7) Subject to section 23(9), if a registered veterinarian whose practising certificate is suspended under subsection (2)(e) has contravened —

(a) the suspension; or

(b) any term specified under subsection (5) for the suspension,

the Council must cancel the registered veterinarian's practising certificate and the Registrar must, as soon as practicable, give written notice to the registered veterinarian of the cancellation.

(8) For the purposes of subsections (5) and (6) —

(a) a reference to a suspension of registration includes an extension of the period of suspension of registration under subsection (6)(d); and

(b) a reference to a period of suspension of registration includes an extended period of suspension of registration under subsection (6)(d).

Division 2 — Inquiries into complaints against and information about registered veterinarians

Appointment of Complaints Panel

***39.**—(1) For the purpose of enabling Complaints Assessment Committees, Disciplinary Committees and Interim Orders Committees to be constituted in accordance with this Part, the Council must appoint a panel (called in this Act the Complaints Panel) consisting of the following individuals who are not members of the Council:*

(a) at least 10 registered veterinarians;

(b) at least 5 laypersons.

(2) A member of the Complaints Panel is appointed for a term of 2 years and is eligible for re-appointment.

(3) The Council may, at any time, revoke the appointment of any member of the Complaints Panel or fill any vacancy in its membership.

(4) The production of any written instrument purporting to be signed by the Council and making any appointment or revocation of a member of the Complaints Panel is evidence that the appointment or revocation has been duly made.

Bringing disciplinary case against registered veterinarian

***40.**—(1) A person may bring a disciplinary case against a registered veterinarian by making a complaint against, or providing any information about, the registered veterinarian to the Council on any matter mentioned in subsection (3) or (4).*

(2) Every disciplinary case mentioned in subsection (1) or section 41(3) must —

(a) be made in writing;

(b) be supported by a statutory declaration, unless the disciplinary case is brought by a public officer, an officer or employee of a public authority or the Council; and

(c) be accompanied by any relevant document or information that is in the possession of the complainant.

(3) The complaint mentioned in subsection (1) or section 41(3) is a complaint —

(a) relating to —

(i) the conduct of a registered veterinarian in his or her professional capacity; or

(ii) a registered veterinarian's improper act or conduct which brings disrepute to his or her profession; or

(b) that the quality of the professional services provided by a registered veterinarian does not meet the standard that is reasonable to expect of a veterinarian.

(4) The information mentioned in subsection (1) or section 41(3) is information relating to —

(a) the conviction in Singapore or elsewhere of a registered veterinarian of any offence involving fraud, dishonesty or moral turpitude, or implying a defect in character that makes him or her unfit to practise veterinary medicine;

(b) the death of any animal resulting from the conduct of a registered veterinarian in his or her professional capacity; or

(c) the physical or mental fitness of a registered veterinarian to practise veterinary medicine.

Referral of disciplinary case to Registrar

***41.**—(1) Subject to subsection (2) and sections 42(1) and 43, the Council must, after receiving any disciplinary case under section 40(1), refer the disciplinary case to the Registrar for review.*

(2) The Council need not refer the disciplinary case to the Registrar for review if the disciplinary case relates to any matter set out in section 26(1)(a) to (g) or (2) and, in such a case, the Council or Registrar (as the case may be) may take any action authorised under that section.

(3) Subject to sections 42(2) and 43, the Council may also, on its own motion, bring a disciplinary case against a registered veterinarian by making a complaint against, or providing any information about, the registered veterinarian on any matter mentioned in section 40(3) or (4) to the Registrar for review.

Limitation period for referral of disciplinary case

42.*—(1) Subject to section 43, the Council must not refer a disciplinary case to the Registrar under section 41(1) if the disciplinary case is brought to the Council under section 40(1) after the end of the later of the following periods:*

(a) 3 years after the date of the act, conduct or occurrence that is the subject matter of the disciplinary case;

(b) 3 years after the earliest date on which the complainant had knowledge of the act, conduct or occurrence, or could with reasonable diligence have discovered it.

(2) Subject to section 43, the Council must not refer a disciplinary case to the Registrar on its own motion under section 41(3) after the end of the later of the following periods:

(a) 3 years after the date of the act, conduct or occurrence that is the subject matter of the disciplinary case;

(b) 3 years after the earliest date on which the Council had knowledge of the act, conduct or occurrence, or could with reasonable diligence have discovered it.

(3) In this section, "knowledge" includes the knowledge that a person may reasonably have been expected to acquire —

(a) from facts observable or ascertainable by the person; or

(b) from facts ascertainable by the person with the help of appropriate expert advice, which is reasonable for the person to seek.

Assessment of disciplinary case for referral to Registrar despite limitation period

***43.**—(1) If the applicable period mentioned in section 42(1) or (2) has expired for a disciplinary case, the Council must refer the disciplinary case to a member of the Council appointed by the Council (called in this section the appointed member) for an assessment mentioned in subsection (3).*

(2) The referral under subsection (1) must be made —

(a) for a disciplinary case mentioned in section 42(1) — within 2 weeks after the Council receives the disciplinary case; or

(b) for a disciplinary case mentioned in section 42(2) — as soon as practicable.

(3) The appointed member who is referred a disciplinary case under subsection (1) must, within 3 weeks after the referral, inform the Council of his or her assessment whether it is in the public interest for the disciplinary case to be referred to the Registrar despite the expiry of the applicable period mentioned in section 42(1) or (2).

(4) If the appointed member informs the Council that he or she is of the opinion that it is in the public interest to refer the disciplinary case to the Registrar, the Council must, within 2 weeks after receipt of the appointed member's assessment, refer the disciplinary case to the Registrar under section 41(1) or (3), as the case may be.

(5) The appointed person must not be —

(a) the Registrar;

(b) if the disciplinary case is intended to be brought by the Council — any member of the Council who participated in (or is or will be participating in) or influenced (or is or will be influencing) the Council's decision to bring the disciplinary case under section 41(3); or

(c) if section 75(1) applies to the disciplinary case — any member of the Council who participated in (or is or will be participating in) or influenced (or is or will be influencing) the Council's decision to refer the disciplinary case under section 41(3) to the Registrar for review despite the withdrawal of the disciplinary case.

Review of disciplinary case by Registrar

44.*—(1) After a disciplinary case is referred to the Registrar under section 41(1) or (3), the Registrar must review whether there is sufficient merit in the disciplinary case to warrant the institution of disciplinary proceedings under this Part against the registered veterinarian.*

(2) The Registrar may, for the purpose of the review —

(a) enlist the assistance of any member of the Complaints Panel; and

(b) require the complainant or the registered veterinarian to answer any question, or produce any document or provide any information, that the Registrar considers to be relevant.

Findings and recommendation of Registrar

45. *After reviewing a disciplinary case under section 44, the Registrar must report his or her findings to the Council and recommend to the Council to —*

(a) if the Registrar finds that the disciplinary case is frivolous, vexatious, misconceived, without merit or unsubstantiated — dismiss the disciplinary case;

(b) if the Registrar believes that there is evidence of any matter mentioned in section 40(4)(a) — refer the disciplinary case to a Disciplinary Committee for a formal inquiry; and

(c) in any other case —

(i) if the Registrar believes that there is evidence of any matter mentioned in section 40(3) or (4)(b) or of any contravention of an interim suspension order made

against the registered veterinarian or any term specified for any such interim suspension order — refer the disciplinary case to a Complaints Assessment Committee for an inquiry; or

(ii) if the Registrar believes that there is only evidence of any matter mentioned in section 40(4)(c) — notify the registered veterinarian of the evidence and, with the written agreement of the registered veterinarian, proceed under section 38(2).

Decision of Council after recommendation by Registrar

46.*—(1) After receiving the findings and recommendation of the Registrar on a disciplinary case against a registered veterinarian, the Council may —*

(a) accept the recommendation and take the recommended action; or

(b) take any other action mentioned in section 45.

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1)(b), a reference to a finding or belief of the Registrar in section 45 is a reference to a finding or belief of the Council.

(3) If the Council decides to take the action mentioned in section 45(c)(ii), but the Council and the registered veterinarian are unable to agree on the course of action to be taken under section 38(2), the Council must refer the matter to a Complaints Assessment Committee for an inquiry.

(4) If the disciplinary case is referred to a Complaints Assessment Committee or Disciplinary Committee for an inquiry or a formal inquiry (as the case may be) under subsection (1) or (3) —

(a) the Registrar must, as soon as practicable, give written notice to the registered veterinarian of the referral; and

(b) the Registrar must provide the registered veterinarian with a copy of —

(i) the complaint or information (as the case may be) to which the disciplinary case relates; and

(ii) any statutory declaration (if any) made in support of the disciplinary case.

(5) The following members of the Council must not participate in or influence the decision of the Council under subsection (1):

(a) the Registrar;

(b) if the disciplinary case is brought after the expiry of the applicable period mentioned in section 42(1) or (2) — the appointed member mentioned in section 43 for the disciplinary case;

(c) if the Council is the complainant in the disciplinary case — any member of the Council who participated in or influenced the Council's decision to bring the disciplinary case under section 41(3);

(d) if the Council makes a referral, takes an action or gives a direction mentioned in section 75(1) for the continuation of a disciplinary case despite the withdrawal of the disciplinary case — any member of the Council who participated in or influenced the Council's decision to make the referral, take the action or give the direction;

(e) any member of an Interim Orders Committee that inquired into or reviewed, or is inquiring into or reviewing, the disciplinary case.

(6) To avoid doubt, a member of the Council (not being a member mentioned in subsection (5)) who participated in or influenced any other decision of the Council on the disciplinary case under this Part is not, by reason only of such participation or influence, disqualified from participating in or influencing the Council's decision under subsection (1).

Division 3 — Complaints Assessment Committees

Appointment of Complaints Assessment Committee

***47.**—(1) If the Council decides to refer a disciplinary case to a Complaints Assessment Committee for an inquiry, the disciplinary*

case must be referred to a Complaints Assessment Committee appointed under this section.

(2) The Council may appoint a Complaints Assessment Committee comprising 3 or more members of the Complaints Panel, of whom —

(a) subject to subsection (3), at least one member must be a registered veterinarian with at least 8 years' experience as a veterinarian; and

(b) at least one member must be a layperson.

(3) If, in the Council's opinion, it is inexpedient, difficult or impracticable to appoint a registered veterinarian mentioned in subsection (2)(a), the Council may appoint to the Complaints Assessment Committee any other registered veterinarian from among the members of the Complaints Panel.

(4) The Council must appoint as the chairperson of the Complaints Assessment Committee —

(a) a member of the Complaints Assessment Committee who satisfies subsection (2)(a); or

(b) if subsection (3) applies — a member of the Complaints Assessment Committee who is a registered veterinarian.

(5) The following members of the Complaints Panel must not be a member of a Complaints Assessment Committee for a disciplinary case:

(a) any member of the Complaints Panel who assisted the Registrar in reviewing the disciplinary case under section 44(2)(a);

(b) any member of an Interim Orders Committee that inquired into or reviewed, or is inquiring into or reviewing, the disciplinary case;

(c) an investigator appointed to investigate the disciplinary case.

