

Veterinary Practice Bill 2026

Bill No. /2026.

Read the first time on .

A BILL

i n t i t u l e d

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:

PART 1

PRELIMINARY

Short title and commencement

- 5 **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*.

Interpretation

- 2.** In this Act —

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

15 “certificate of registration”, in relation to a registered veterinarian, means a certificate of registration issued by the Council under section 19;

“Council” means the Veterinary Council established under section 4;

“layperson” means an individual who is not a veterinarian;

20 “medical practitioner” means an individual who is registered under the Medical Registration Act 1997 and includes an individual deemed to be so registered under section 72(1) of that Act;

“member” means a member of the Council;

25 “practising certificate”, in relation to a registered veterinarian, means a practising certificate issued under section 20;

“president” means the president of the Council;

30 “practice of veterinary medicine” means the performance of any procedure on, or the giving of any treatment, advice or attendance for, an animal as is usually performed or given by veterinarians, such as —

- (a) the diagnosis of any disease in, or injury to, an animal, including the performance of a test for the purposes of diagnosing the physiological or pathological condition of the animal;
 - 5 (b) the giving of advice based upon such diagnosis;
 - (c) the medical treatment (including of a dental or surgical nature) of an animal;
 - (d) the administration of anaesthetics to an animal;
 - (e) the prescription of any drug or medication for an animal;
 - 10 (f) the issuance or endorsement of any certificate, report or document for 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:
 - 15 (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;
 - 20 (iv) the performance of any treatment, test or procedure,
- and “practise veterinary medicine” is to be construed accordingly;
- “public authority” means any body established or constituted by
- 25 or under a public Act to perform or discharge a public function, other than a Town Council established under section 4 of the Town Councils Act 1988;
- “register” means any register mentioned in section 12;
- “registered veterinarian” means a veterinarian with full
- 30 registration or a veterinarian with restricted registration;
- “Registrar” means the Registrar of the Council;

“specialist” means an individual who is registered as a specialist under section 16;

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

5 “veterinarian with restricted registration” means an individual registered as such under this Act;

“veterinary medicine” means any branch or art of veterinary medicine and includes veterinary surgery;

10 “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

15 **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.

PART 2

VETERINARY COUNCIL

20 Establishment of Veterinary Council

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

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

25 (a) the Director-General, Animal Health and Welfare, or the representative nominated by the Director-General, Animal Welfare and