(6) A Complaints Assessment Committee may be appointed in connection with one or more disciplinary cases or for a fixed period of time, as the Council thinks fit.

Powers and procedures of Complaints Assessment Committee

48.—*(1) For the purposes of an inquiry into a disciplinary case, a Complaints Assessment Committee may require any person —*

(a) to attend at a specified time and place and give evidence before the Complaints Assessment Committee; and

(b) to produce all books, documents and papers in the custody, or under the control, of the person which may be related to or be connected with the subject matter of the inquiry.

(2) Any person who, without lawful excuse —

(a) refuses or fails to comply with any requirement of the Complaints Assessment Committee under subsection (1); or

(b) refuses to answer any question put to the person by a member of the Complaints Assessment Committee,

shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding $5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both and, in the case of a continuing offence, to a further fine not exceeding $50 for every day or part of a day during which the offence continues after conviction.

(3) Any person who —

(a) knowingly gives a false answer to any question put to the person by a member of the Complaints Assessment Committee; or

(b) knowingly gives any document, information or material to the Complaints Assessment Committee that is false or misleading, or that omits any matter or thing without which the document, information or material is misleading,

shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding $5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both and, in the case of a continuing offence, to a further fine not exceeding $50 for every day or part of a day during which the offence continues after conviction.

(4) Subject to any regulations made under section 87, a Complaints Assessment Committee may regulate its own procedure for an inquiry.

(5) For the purposes of its inquiry into a disciplinary case, a Complaints Assessment Committee may direct an investigator to investigate the disciplinary case.

(6) A Complaints Assessment Committee must complete its inquiry into the disciplinary case within 3 months after the date on which the disciplinary case is referred to it, unless the Council, on application of the Complaints Assessment Committee, allows otherwise.

Appointment of experts and legal counsel for inquiry before Complaints Assessment Committee

***49.**—(1) For the purposes of an inquiry before a Complaints Assessment Committee, the Council may appoint one or more of the following:*

(a) an independent expert;

(b) an advocate and solicitor to advise the Complaints Assessment Committee on any legal matter relating to the inquiry.

(2) Before appointing any independent expert under subsection (1)(a), the Council must give the registered veterinarian concerned an opportunity to make representations on the proposed appointment.

(3) The representations mentioned in subsection (2) may be made in writing or, if the Council allows, in person.

(4) The Council may, instead of or in addition to appointing an independent expert under subsection (1)(a), allow the registered veterinarian concerned to appoint an independent expert at the registered veterinarian's own expense.

(5) If an independent expert or an advocate and solicitor is appointed under subsection (1), the Council may pay him or her, as part of the expenses of the Council, any remuneration that the Council may determine.

(6) If an independent expert or an advocate and solicitor appointed under subsection (1) is an employee, any remuneration payable to the independent expert or advocate and solicitor under subsection (5) may be paid to his or her employer.

Findings and recommendation of Complaints Assessment Committee

50. *After due inquiry into a disciplinary case, the Complaints Assessment Committee must report its findings to the Council and recommend to the Council to —*

(a) dismiss the disciplinary case;

(b) refer the disciplinary case to a Disciplinary Committee for a formal inquiry; or

(c) take one or more of the following actions:

(i) issue either a letter of advice or a letter of warning to the registered veterinarian;

(ii) direct the registered veterinarian to undertake and complete specified further education or training within a specified period;

(iii) if the complainant is not the Council — refer the disciplinary case for mediation between the registered veterinarian and the complainant;

(iv) take any other action against the registered veterinarian.

Decision of Council after recommendation by Complaints Assessment Committee

51.*—(1) After receiving the findings and recommendation of a Complaints Assessment Committee on a disciplinary case against a registered veterinarian, the Council may —*

(a) accept the recommendation and take the recommended action;

(b) take an action mentioned in section 50(a) or (b) or take one or more actions mentioned in section 50(c); or

(c) refer the disciplinary case back to the Complaints Assessment Committee or another Complaints Assessment Committee appointed in its place for further inquiry.

(2) The Council must not take any action mentioned in section 50(c)(i), (ii) or (iv) unless the Council is satisfied that the Complaints Assessment Committee had given the registered veterinarian an opportunity to make representations either personally or by counsel as to why that action should not be taken against him or her.

(3) The representations mentioned in subsection (2) may be made in writing or, if the Complaints Assessment Committee allows, in person.

(4) If the Council takes any action mentioned in section 50(c)(ii) or (iv) and the registered veterinarian contravenes any requirement of the action —

(a) the Council may refer the disciplinary case to a Disciplinary Committee for a formal inquiry; and

(b) upon such referral, any other action taken by the Council under subsection (1)(a) or (b) (read with section 50(c)) on the disciplinary case is revoked.

(5) The Registrar must, as soon as practicable, give written notice of the Council's decision under subsection (1) or (4) to the registered veterinarian and the complainant (if the complainant is not the Council).

(6) If the Council takes any action mentioned in section 50(c)(i), (ii) or (iv) and the registered veterinarian is dissatisfied with that decision, the registered veterinarian may, within 30 days after service of the notice mentioned in subsection (5), appeal to the Minister whose decision is final.

(7) If the Council takes any action mentioned in section 50(a) or (c)(i), (ii) or (iv) and the complainant is dissatisfied with that decision, the complainant may, within 30 days after service of the notice mentioned in subsection (5), appeal to the Minister whose decision is final.

(8) The Minister may, in an appeal made under subsection (6) or (7) —

(a) affirm the decision of the Council;

(b) refer the disciplinary case to a Disciplinary Committee for a formal inquiry;

(c) dismiss the disciplinary case (if no other action is taken under subsection (1)(a) or (b) (read with section 50(c)) on the disciplinary case) or revoke the decision of the Council (in any other case); or

(d) make any other order that the Minister thinks fit.

(9) The Registrar must, as soon as practicable, give written notice of the Minister's decision under subsection (8) to the registered veterinarian and the complainant (if the complainant is not the Council).

(10) If the Minister refers the disciplinary case to a Disciplinary Committee under subsection (8)(b), any decision of the Council under subsection (1)(a) or (b) on the disciplinary case is revoked.

(11) The following members of the Council must not participate in or influence the decision of the Council under subsection (1) or (4) or section 52(3), (4), (5) or (7):

(a) the Registrar;

(b) if the disciplinary case is brought after the expiry of the applicable period mentioned in section 42(1) or (2) — the appointed member mentioned in section 43 for the disciplinary case;

(c) if the Council is the complainant in the disciplinary case — any member of the Council who participated in or influenced the Council's decision to bring the disciplinary case under section 41(3);

(d) if the Council makes a referral, takes an action or gives a direction mentioned in section 75(1) for the continuation of a disciplinary case despite the withdrawal of the disciplinary case — any member of the Council who

participated in or influenced the Council's decision to make the referral, take the action or give the direction;

(e) any member of an Interim Orders Committee that inquired into or reviewed, or is inquiring into or reviewing, the disciplinary case;

(f) an investigator appointed to investigate the disciplinary case.

(12) To avoid doubt, a member of the Council (not being a member mentioned in subsection (11)) who participated in or influenced any other decision of the Council on the disciplinary case under this Part is not, by reason only of such participation or influence, disqualified from participating in or influencing the Council's decision under subsection (1) or (4) or section 52(3), (4), (5) or (7).

Division 4 — Mediation

Mediation

***52.**—(1) If a disciplinary case is referred for mediation under section 51, the Council may direct the personal attendance of the complainant and the registered veterinarian before a mediator specified by the Council.*

(2) The mediator must submit a report to the Council on the outcome of the mediation.

(3) If the complainant refuses or fails, without reasonable cause, to comply with the direction under subsection (1), the Council may dismiss the disciplinary case.

(4) If the registered veterinarian refuses or fails, without reasonable cause, to comply with the direction under subsection (1), the Council may —

(a) refer the disciplinary case to a Disciplinary Committee for a formal inquiry; or

(b) subject to section 51(2), take one or more actions mentioned in section 50(c)(i), (ii) or (iv).

(5) If the mediation does not take place for any other reason, or the disciplinary case is not amicably resolved through mediation, the Council may —

(a) dismiss the disciplinary case (if no other action is taken under section 51(1)(a) or (b) (read with section 50(c)) on the disciplinary case) or take no further action on the disciplinary case (in any other case);

(b) refer the disciplinary case to a Disciplinary Committee for a formal inquiry; or

(c) subject to section 51(2), take one or more actions mentioned in section 50(c)(i), (ii) or (iv).

(6) If the Council refers the disciplinary case to a Disciplinary Committee under subsection (5)(b), any other action taken by the Council under section 51(1)(a) or (b) (read with section 50(c)) on the disciplinary case is revoked.

(7) If the disciplinary case is amicably resolved through mediation, the Council may —

(a) discontinue the disciplinary case (if no other action is taken under section 51(1)(a) or (b) (read with section 50(c)) on the disciplinary case) or take no further action on the disciplinary case (in any other case); or

(b) subject to section 51(2), take one or more actions mentioned in section 50(c)(i), (ii) or (iv).

(8) The Registrar must, as soon as practicable, give written notice to the registered veterinarian and the complainant of the Council's decision under subsection (3), (4), (5) or (7).

(9) If a registered veterinarian is dissatisfied with a decision of the Council under this section to take any action mentioned in section 50(c)(i), (ii) or (iv) against the registered veterinarian, the registered veterinarian may, within 30 days after service of the notice mentioned in subsection (8), appeal to the Minister whose decision is final.

(10) If a complainant is dissatisfied with a decision of the Council under this section to dismiss or discontinue, or take no further action on, a disciplinary case or take any action mentioned in section 50(c)(i), (ii) or (iv), the complainant may, within 30 days after service of the notice mentioned in subsection (8), appeal to the Minister whose decision is final.

(11) The Minister may, in an appeal made under subsection (9) or (10) —

(a) affirm the decision of the Council;

(b) refer the disciplinary case to a Disciplinary Committee for a formal inquiry;

(c) dismiss the disciplinary case (if no other action is taken under section 51(1)(a) or (b) (read with section 50(c)) on the disciplinary case) or revoke the decision of the Council (in any other case); or

(d) make any other order that the Minister thinks fit.

(12) The Registrar must, as soon as practicable, give written notice of the Minister's decision under subsection (11) to the registered veterinarian and the complainant.

(13) If the Minister refers the disciplinary case to a Disciplinary Committee under subsection (11)(b), any decision taken by the Council under section 51(1)(a) or (b) on the disciplinary case is revoked.

Division 5 — Disciplinary Committees

Appointment of Disciplinary Committee

***53.**—(1) If the Council decides to refer a disciplinary case to a Disciplinary Committee for a formal inquiry, the disciplinary case must be referred to a Disciplinary Committee appointed under this section.*

(2) The Council may appoint a Disciplinary Committee comprising 3 or more members from among the members of the Council and members of the Complaints Panel, of whom —

(a) subject to subsection (3), at least one member must be a member of the Council and a registered veterinarian with at least 8 years' experience as a veterinarian;

(b) subject to subsection (3), at least one member must be a member of the Complaints Panel and a registered veterinarian with at least 8 years' experience as a veterinarian; and

(c) subject to subsection (4), at least one member must be a member of the Complaints Panel and a legal professional.

(3) If, in the Council's opinion, it is inexpedient, difficult or impracticable to appoint a registered veterinarian mentioned in subsection (2)(a) or (b), the Council may appoint to the Disciplinary Committee any other registered veterinarian from among the members of the Council or the members of the Complaints Panel, as the case may be.

(4) If, in the Council's opinion, it is inexpedient, difficult or impracticable to appoint under subsection (2)(c) a legal professional, the Council may appoint to the Disciplinary Committee, from among the members of the Complaints Panel —

(a) an advocate and solicitor who has less than 10 years' standing; or

(b) a Judicial Service Officer or Legal Service Officer who has less than 10 years of full-time employment in the Singapore Judicial Service or the Singapore Legal Service (or both).

(5) The Council must appoint as the chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee —

(a) a member of the Disciplinary Committee who satisfies subsection (2)(a); or

(b) if subsection (3) applies — a member of the Disciplinary Committee who is a member of the Council and a registered veterinarian.

(6) The Council must also appoint a member of the Complaints Panel who is a layperson as the observer of the proceedings of the Disciplinary Committee.

(7) The following members of the Council or the Complaints Panel must not be a member or an observer of a Disciplinary Committee for a disciplinary case:

(a) the Registrar;

(b) if the disciplinary case is brought after the expiry of the applicable period mentioned in section 42(1) or (2) — the appointed member mentioned in section 43 for the disciplinary case;

(c) any member of the Complaints Panel who assisted the Registrar in reviewing the disciplinary case under section 44(2)(a);

(d) if a Complaints Assessment Committee has conducted an inquiry in respect of the disciplinary case — any member of that Committee;

(e) if the Council is the complainant in the disciplinary case — any member of the Council who participated in or influenced the Council's decision to bring the disciplinary case under section 41(3);

(f) if the Council makes a referral, takes an action or gives a direction mentioned in section 75(1) for the continuation of a disciplinary case despite the withdrawal of the disciplinary case — any member of the Council who participated in or influenced the Council's decision to make the referral, take the action or give the direction;

(g) any member of an Interim Orders Committee that inquired into or reviewed, or is inquiring into or reviewing, the disciplinary case;

(h) an investigator appointed to investigate the disciplinary case.

(8) To avoid doubt, a member of the Council (not being a member mentioned in subsection (7)) who participated in or influenced any other decision of the Council on a disciplinary case under this Part is not, by reason only of such participation or influence, disqualified

from being a member of a Disciplinary Committee for the disciplinary case.

(9) An observer appointed to a Disciplinary Committee must not vote on any question or matter to be decided by the Disciplinary Committee and does not have to be present at every meeting of the Disciplinary Committee.

(10) A Disciplinary Committee may be appointed in connection with one or more disciplinary cases or for a fixed period of time, as the Council thinks fit.

Powers and procedures of Disciplinary Committee

***54.**—(1) If a disciplinary case against a registered veterinarian is referred to a Disciplinary Committee for a formal inquiry —*

(a) subject to subsection (2), the Disciplinary Committee must fix the formal inquiry on a date no earlier than 21 days after the date of service of the notice of the referral on the registered veterinarian under section 46(4), 51(5) or (9) or 52(8) or (12); and

(b) the Registrar must, as soon as practicable, give written notice to the registered veterinarian of the date of the formal inquiry.

(2) The Disciplinary Committee may, with the agreement of the registered veterinarian, fix the formal inquiry on a date earlier than 21 days after the date of service of the notice mentioned in subsection (1)(a).

(3) The registered veterinarian may, by application to the Disciplinary Committee, request for the postponement of the formal inquiry, and the Disciplinary Committee may postpone the formal inquiry to a date that it determines, or refuse the application.

(4) For the purposes of the formal inquiry, the Disciplinary Committee may require any person —

(a) to attend at a specified time and place and give evidence before the Disciplinary Committee; and

(b) to produce all books, documents and papers in the custody, or under the control, of the person which may be related to or be connected with the subject matter of the formal inquiry.

(5) Any person who, without lawful excuse —

(a) refuses or fails to comply with any requirement of the Disciplinary Committee under subsection (4); or

(b) refuses to answer any question put to the person by a member of the Disciplinary Committee,

shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding $5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both and, in the case of a continuing offence, to a further fine not exceeding $50 for every day or part of a day during which the offence continues after conviction.

(6) Any person who —

(a) knowingly gives a false answer to any question put to the person by a member of the Disciplinary Committee; or

(b) knowingly gives any document, information or material to the Disciplinary Committee that is false or misleading, or that omits any matter or thing without which the document, information or material is misleading,

shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding $5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both and, in the case of a continuing offence, to a further fine not exceeding $50 for every day or part of a day during which the offence continues after conviction.

(7) The Disciplinary Committee —

(a) is not bound to act in any formal manner and is not bound by the provisions of the Evidence Act 1893 or by any other written law relating to evidence, but may inform itself on any matter in any manner that it thinks fit;

(b) may administer an oath or affirmation to any person giving evidence before it; and

(c) may, subject to any regulations made under section 87, regulate its own procedure for a formal inquiry.

(8) Any party to the formal inquiry before the Disciplinary Committee may take out a subpoena to testify or to produce any document, and the subpoena must be served and may be enforced as if it were an order to attend court or an order to produce any document issued in connection with a civil action in the General Division of the High Court.

(9) Any person giving evidence in the formal inquiry before the Disciplinary Committee is legally bound to tell the truth.

(10) Any person giving evidence in the formal inquiry before the Disciplinary Committee has the same privileges and immunities in relation to the formal inquiry as if it were a proceeding in a court of law.

(11) For the purposes of the formal inquiry into the disciplinary case, the Disciplinary Committee may direct an investigator to investigate the disciplinary case.

(12) The Disciplinary Committee must complete its formal inquiry into the disciplinary case within 6 months after the date on which the disciplinary case is referred to it, unless the Council, on application of the Disciplinary Committee, allows otherwise.

(13) Any member of the Council who is a member of the Disciplinary Committee must not participate in or influence the decision of the Council under subsection (12).

Appointment of experts and legal counsel for formal inquiry before Disciplinary Committee

***55.**—(1) For the purposes of a formal inquiry before a Disciplinary Committee, the Council may appoint one or more of the following:*

(a) an independent expert;

(b) an advocate and solicitor to prosecute the disciplinary case, or to advise the Disciplinary Committee on any legal matter relating to the formal inquiry.

(2) Before appointing any independent expert under subsection (1)(a), the Council must give the registered veterinarian concerned an opportunity to make representations on the proposed appointment.

(3) The representations mentioned in subsection (2) may be made in writing or, if the Council allows, in person.

(4) The Council may, instead of or in addition to appointing an independent expert under subsection (1)(a), allow the registered veterinarian concerned to appoint an independent expert at the registered veterinarian's own expense.

(5) If an independent expert or an advocate and solicitor is appointed under subsection (1), the Council may pay him or her, as part of the expenses of the Council, any remuneration that the Council may determine.

(6) If an independent expert or an advocate and solicitor appointed under subsection (1) is an employee, any remuneration payable to the independent expert or advocate and solicitor under subsection (5) may be paid to his or her employer.

Findings and order of Disciplinary Committee

***56.**—(1) During the formal inquiry, if a registered veterinarian is found by a Disciplinary Committee —*

(a) to have been convicted in Singapore or elsewhere of any offence involving fraud, dishonesty or moral turpitude;

(b) to have been convicted in Singapore or elsewhere of any offence implying a defect in character which makes him or her unfit to practise veterinary medicine;

(c) to have been guilty of professional misconduct;

(d) to have been guilty of any improper act or conduct which, in the opinion of the Disciplinary Committee, brings disrepute to his or her profession;

(e) to have failed to provide professional services of the quality that meets the standard that is reasonable to expect of a veterinarian;

(f) to have his or her fitness to practise veterinary medicine impaired by reason of his or her physical or mental condition; or

(g) if the registered veterinarian's registration is suspended under an interim suspension order — to have contravened the suspension or any term specified for the interim suspension order,

the Disciplinary Committee may make one or more orders under subsection (2).

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1), the orders that a Disciplinary Committee may make against the registered veterinarian are —

(a) cancellation of the registered veterinarian's registration;

(b) suspension of the registered veterinarian's registration for a period not exceeding 3 years;

(c) if the registered veterinarian is —

(i) a veterinarian with full registration or a specialist — imposition of any new or additional condition on that registration, or amendment or variation of any condition imposed, amended or varied under this Act; or

(ii) a veterinarian with restricted registration — imposition of any new or additional condition or restriction on that registration, or amendment or variation of any condition or restriction imposed, amended or varied under this Act;

(d) subject to section 23(9), suspension or cancellation of the registered veterinarian's practising certificate;

(e) imposition of a penalty not exceeding $50,000;

(f) censure of the registered veterinarian;

(g) issuance of either an advisory or a warning to the registered veterinarian;

(h) requirement for the registered veterinarian to give any undertaking that the Disciplinary Committee thinks fit to abstain in future from the conduct complained of;

(i) requirement for the registered veterinarian to undertake and complete further education or training, within a period, specified by the Disciplinary Committee;

(j) referral of the disciplinary case for mediation and direction for the attendance of the complainant and registered veterinarian before a mediator specified by the Disciplinary Committee; and

(k) any other order that the Disciplinary Committee thinks fit.

(3) If a conviction of the registered veterinarian for a criminal offence is relevant to the disciplinary case, the Disciplinary Committee and the General Division of the High Court on appeal from any order of the Disciplinary Committee are to accept his or her conviction as final and conclusive.

(4) The Disciplinary Committee must dismiss the disciplinary case if the Disciplinary Committee does not make a finding mentioned in subsection (1).

(5) If the Disciplinary Committee cancels the registration or practising certificate of the registered veterinarian under subsection (2)(a) or (d) (as the case may be), the Disciplinary Committee may specify terms that he or she must comply with for the purposes of restoration of his or her registration under section 76 or reinstatement of his or her practising certificate, as the case may be.

(6) If the Disciplinary Committee suspends the registration or practising certificate of the registered veterinarian under subsection (2)(b) or (d) (as the case may be), the Disciplinary Committee may specify terms that he or she must comply with under the suspension.

(7) If the Disciplinary Committee makes an order under subsection (2), the Disciplinary Committee may also —

(a) order the registered veterinarian to pay to the Council the costs and expenses of and incidental to any proceedings

before the Disciplinary Committee and, where applicable, an Interim Orders Committee (called in this section the costs); and

(b) in the order, specify the amount of the costs.

(8) The costs mentioned in subsection (7) include —

(a) the costs and expenses of any independent expert appointed under section 55(1)(a), any advocate and solicitor appointed under section 55(1)(b) or any assessor appointed under section 80 for the Disciplinary Committee;

(b) the costs and expenses of any independent expert appointed under section 65(1)(a), any advocate and solicitor appointed under section 65(1)(b) or any assessor appointed under section 80 for the Interim Orders Committee mentioned in that subsection;

(c) any reasonable expenses that the Council may pay to witnesses; and

(d) any reasonable expenses that are necessary for the conduct of proceedings before the Disciplinary Committee and the Interim Orders Committee mentioned in that subsection.

(9) For the purposes of an order made under subsection (7), the Disciplinary Committee may certify that costs for more than one advocate and solicitor must be paid, if the Disciplinary Committee is satisfied that the issues involved in the proceedings are of sufficient complexity, and the certification by the Disciplinary Committee has the same effect as if it were a certification by a Judge in a civil action in the General Division of the High Court.

(10) The General Division of the High Court has jurisdiction to tax any costs mentioned in subsection (7) and any order for costs made by the General Division of the High Court is enforceable as if it were ordered in connection with a civil action in the General Division of the High Court.

(11) The penalty under subsection (2)(e) is recoverable as a debt due to the Government.

(12) The costs payable to the Council under subsection (7) are recoverable as a debt due to the Council.

(13) All penalties collected or recovered under this section must be paid into the Consolidated Fund.

(14) All costs collected or recovered by the Council under this section must be paid to the Council.

Further orders by Disciplinary Committee

***57.**—(1) A Disciplinary Committee may suspend (for a period not exceeding 12 months) or cancel the registration of a registered veterinarian if —*

(a) any condition or restriction has been imposed on the registration, or any condition or restriction of the registration has been amended or varied, by —

(i) the Disciplinary Committee or another Disciplinary Committee under subsection (2), (3)(c) or (10) or section 56(2)(c); or

(ii) an Interim Orders Committee under section 66(2)(e) or 68(3)(b); and

(b) the registered veterinarian is subsequently found by the Disciplinary Committee to have failed to comply with the condition or restriction.

(2) If a Disciplinary Committee suspends the registration of a registered veterinarian under subsection (1) or (8), the Disciplinary Committee may also —

(a) if the registered veterinarian is a veterinarian with full registration or a specialist — impose any new or additional condition on that registration, or amend or vary any condition imposed, amended or varied under this Act; or

(b) if the registered veterinarian is a veterinarian with restricted registration — impose any new or additional condition or restriction on that registration, or amend or

vary any condition or restriction imposed, amended or varied under this Act.

(3) If a registered veterinarian, whose registration is suspended under paragraph (b), subsection (1) or (8) or section 56(2)(b), contravenes the suspension or any term specified under subsection (6) or section 56(6) for the suspension, a Disciplinary Committee (whether the Disciplinary Committee that made the order of suspension or another Disciplinary Committee appointed in its place) must do one of the following:

(a) cancel the registration;

(b) extend, for a further period not exceeding 12 months, the period of suspension of the registration;

(c) if the registered veterinarian is —

(i) a veterinarian with full registration or a specialist — impose any new or additional condition on the registration, or amend or vary any condition imposed, amended or varied under this Act; or

(ii) a veterinarian with restricted registration — impose any new or additional condition or restriction on the registration, or amend or vary any condition or restriction imposed, amended or varied under this Act.

(4) If a Disciplinary Committee decides to suspend or cancel the registration of a registered veterinarian under subsection (1), (3)(a) or (8) or section 56(2)(a) or (b), the Disciplinary Committee may, despite section 60(1) or an appeal under section 62, but subject to section 60(2), order that the registration be suspended or cancelled (as the case may be) immediately if it is satisfied that the immediate suspension or cancellation (as the case may be) —

(a) is necessary for the protection of members of the public or is otherwise in the public interest;

(b) is in the interests of animal health or welfare; or

(c) is in the interests of the registered veterinarian.

(5) If a Disciplinary Committee cancels the registration of a registered veterinarian under subsection (1), (3)(a) or (8), the Disciplinary Committee may specify terms that he or she must comply with for the purpose of restoration of his or her registration under section 76.

(6) If a Disciplinary Committee suspends the registration of a registered veterinarian under subsection (1), (3)(b) or (8), the Disciplinary Committee may specify terms that he or she must comply with under the suspension.

(7) If a registered veterinarian whose practising certificate is suspended under section 56(2)(d) contravenes the suspension or any term specified under section 56(6) for the suspension, a Disciplinary Committee (whether the Disciplinary Committee that made the order of suspension or another Disciplinary Committee appointed in its place) must cancel the registered veterinarian's practising certificate, and the Disciplinary Committee may specify terms that the registered veterinarian must comply with for the purposes of reinstatement of the registered veterinarian's practising certificate.

(8) If a registered veterinarian has contravened a Disciplinary Committee's order under subsection (9) or section 56(2)(i) requiring the registered veterinarian to undertake and complete further education or training, the Disciplinary Committee or another Disciplinary Committee appointed in its place may suspend (for a period not exceeding 12 months) or cancel the registration of the registered veterinarian.

(9) If a Disciplinary Committee refers a disciplinary case against a registered veterinarian for mediation under section 56(2)(j), the Disciplinary Committee or another Disciplinary Committee appointed in its place may —

(a) if the registered veterinarian refuses or fails, without reasonable cause, to attend or participate in the mediation, do one or more of the following:

(i) issue either an advisory or a warning to the registered veterinarian;

(ii) direct the registered veterinarian to undertake and complete further education or training, within a period, specified by the Disciplinary Committee;

(iii) make any other order that the Disciplinary Committee thinks fit;

(b) if the mediation does not take place for any other reason, or the disciplinary case is not amicably resolved through mediation —

(i) dismiss the disciplinary case (if no other order is made under section 56(2) on the disciplinary case) or make no further order on the disciplinary case (in any other case); or

(ii) make one or more of the orders mentioned in paragraph (a)(i), (ii) or (iii); or

(c) if the disciplinary case is amicably resolved through mediation —

(i) discontinue the disciplinary case (if no other order is made under section 56(2) on the disciplinary case) or make no further order on the disciplinary case (in any other case); or

(ii) make one or more of the orders mentioned in paragraph (a)(i), (ii) or (iii).

(10) If a Disciplinary Committee imposes any condition or restriction on, or amends or varies any condition or restriction of, the registration of a registered veterinarian, under this Part, the Disciplinary Committee or another Disciplinary Committee appointed in its place may, on the application of the Council or registered veterinarian, revoke, amend or vary the condition or restriction.

(11) For the purposes of subsections (2), (3) and (6) —

(a) a reference to a suspension of registration includes an extension of the period of suspension of registration under subsection (3)(b); and

(b) a reference to a period of suspension of registration includes an extended period of suspension of registration under subsection (3)(b).

Right of hearing before Disciplinary Committee

***58.**—(1) A Disciplinary Committee must give a registered veterinarian an opportunity to be heard either personally or by counsel during a formal inquiry into a disciplinary case against the registered veterinarian.*

(2) A Disciplinary Committee must also, before making any further order under section 57 (except an order made under that section during the formal inquiry mentioned in subsection (1)), give the registered veterinarian an opportunity to make representations.

(3) The representations mentioned in subsection (2) may be made in writing or, if the Disciplinary Committee allows, in person.

Service of notice of order

***59.** If a Disciplinary Committee makes an order under section 56 or 57 in a disciplinary case against a registered veterinarian, the Registrar must, as soon as practicable, give written notice of the order to the registered veterinarian, the complainant and the Council (if the Council is not the complainant).*

When order by Disciplinary Committee takes effect

***60.**—(1) Subject to sections 57(4) and 62(4), an order made by a Disciplinary Committee for the suspension or cancellation of the registration of a registered veterinarian under section 56(2)(a) or (b) or 57(1), (3)(a) or (8) takes effect on the 31st day after the order is made.*

(2) If a Disciplinary Committee orders under section 57(4) that an order mentioned in subsection (1) for the suspension or cancellation of the registration of a registered veterinarian (called in this subsection the subject order) takes effect immediately, the subject order takes effect —

(a) if the subject order is made during the formal inquiry on the disciplinary case and the registered veterinarian was

present or represented during the formal inquiry — on the date the order is made; or

(b) in any other case — on the date of service of the notice on the registered veterinarian under section 59.

(3) Subject to section 62(4), an order of a Disciplinary Committee, other than an order mentioned in subsection (1), takes effect on the date the order is made.

Effect of order of suspension

61. *To avoid doubt, sections 40 to 75 continue to apply to a registered veterinarian whose registration is suspended.*

Appeal against Disciplinary Committee's decision or order

62.*—(1) If a registered veterinarian, a complainant or the Council (if the Council is not the complainant) is dissatisfied with a decision of or an order by a Disciplinary Committee made under section 56(2), (4) or (7) or 57 (called in this section the decision of the Disciplinary Committee), the registered veterinarian, complainant or Council may, within 30 days after service of the notice of the decision of the Disciplinary Committee on the registered veterinarian, complainant or Council (as the case may be), appeal to the General Division of the High Court against the decision of the Disciplinary Committee.*

(2) An appeal under this section is to be heard by the General Division of the High Court and there is no appeal from the decision of the General Division of the High Court.

(3) In any appeal to the General Division of the High Court against a decision of a Disciplinary Committee, the General Division of the High Court is to accept as final and conclusive any finding of the Disciplinary Committee relating to any issue of professional ethics or standards of professional conduct unless the finding is in the opinion of the General Division of the High Court unsafe, unreasonable or contrary to the evidence.

(4) Subject to subsection (5), if a registered veterinarian appeals to the General Division of the High Court against an order made under section 56(2) or 57 (called in this section the relevant order), the relevant order is stayed until —

(a) the relevant order is confirmed by the General Division of the High Court;

(b) the appeal is dismissed by the General Division of the High Court; or

(c) the appeal is withdrawn.

(5) Subsection (4) does not apply to a relevant order of a Disciplinary Committee if, at the time the relevant order is made —

(a) in the case where the relevant order is made under section 56(2)(a) or (b) or 57(1), (3)(a) or (8) — the Disciplinary Committee orders under section 57(4) that the relevant order takes effect immediately; or

(b) in any other case — the Disciplinary Committee orders that the relevant order has effect despite any appeal under this section.

(6) A Disciplinary Committee must not make an order under subsection (5)(b) unless the Disciplinary Committee is satisfied that the order is —

(a) necessary for the protection of members of the public or is otherwise in the public interest;

(b) in the interests of animal health or welfare; or

(c) in the interests of the registered veterinarian.

Division 6 — Interim Orders Committees

Appointment of Interim Orders Committee

***63.**—(1) The Registrar, or a Complaints Assessment Committee or Disciplinary Committee, may recommend a disciplinary case to the Council for referral to an Interim Orders Committee.*

(2) Subject to subsection (3), the Council may, after a recommendation is received under subsection (1) or on its own motion, and at any time after a disciplinary case is brought against a registered veterinarian under section 40(1) or 41(3), refer the disciplinary case to an Interim Orders Committee to determine whether an order should be made under section 66(2).

(3) If the applicable period mentioned in section 42(1) or (2) has expired for a disciplinary case, the Council must not refer the disciplinary case to an Interim Orders Committee unless the appointed member mentioned in section 43 has assessed under that section that it is in the public interest to refer the disciplinary case to the Registrar.

(4) The Registrar must, as soon as practicable, give written notice to the registered veterinarian and the complainant (if the complainant is not the Council) of the Council's decision under subsection (2).

(5) The Council may appoint an Interim Orders Committee comprising 3 or more members from among the members of the Council and members of the Complaints Panel, of whom —

(a) at least 2 members must be members of the Council; and

(b) subject to subsection (6), at least one member must be a member of the Complaints Panel and a registered veterinarian with at least 8 years' experience as a veterinarian.

(6) If, in the Council's opinion, it is inexpedient, difficult or impracticable to appoint a registered veterinarian mentioned in subsection (5)(b), the Council may appoint to the Interim Orders Committee any other registered veterinarian from among the members of the Complaints Panel.

(7) The Council must appoint as the chairperson of the Interim Orders Committee a member of the Interim Orders Committee who is a member of the Council.

(8) The following members of the Council or Complaints Panel must not be a member of an Interim Orders Committee for a disciplinary case:

(a) the Registrar;

(b) if the disciplinary case is brought after the expiry of the applicable period mentioned in section 42(1) or (2) — the appointed member mentioned in section 43 for the disciplinary case;

(c) any member of the Complaints Panel who is assisting or assisted the Registrar in reviewing the disciplinary case under section 44(2)(a);

(d) if a Complaints Assessment Committee or Disciplinary Committee has been appointed for the disciplinary case under this Part — any member of that Committee;

(e) if the Council is the complainant in the disciplinary case — any member of the Council who participated in or influenced the decision to bring the disciplinary case under section 41(3);

(f) if the Council makes a referral, takes an action or gives a direction mentioned in section 75(1) for the continuation of a disciplinary case despite the withdrawal of the disciplinary case — any member of the Council who participated in or influenced the Council's decision to make the referral, take the action or give the direction;

(g) an investigator appointed to investigate the disciplinary case.

(9) To avoid doubt, a member of the Council (not being a member mentioned in subsection (8)) who participated in or influenced any other decision of the Council on a disciplinary case under this Part is not, by reason only of such participation or influence, disqualified from being a member of an Interim Orders Committee for the disciplinary case.

(10) An Interim Orders Committee may be appointed in connection with one or more disciplinary cases or for a fixed period of time, as the Council thinks fit.

Powers and procedures of Interim Orders Committee

***64.**—(1) For the purposes of an inquiry into a disciplinary case or a review of an interim order, an Interim Orders Committee may require any person —*

(a) to attend at a specified time and place and give evidence before the Interim Orders Committee; and

(b) to produce all books, documents and papers in the custody, or under the control, of the person which may be related to or be connected with the subject matter of the inquiry or review.

(2) Any person who, without lawful excuse —

(a) refuses or fails to comply with any requirement of the Interim Orders Committee under subsection (1); or

(b) refuses to answer any question put to the person by a member of the Interim Orders Committee,

shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding $5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both and, in the case of a continuing offence, to a further fine not exceeding $50 for every day or part of a day during which the offence continues after conviction.

(3) Any person who —

(a) knowingly gives a false answer to any question put to the person by a member of the Interim Orders Committee; or

(b) knowingly gives any document, information or material to the Interim Orders Committee that is false or misleading, or that omits any matter or thing without which the document, information or material is misleading,

shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding $5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both and, in the case of a continuing offence, to a further fine not exceeding $50 for every day or part of a day during which the offence continues after conviction.

(4) The Interim Orders Committee —

(a) is not bound to act in any formal manner and is not bound by the provisions of the Evidence Act 1893 or by any other written law relating to evidence, but may inform itself on any matter in any manner that it thinks fit;

(b) may administer an oath or affirmation to any person giving evidence before it; and

(c) may, subject to any regulations made under section 87, regulate its own procedure for the inquiry or review.

(5) Any party to the inquiry or review before the Interim Orders Committee may take out a subpoena to testify or to produce any document, and the subpoena must be served and may be enforced as if it were an order to attend court or an order to produce any document issued in connection with a civil action in the General Division of the High Court.

(6) Any person giving evidence in the inquiry or review before the Interim Orders Committee is legally bound to tell the truth.

(7) Any person giving evidence in the inquiry or review before the Interim Orders Committee has the same privileges and immunities in relation to the inquiry or review as if it were a proceeding in a court of law.

(8) For the purposes of the inquiry or review, the Interim Orders Committee may direct an investigator to investigate the disciplinary case.

Appointment of experts and legal counsel for inquiry or review before Interim Orders Committee

***65.**—(1) For the purposes of an inquiry into a disciplinary case or a review of an interim order by an Interim Orders Committee, the Council may appoint one or more of the following:*

(a) an independent expert;

(b) an advocate and solicitor to prosecute the disciplinary case, or to advise the Interim Orders Committee on any legal matter relating to the inquiry or review.

(2) Before appointing any independent expert under subsection (1)(a), the Council must give the registered veterinarian concerned an opportunity to make representations on the proposed appointment.

(3) The representations mentioned in subsection (2) may be made in writing or, if the Council allows, in person.

(4) The Council may, instead of or in addition to appointing an independent expert under subsection (1)(a), allow the registered veterinarian concerned to appoint an independent expert at the registered veterinarian's own expense.

(5) If an independent expert or an advocate and solicitor is appointed under subsection (1), the Council may pay him or her, as part of the expenses of the Council, any remuneration that the Council may determine.

(6) If an independent expert or an advocate and solicitor appointed under subsection (1) is an employee, any remuneration payable to the independent expert or advocate and solicitor under subsection (5) may be paid to his or her employer.

Interim orders

***66.**—(1) An Interim Orders Committee must inquire into and decide on a disciplinary case against a registered veterinarian as soon as practicable after the disciplinary case is referred to it.*

(2) Subject to subsection (4), if, after due inquiry into the disciplinary case, the Interim Orders Committee is satisfied that —

(a) it is necessary for the protection of members of the public or is otherwise in the public interest;

(b) it is in the interests of animal health or welfare; or

(c) it is in the interests of the registered veterinarian,

to suspend, or impose any condition or restriction on, the registered veterinarian's registration, the Interim Orders Committee may —

(d) make an interim suspension order providing that the registration is suspended for a period not exceeding 18 months as specified in the order; or

(e) make an interim restriction order providing that the registration is conditional on his or her compliance, during any period not exceeding 18 months as specified in the order, with any condition or restriction specified in the order that the Interim Orders Committee thinks fit to impose.

(3) The Registrar must, as soon as practicable, give written notice to the registered veterinarian and the complainant of the order made under subsection (2), and the order takes effect —

(a) if the registered veterinarian was present or represented at the proceedings of the Interim Orders Committee — on the date the order is made; or

(b) in any other case — on the date of service of the notice on the registered veterinarian.

(4) An Interim Orders Committee must not make an order under subsection (2) after the relevant proceedings for the disciplinary case are concluded (as specified in section 71(2)).

(5) If the Interim Orders Committee suspends the registration of the registered veterinarian under subsection (2)(d), the Interim Orders Committee may specify terms that the registered veterinarian must comply with under the suspension.

Review of interim orders

***67.**—(1) Subject to subsection (2), if an Interim Orders Committee makes an order under section 66(2), or makes a replacement order under section 68(3)(c) or (d), the Interim Orders Committee or another Interim Orders Committee appointed in its place —*

(a) must review the order within the period of 6 months beginning on the date on which the order is made;

(b) must, for so long as the order continues in force, further review the order before the end of the period of 3 months beginning on the date of the decision on the immediately preceding review under this section; and

(c) may review the order at any time if new evidence relevant to the order becomes available after the making of the order.

(2) If the General Division of the High Court extends the period of the order under section 70(2) or an Interim Orders Committee makes a replacement order under section 68(3)(c) or (d), the first review after the extension or making of the replacement order must take place —

(a) if the order has not been reviewed under subsection (1) before the extension or the making of the replacement order — within the period of 6 months beginning on the date on which the General Division of the High Court orders the extension or on which the replacement order is made, as the case may be; or

(b) in any other case — within the period of 3 months beginning on the date on which the General Division of the High Court orders the extension or on which the replacement order is made, as the case may be.

Interim Orders Committee may revoke, vary or replace interim order, etc.

***68.**—(1) This section applies if an interim order is made in a disciplinary case against a registered veterinarian under section 66(2) or this section.*

(2) The Council, the Registrar, a Complaints Assessment Committee or a Disciplinary Committee may recommend to an Interim Orders Committee to make any order under subsection (3) against the registered veterinarian.

(3) After a review of an interim order under section 67 or after receiving a recommendation under subsection (2), the Interim Orders Committee that made, or reviewed, the interim order, or another Interim Orders Committee appointed in its place, may do any of the following:

(a) revoke the order;

(b) in the case of an interim restriction order — amend, vary or revoke any condition or restriction imposed by the order or impose any new or additional condition or restriction;

(c) in the case of an interim restriction order — replace the interim restriction order with an interim suspension order (effective for the remainder of the period of the replaced interim restriction order), if satisfied that —

(i) it is necessary for the protection of members of the public or is otherwise in the public interest, is in the

interests of animal health or welfare or is in the interests of the registered veterinarian; or

(ii) the registered veterinarian has not complied with any condition or restriction imposed by the interim restriction order;

(d) in the case of an interim suspension order — replace the interim suspension order with an interim restriction order (effective for the remainder of the period of the replaced interim suspension order), if satisfied that all or any of following would be adequately served by an interim restriction order:

(i) the protection of members of the public;

(ii) the public interest;

(iii) the interests of animal health or welfare;

(iv) the interests of the registered veterinarian.

(4) The Registrar must, as soon as practicable, give written notice to the registered veterinarian and the complainant of the decision under subsection (3), and the decision takes effect —

(a) if the registered veterinarian was present or represented at the proceedings of the Interim Orders Committee — on the date the decision is made; or

(b) in any other case — on the date of service of the notice on the registered veterinarian.

(5) If a registered veterinarian whose registration is suspended under an interim suspension order has contravened the interim suspension order or any term specified for the interim suspension order —

(a) the Interim Orders Committee that made, or reviewed, the interim suspension order, or another Interim Orders Committee appointed in its place, must extend the interim suspension order until the date on which the relevant proceedings for the disciplinary case are concluded (as specified in section 71(2)); and

(b) the Registrar must, as soon as practicable, give written notice to the registered veterinarian of the extension.

Right of hearing before Interim Orders Committee

***69.**—(1) An interim order under section 66(2) must not be made by an Interim Orders Committee against any registered veterinarian unless he or she has been given an opportunity to be heard either personally or by counsel as to whether such an order should be made in his or her case.*

(2) An Interim Orders Committee must also, before making any further order under section 68, give the registered veterinarian concerned an opportunity to make representations.

(3) The representations mentioned in subsection (2) may be made in writing or, if the Interim Orders Committee allows, in person.

Application to General Division of High Court

***70.**—(1) The Council may apply to the General Division of the High Court for an extension of the period for which an interim order made under section 66(2) or 68(3)(c) or (d) has effect, and may apply again for one or more further extensions.*

(2) On an application under subsection (1), the General Division of the High Court may grant an extension (or a further extension) for a period not exceeding 12 months.

(3) The General Division of the High Court may, on an application by the registered veterinarian concerned —

(a) in the case of an interim suspension order — revoke the order;

(b) in the case of an interim restriction order — revoke the order or amend, vary or revoke any condition or restriction imposed by the order; or

(c) in either case — substitute for the period specified in the order (or in the order extending it) some other period which could have been specified in the order when it was made, or in the order extending it.

(4) An application under subsection (3) must be made within 14 days after service of the notice on the registered veterinarian concerned of the interim order under section 66(3) or 68(4), as the case may be.

(5) An application under subsection (3) must be heard otherwise than in open court.

(6) The General Division of the High Court may, on an application by the registered veterinarian, order that any information contained in any document relating to an application under subsection (3) must not be published or disclosed, unless —

(a) the registered veterinarian consents to the publication or disclosure; or

(b) the General Division of the High Court is satisfied that the information if published or disclosed does not disclose any confidential information.

Duration of interim orders

***71.**—(1) An interim order made in a disciplinary case is in force until the earliest of the following:*

(a) the end of the period specified —

(i) in the order;

(ii) if the period is extended under section 68(5) or 70(2), in the order extending it; or

(iii) if the period is substituted under section 70(3)(c), in the order making that substitution;

(b) the date on which the relevant proceedings for the disciplinary case are concluded;

(c) the date the order is revoked.

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1)(b) and sections 66(4) and 68(5)(a), the relevant proceedings for a disciplinary case are concluded when any one of the following occurs:

(a) the Council takes any action mentioned in section 45(a) or (c)(ii) in the disciplinary case;

(b) the Council, under section 51(1)(a) or (b), dismisses the disciplinary case or takes one or more actions mentioned in section 50(c)(i), (ii) or (iv) in the disciplinary case and —

(i) no appeal is made to the Minister under section 51(6) or (7) against any of those actions within the period specified in that provision; or

(ii) if such an appeal is made — the appeal is either withdrawn or the Minister makes an order under section 51(8)(a), (c) or (d) on the appeal;

(c) if the disciplinary case is referred, under section 51, to mediation —

(i) the Council, under section 52(3), (5) or (7), decides to dismiss or discontinue, or take no further action on the disciplinary case and —

(A) no appeal is made to the Minister under section 52(10) against the decision within the period specified in that provision; or

(B) if such an appeal is made — the appeal is either withdrawn or the Minister makes an order under section 52(11)(a), (c) or (d) on the appeal; or

(ii) the Council, under section 52(4), (5) or (7) takes one or more actions mentioned in section 50(c)(i), (ii) or (iv) and —

(A) no appeal is made to the Minister under section 52(9) or (10) against any of those actions within the period specified in that provision; or

(B) if such an appeal is made — the appeal is either withdrawn or the Minister makes an order under section 52(11)(a), (c) or (d) on the appeal;

(d) if the disciplinary case is referred to a Disciplinary Committee for a formal inquiry, the Disciplinary Committee —

(i) makes any order under section 56(2) which takes effect; or

(ii) dismisses the disciplinary case under section 56(4);

(e) if the complainant withdraws the disciplinary case and the Council does not make a referral, take an action or give a direction mentioned in section 75(1) within the period mentioned in that section.

Effect of interim suspension order

72. *To avoid doubt, sections 40 to 75 continue to apply to a registered veterinarian whose registration is suspended under an interim suspension order.*

Division 7 — Investigations

Conduct of investigation by investigator

73.*—(1) If —*

(a) a Complaints Assessment Committee, a Disciplinary Committee or an Interim Orders Committee (called in this Division the relevant committee) directs an investigation under section 48(5), 54(11) or 64(8), as the case may be; and

(b) the relevant committee is of the opinion that the registered veterinarian should answer any allegation made against him or her,

then —

(c) the Registrar must, as soon as practicable, give the registered veterinarian written notice of the investigation; and

(d) the relevant committee must invite the registered veterinarian to give to the investigator, within the period specified in the notice, any written explanation he or she

may wish to offer, containing all the relevant information and accompanied by every relevant document that is in the possession of the registered veterinarian.

(2) A notice under subsection (1) must include copies of —

(a) the complaint or information (as the case may be) to which the disciplinary case relates; and

(b) any statutory declaration (if any) made in support of the disciplinary case.

(3) The registered veterinarian may, at any time before the end of the period specified for the submission of the written explanation, make not more than one application to the relevant committee for an extension of the period, and any extension given by the relevant committee must not exceed 21 days.

(4) For the purposes of an investigation directed under section 48(5), 54(11) or 64(8), an investigator may exercise one or more of the powers under section 79 in carrying out the investigator's functions and duties.

Investigation report and information obtained in course of investigation

***74.**—(1) After completing an investigation into a disciplinary case against a registered veterinarian, the investigator must submit a report on the findings of the investigation to the relevant committee.*

(2) The report mentioned in subsection (1) must include any written explanation from the registered veterinarian mentioned in section 73(1)(d).

(3) If, in the course of the investigation, the investigator receives any information relating to the registered veterinarian that is not related to the subject matter of the investigation but may give rise to proceedings under this Part, the investigator must make a report to the Council.

(4) If, in the course of the investigation, an investigator receives any information relating to another registered veterinarian which may give rise to proceedings under this Part, the investigator must make a report to the Council.

(5) Subject to subsections (1), (3) and (4), a person must not disclose the contents of any investigation report or any information contained in any document which was obtained in the course of any investigation commenced under this Part to any other person, including the registered veterinarian concerned, unless —

(a) the relevant committee to which the investigation report is submitted considers that there are compelling reasons to do so; or

(b) the disclosure is required for the purpose of administering or enforcing this Act, the Animals and Birds Act 1965 or the Infectious Diseases Act 1976.

Division 8 — Withdrawal of disciplinary case

Withdrawal of disciplinary case

75.*—(1) If a complainant (other than the Council) withdraws a disciplinary case, the Council may within 3 months after the date of the withdrawal, despite the withdrawal —*

(a) if the disciplinary case is withdrawn before the Council refers it under section 41(1) to the Registrar — subject to sections 42 and 43, refer the disciplinary case under section 41(3) (as if the Council were the complainant) to the Registrar for review;

(b) if the disciplinary case is withdrawn before the Registrar reports his or her findings and makes his or her recommendations to the Council under section 45 — direct the Registrar to continue the review of the disciplinary case under section 44 and report the findings and make the recommendations to the Council under section 45;

(c) if the disciplinary case is withdrawn before the Council refers it to a Complaints Assessment Committee or Disciplinary Committee under section 46(1) — refer the disciplinary case to a Complaints Assessment Committee or Disciplinary Committee for an inquiry or a formal inquiry (respectively) under that section;

(d) if the disciplinary case is withdrawn before a Complaints Assessment Committee reports its findings and makes its recommendations to the Council under section 50 — direct the Complaints Assessment Committee to continue the inquiry into the disciplinary case, and report its findings and make its recommendations to the Council under that section;

(e) if the disciplinary case is withdrawn before the Council takes any action under section 51(1) or (4) or 52(4), (5) or (7) in the disciplinary case — take action under that provision in the disciplinary case; or

(f) if the disciplinary case is withdrawn before a Disciplinary Committee makes an order under section 56(2) in the disciplinary case — direct the Disciplinary Committee to continue the formal inquiry into the disciplinary case.

(2) If the Council refers a disciplinary case, or gives a direction for the disciplinary case, under subsection (1) to the Registrar, a Complaints Assessment Committee or a Disciplinary Committee, the Registrar, Complaints Assessment Committee or Disciplinary Committee (as the case may be) must comply with the referral or direction, and the disciplinary case must be continued under this Act, as if the disciplinary case had been brought by the Council.

(3) If a complainant (not being the Council) withdraws a disciplinary case after the disciplinary case is referred to an Interim Orders Committee, and the Council makes a referral, takes an action or gives a direction under subsection (1) for the disciplinary case, the Interim Orders Committee must continue its inquiry or review in respect of the disciplinary case as if the disciplinary case had been brought by the Council.

(4) The following members of the Council must not participate in or influence the decision of the Council under subsection (1) for a disciplinary case:

(a) the Registrar;

(b) if the disciplinary case is brought after the expiry of the applicable period mentioned in section 42(1) or (2) — the

appointed member mentioned in section 43 for the disciplinary case;

(c) if the disciplinary case has been referred to a Disciplinary Committee before it is withdrawn by the complainant — a member of the Disciplinary Committee;

(d) if the disciplinary case has been referred to an Interim Orders Committee before it is withdrawn by the complainant — a member of the Interim Orders Committee;

(e) an investigator appointed to investigate the disciplinary case.

(5) To avoid doubt, a member of the Council (not being a member mentioned in subsection (4)) who participated in or influenced any other decision of the Council on the disciplinary case under this Part is not, by reason only of such participation or influence, disqualified from participating in or influencing the Council's decision under subsection (1).

Division 9 — Miscellaneous

Restoration of registration cancelled under this Part

***76.**—(1) This section applies in relation to an individual whose registration is cancelled —*

(a) under section 38(2)(a) or (c); or

(b) pursuant to an order made by a Disciplinary Committee under section 56(2)(a) or 57(1), (3)(a) or (8).

(2) Subject to subsections (3) and (4), the Council may, on its own motion or on an application for restoration by the individual mentioned in subsection (1) —

(a) if action has been taken in respect of the individual's registration under section 38(2)(c) — cancel the individual's registration as a veterinarian with restricted registration and restore the individual's registration as a veterinarian with full registration; or

(b) in any other case — restore the individual's registration.

(3) If section 38(4) applies to the individual and the individual has not complied with any of the terms specified under that provision, the Council must not restore the individual's registration under subsection (2).

(4) In the case mentioned in subsection (1)(b), the Council must not restore the individual's registration under subsection (2) if —

(a) the individual has not complied with the terms (if any) of any order made against him or her by the Disciplinary Committee under section 56(5) or 57(5);

(b) the application for restoration is made before the end of 3 years after the date of the cancellation; or

(c) the application for restoration is made more than once in any period of 12 months.

Meetings and proceedings of committees, etc.

***77.**—(1) This section applies to every Complaints Assessment Committee, Disciplinary Committee or Interim Orders Committee (each called in this section a relevant committee) appointed under this Act.*

(2) The Council may at any time —

(a) revoke the appointment of a relevant committee; or

(b) remove any member of a relevant committee.

(3) The Council must, as soon as practicable —

(a) fill any vacancy in a relevant committee; and

(b) if the appointment of a relevant committee is revoked under subsection (2)(a) or a relevant committee is for any reason unable to continue with an inquiry, a formal inquiry or a review (as the case may be), appoint another relevant committee in its place to continue with the inquiry, formal inquiry or review.

(4) No act done by or under the authority of a relevant committee is invalid because of any defect that is subsequently discovered in the

appointment or qualifications of the chairperson, any member or the observer (if applicable) of the relevant committee.

(5) The production of any written instrument purporting to be signed by the Council and making any appointment or revocation of a relevant committee is evidence that the appointment or revocation has been duly made.

(6) The chairperson of a relevant committee may at any time summon a meeting of the relevant committee.

(7) A relevant committee may meet for the purposes of its inquiry, formal inquiry or review (as the case may be), and may adjourn and otherwise regulate the conduct of its inquiry, formal inquiry or review as its members think fit.

(8) All the members of a relevant committee must be present to constitute a quorum for a meeting of the relevant committee.

(9) Despite subsection (8), any resolution or decision in writing signed by all the members of a relevant committee is as valid and effectual as if it had been made or reached at a meeting of the relevant committee where all its members were present.

(10) All the members of a relevant committee present at any meeting of the relevant committee must vote on any question arising at the meeting, and that question is to be determined by a majority of votes and, in the case of an equality of votes, the chairperson has a casting vote.

(11) However, if any member of a relevant committee —

(a) is removed under subsection (2)(b); or

(b) is unable through death, illness or any other cause to continue with the inquiry, formal inquiry or review (as the case may be),

the relevant committee must not make any decision on any question arising at a meeting until that vacancy is filled.

(12) A member of a relevant committee who ceases to be a member of the Complaints Panel or Council (as the case may be) at the end of his or her term of office continues as a member of the relevant committee until the completion of the work by the relevant committee,

as if he or she were still a member of the Complaints Panel or Council (as the case may be).

(13) The Minister may determine the remuneration (if any) to be paid to each member or observer of a relevant committee.

(14) If a member or an observer of a relevant committee is an employee, any remuneration payable to the member or observer under subsection (13) may be paid to his or her employer.

Officer or employee of National Parks Board not disqualified from being committee member or observer

***78.**—(1) Any member of the Council who is an officer or employee of the National Parks Board is not disqualified from being a member of any Disciplinary Committee or Interim Orders Committee by reason only that he or she is such an officer or is so employed, as the case may be.*

(2) Any member of the Complaints Panel who is an officer or employee of the National Parks Board is not disqualified from being a member of any Complaints Assessment Committee, Disciplinary Committee or Interim Orders Committee, or an observer of any Disciplinary Committee, by reason only that he or she is such an officer or is so employed, as the case may be.

PART 6

MISCELLANEOUS

Investigators

***79.**—(1) Subject to subsection (9), the Council may, in writing, appoint a member of the Council, a public officer, an officer or employee of a public authority, a duly qualified veterinarian or an auxiliary police officer as an investigator, subject to any conditions and limitations that the Council may specify —*

(a) to investigate the commission of an offence under this Act; or

(b) to carry out an investigation under Part 5.

(2) An investigator may, for the purposes of subsection (1)(a) or (b) —

(a) without warrant enter, inspect, and search during regular business hours any premises or conveyance used or proposed to be used, or in respect of which there is reasonable cause to believe are being used, by any person for the purpose of carrying out, or purporting to carry out, the practice of veterinary medicine;

(b) inspect or examine any animal (whether living or dead), object or thing or observe any activity conducted in or on the premises or conveyance;

(c) take a sample —

(i) from any animal (whether living or dead) in or on the premises or conveyance, with the consent of the owner of the animal; or

(ii) of any thing that is or has been in contact with, or in the vicinity of, the animal;

(d) make a still or moving image or recording of the premises or conveyance and any animal (whether living or dead), object or thing in or on the premises or conveyance;

(e) inspect any document in or on the premises or conveyance and take any extract from, or make any copy of, the document;

(f) take into or onto the premises or conveyance any equipment and material that the investigator requires for the purpose of exercising any power in relation to the premises or conveyance;

(g) operate any electronic equipment in or on the premises or conveyance;

(h) take into custody —

(i) any animal (whether living or dead), with the consent of the owner of the animal, which the investigator reasonably believes to be the subject matter of, or

connected with, an investigation mentioned in subsection (1)(a) or (b); or

(ii) any object or thing in the premises or conveyance which the investigator reasonably believes to be the subject matter of, or connected with, an investigation mentioned in subsection (1)(a) or (b); and

(i) in respect of a dead animal taken into custody under paragraph (h)(i) — conduct, with the consent of the owner of the animal, a post-mortem examination on the body of the dead animal for the purposes of —

(i) determining the cause of the death of that animal; or

(ii) investigating the extent of any disease suffered by that animal prior to its death.

(3) An investigator may, for the purposes of subsection (1)(a) or (b) —

(a) examine orally any person apparently acquainted with any facts and circumstances relevant to the matter under investigation;

(b) require any person apparently acquainted with any facts and circumstances relevant to the matter under investigation to attend at the time and place specified in a written notice served on the person;

(c) require any person whom the investigator has reason to believe has any document or information relevant to the matter under investigation to produce the document or provide the information, within a reasonable period specified by the investigator; and

(d) require any person to present or produce any object or thing, which may be in the person's custody or possession and which may be related to or connected with the subject matter of the investigation, for inspection or examination by the investigator.

(4) The power under subsection (2)(g) to operate any electronic equipment in or on any premises or conveyance includes the power —

(a) to use a disk, tape or other storage device that is in or on the premises or conveyance and can be used with the equipment or in association with the equipment;

(b) to operate the electronic equipment to put the relevant data in documentary form and remove any document so produced from the premises or conveyance; and

(c) to operate the electronic equipment to transfer the relevant data to a disk, tape or other storage device that —

(i) is brought to the premises or conveyance for the exercise of the power; or

(ii) is in or on the premises or conveyance and the use of which for that purpose has been agreed in writing by the occupier of the premises or conveyance,

and to remove the disk, tape or other storage device from those premises or that conveyance.

(5) The power to require a person to produce a document or provide information under subsection (3)(c) includes the power —

(a) to require that person, or any person who is or was an officer or employee of that person, to provide an explanation of the document or information;

(b) if the document is not produced or information is not provided, to require that person to state, to the best of the person's knowledge and belief, where it is; and

(c) if the information is recorded otherwise than in legible form, to require the information to be made available to the investigator in legible form.

(6) A person examined under this section must state truly the facts and circumstances relevant to the matter under investigation with which the person is acquainted, except only that the person need not say anything that might expose the person to a criminal charge, penalty or forfeiture.

(7) A statement made by a person examined under this section must —

(a) be reduced to writing;

(b) be read over to the person;

(c) if the person does not understand English, be interpreted in a language that the person understands; and

(d) after correction (if necessary), be signed by the person.

(8) No compensation is payable in respect of any animal or thing which is damaged or otherwise destroyed by virtue of any exercise of powers under subsection (2)(c), unless the damage or destruction is directly attributable to the negligence or default of the investigator.

(9) The following individuals must not be appointed as an investigator for a disciplinary case against a registered veterinarian:

(a) the Registrar;

(b) if the disciplinary case is brought after the expiry of the applicable period mentioned in section 42(1) or (2) — the appointed member mentioned in section 43 for the disciplinary case;

(c) any member of the Complaints Panel who assisted the Registrar in reviewing the disciplinary case under section 44(2)(a);

(d) if a Complaints Assessment Committee, a Disciplinary Committee or an Interim Orders Committee has conducted or is conducting an inquiry, a formal inquiry or a review (as the case may be) in respect of the disciplinary case under Part 5 — any member of that Committee;

(e) any member of the Council who participated in or influenced the Council's decision —

(i) to bring, as the complainant, the disciplinary case under section 41(3);

(ii) to make a referral, take an action or give a direction mentioned in section 75(1) for the continuation of a disciplinary case despite the withdrawal of the disciplinary case; or

(iii) taken under section 46(1), 51(1) or (4) or 52(4), (5) or (7) on the disciplinary case.

(10) An investigator who has been appointed to investigate a disciplinary case against a registered veterinarian must not subsequently take part in any deliberation of the Council in respect of the same disciplinary case under any provision of Part 5.

(11) A person who —

(a) wilfully obstructs or delays an investigator in the exercise of any power under subsection (2) or (3);

(b) fails to comply with any requisition or order of an investigator under subsection (3);

(c) knowingly gives a false answer to any question put to the person by an investigator; or

(d) knowingly gives any document, information or material to an investigator that is false or misleading, or that omits any matter or thing without which the document, information or material is misleading,

shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding $5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both and, in the case of a continuing offence, to a further fine not exceeding $50 for every day or part of a day during which the offence continues after conviction.

(12) In this section —

"auxiliary police officer" means an auxiliary police officer appointed under the Police Force Act 2004;

"owner" includes any person for the time being in charge of any animal;

"take a sample", for an animal, means —

(a) to take a swab from the animal or of any part of the animal;

(b) to take a sample of any part of the animal; or

(c) to take a sample of any urine, faeces, blood or other article or substance from, or which has been in contact with, the animal.

Assessors to Council

***80.**—(1) For the purposes of advising the Council, or any committee appointed by the Council, the Council may appoint a legal assessor to the Council who must be an advocate and solicitor of at least 10 years' standing.*

(2) The legal assessor must not participate or sit in any deliberations of the Council or its committees unless invited to do so, and his or her participation is limited only to questions of law arising from the proceedings.

(3) The Council may appoint a medical assessor to assist the Council or any committee appointed by the Council in proceedings before any of them under this Act.

(4) The Council may pay to a legal assessor or medical assessor, as part of the expenses of the Council, any remuneration that the Council may determine.

(5) If a legal assessor or medical assessor is an employee, any remuneration payable to the legal assessor or medical assessor under subsection (4) may be paid to his or her employer.

(6) In this section, a committee appointed by the Council includes a Complaints Assessment Committee, a Disciplinary Committee and an Interim Orders Committee.

Protection from personal liability

***81.** No liability shall lie against —*

(a) the Registrar;

(b) any member of the Council or any person authorised, appointed or employed to assist the Council;

(c) any member of a Complaints Assessment Committee, a Disciplinary Committee, an Interim Orders Committee or any committee appointed under section 13; and

(d) any investigator,

for anything which is done or purported to be done, or omitted to be done, in good faith and with reasonable care in the exercise or purported exercise of any power or the performance or purported performance of any function under this Act.

Deemed public servants

***82.**—(1) The following persons are each taken to be a public servant for the purposes of the Penal Code 1871 in relation to his or her performance of any function or duty under this Act:*

(a) the Registrar;

(b) any member of the Council or any person authorised, appointed or employed to assist the Council;

(c) any member of a Complaints Assessment Committee, a Disciplinary Committee, an Interim Orders Committee or any committee appointed under section 13;

(d) any investigator.

(2) For the purposes of sections 193 and 228 of the Penal Code 1871, "judicial proceeding" is taken to include any proceedings before a Complaints Assessment Committee, a Disciplinary Committee or an Interim Orders Committee.

Composition of offences

***83.**—(1) The Council may compound any offence under this Act that is prescribed as a compoundable offence by collecting from a person reasonably suspected of having committed the offence a sum not exceeding the lower of the following:*

(a) one-half of the amount of the maximum fine that is prescribed for the offence;

(b) $2,000.

(2) On payment of the sum of money, no further proceedings are to be taken against that person in respect of the offence.

(3) All sums collected under this section must be paid into the Consolidated Fund.

Service of documents

84.—(1) A document that is permitted or required by or under this Act to be served on a person may be served as described in this section.

(2) A document permitted or required by or under this Act to be served on an individual may be served —

(*a*) by giving it to the individual personally;

(*b*) by sending it by prepaid registered post to the address specified by the individual for the service of documents generally, or specifically for the document, or (if no address is so specified) the individual's residential address or business address;

(*c*) by leaving it at the individual's residential address with an adult apparently resident there, or at the individual's business address with an adult apparently employed there;

(*d*) by affixing a copy of the document in a conspicuous place at the individual's residential address or business address; or

(*e*) by sending it by email to the individual's last email address.

(3) A document permitted or required by or under this Act to be served on a partnership (other than a limited liability partnership) may be served —

(*a*) by giving it to any partner or other similar officer, or an authorised representative, of the partnership;

(*b*) by leaving it at, or by sending it by prepaid registered post to, the partnership's business address; or

(*c*) by sending it by email to the partnership's last email address.

(4) A document permitted or required by or under this Act to be served on a body corporate (including a limited liability partnership) or an unincorporated association may be served —

(*a*) by giving it to the secretary or other similar officer of the body corporate or unincorporated association, or the limited liability partnership's manager;

(*b*) by leaving it at, or by sending it by prepaid registered post to, the registered office or principal office in Singapore of the body corporate or unincorporated association; or

(*c*) by sending it by email to the last email address of the body corporate or unincorporated association.

(5) In addition, a document permitted or required by or under this Act to be served on an individual, a partnership, a body corporate or an unincorporated association may be served by giving an electronic notice to the individual, partnership, body corporate or unincorporated association (called in this section an addressee) by the addressee's chosen means of notification, stating that the document is available and how the addressee may use the addressee's chosen means of access to access the document's contents.

(6) Service of a document under this section takes effect —

(*a*) if the document is sent by prepaid registered post — 2 days after the day the document was posted (even if it is returned undelivered); or

(*b*) if the document is sent by email — at the time that the email becomes capable of being retrieved by the person to whom it is sent.

(7) However, service of any document under this Act on a person by email or by an electronic notice at the person's chosen means of notification may be effected only with the person's prior written consent to service in that way.

(8) This section does not apply to documents to be served in proceedings in court.

(9) In this section —

"authorised representative", in relation to a partnership (other than a limited liability partnership), means any person

authorised to accept service of documents on behalf of the partnership;

"business address" means —

(*a*) in the case of an individual, the individual's usual or last known place of business in Singapore; or

(*b*) in the case of a partnership (other than a limited liability partnership), the partnership's principal or last known place of business in Singapore;

"chosen means of access", for an addressee on whom is or is to be served a document permitted or required by or under this Act, means an electronic means that the addressee agrees with the person serving the document as the means by which the addressee may access that document's contents;

"chosen means of notification", for an addressee on whom is or is to be served a document permitted or required by or under this Act, means an electronic means that the addressee nominates to the person serving the document as the means by which the addressee may be notified that such a document has been served on the addressee;

"document" includes a direction, an order or a notice permitted or required by or under this Act to be served;

"last email address" means the last email address given by the addressee concerned to the person giving or serving the document as the email address for the service of documents under this Act;

"residential address" means an individual's usual or last known place of residence in Singapore.

Jurisdiction of courts

85. *Despite the Criminal Procedure Code 2010, a District Court or a Magistrate's Court has jurisdiction to try any offence under this Act and has power to impose the full punishment for the offence.*

Exemption

86. *The Minister may, after consultation with the Council, by order in the Gazette, exempt any person or class of persons from all or any of the provisions of this Act, either generally or in a particular case and subject to any condition that the Minister may impose.*

Regulations

87.*—(1) The Council may, with the approval of the Minister, make regulations necessary or convenient to be prescribed for carrying out or giving effect to this Act and for the due administration of this Act.*

(2) Without limiting subsection (1), the Council may, with the approval of the Minister, make regulations —

(a) on matters relating to the registration of veterinarians, including renewals of registration for specialists;

(b) providing for different registration requirements for specialists in different branches of veterinary medicine;

(c) on matters relating to the grant and renewal of practising certificates, including the reinstatement of practising certificates cancelled under the Act;

(d) prescribing procedures for the cancellation and restoration of registration;

(e) regulating the professional practice, etiquette, conduct and discipline of registered veterinarians;

(f) prescribing acts or activities which a specialist may perform only on satisfaction of prescribed requirements;

(g) prescribing the powers and procedures of, and regulating the conduct of any proceedings before, a Complaints Assessment Committee, a Disciplinary Committee, an Interim Orders Committee or any other committee appointed by the Council under this Act;

(h) prescribing the procedure for the withdrawal of any disciplinary case by a complainant or the Council (if the Council is not the complainant) under Part 5;

(i) prescribing the procedure for any appeal to the Minister;

(j) prescribing any additional function of the Registrar;

(k) prescribing fees for the purposes of this Act; and

(l) generally providing for any other matter that may be necessary or expedient for carrying out the provisions of this Act or that is required or permitted to be prescribed under this Act.

(3) Regulations made under this Act may make different provisions, or prescribe different fees, for different classes of persons or different circumstances.

(4) Regulations made under this section may provide that any contravention of any provision of the regulations shall be an offence punishable with a fine not exceeding $5,000 or with imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or with both.

Consequential amendments to other Acts

***88.**—(1) In the Animals and Birds Act 1965 —*

(a) in section 44(1)(b), replace "a person licensed under section 53" with "a duly qualified veterinarian within the meaning given by section 3 of the Veterinary Practice Act 2026"; and

(b) delete section 53.

(2) In the Health Products Act 2007, in section 2(1), replace the definition of "veterinarian" with —

" "veterinarian" means an individual who is a duly qualified veterinarian within the meaning given by section 3 of the Veterinary Practice Act 2026;".

(3) In the Medicines Act 1975, in section 2(1), replace the definition of "veterinary surgeon" with —

" "veterinary surgeon" means an individual who is a duly qualified veterinarian within the meaning given by section 3 of the Veterinary Practice Act 2026;".

(4) In the Misuse of Drugs Act 1973, in section 2, after the definition of "vessel", insert —

" "veterinary surgeon" means an individual who is a duly qualified veterinarian within the meaning given by section 3 of the Veterinary Practice Act 2026;".

(5) In the National Parks Board Act 1996, in section 6(1), replace paragraph (i) with —

"(i) to regulate veterinary establishments;

(ia) to regulate any person who, in the course of business, provides a service, in relation to an animal in the control or possession of the person, for any of the following purposes:

(i) assessing, recording, maintaining or improving the health, welfare, comfort or wellbeing of the animal;

(ii) examining or attending to the animal, including administering a veterinary product to the animal, but excluding the performance of any surgical procedure on the animal;

(iii) performing any cosmetic procedure (other than surgery) on the animal;

(ib) to provide administrative, financial, technical and personnel support to the Veterinary Council in the performance of the functions and in the exercise of the powers of the Veterinary Council under the Veterinary Practice Act 2026;".

(6) In the Poisons Act 1938, in section 2, replace the definition of "veterinary surgeon" with —

" "veterinary surgeon" means an individual who is a duly qualified veterinarian within the meaning given by section 3 of the Veterinary Practice Act 2026.".

Amendment of Veterinary Practice Act 2026

89. *In the Veterinary Practice Act 2026 —*

(a) in section 4, delete subsection (5); and

(b) in section 7(1), delete paragraph (k).

Saving and transitional provisions

90.*—(1) If immediately before the date of commencement of section 29 (called in this subsection the appointed day) —*

(a) an individual holds a full licence issued under section 53(1) of the Animals and Birds Act 1965; and

(b) the licence is not suspended or revoked under section 62 of that Act,

the individual is deemed, so far as not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, to be a duly qualified veterinarian with full registration on and after the appointed day until the earliest of the following:

(c) the date immediately after the end of 12 months (or, if a longer period is prescribed under subsection (3), the longer period) after the appointed day;

(d) the date on which the Council grants a practising certificate to the individual under section 23, after registering the individual as a veterinarian with full registration or veterinarian with restricted registration (as the case may be) under this Act;

(e) the date that the individual's application for registration is finally refused under section 21 or is withdrawn;

(f) the date that the individual's application for a practising certificate is finally refused under section 23 or is withdrawn.

(2) If immediately before the date of commencement of section 29 (called in this subsection the appointed day) —

(a) an individual holds a restricted licence issued under section 53(1) of the Animals and Birds Act 1965; and

(b) the licence is not suspended or revoked under section 62 of that Act,

the individual is deemed, so far as not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, to be a duly qualified veterinarian with restricted registration on and after the appointed day until the earliest of the following:

(c) the date immediately after the end of 12 months (or, if a longer period is prescribed under subsection (3), the longer period) after the appointed day;

(d) the date on which the Council grants a practising certificate to the individual under section 23, after registering the individual as a veterinarian with full registration or veterinarian with restricted registration (as the case may be) under this Act;

(e) the date that the individual's application for registration is finally refused under section 21 or is withdrawn;

(f) the date that the individual's application for a practising certificate is finally refused under section 23 or is withdrawn.

(3) The Minister may, by notification in the Gazette, prescribe the longer period mentioned in subsection (1)(c) or (2)(c).

(4) In this section —

"full licence" means a licence, issued to an individual under section 53(1) of the Animals and Birds Act 1965, that is not a restricted licence;

"restricted licence" means a licence, issued to an individual under section 53(1) of the Animals and Birds Act 1965, that authorises the individual to treat, vaccinate or inoculate animals only —

(a) at a place of practice specified in the licence; and

(b) under the supervision of another individual who holds a licence issued under section 53(1) of the Animals and Birds Act 1965.

(5) A reference in subsection (1)(e) or (f) or (2)(e) or (f) to the date of final refusal of an application under section 21 or 23 is a reference to —

(a) if an appeal is made to the Minister under section 21(8) or 23(11) (as the case may be) against the Council's refusal of the application — the date of the Minister's dismissal of the appeal; or

(b) in any other case — the date of the Council's refusal of the application under section 21(6) or 23(7), as the case may be.

(6) For a period of 2 years after the commencement of any provision of this Act, the Minister may, by regulations, prescribe additional provisions of a saving or transitional nature consequent on the enactment of that provision that the Minister may consider necessary or expedient.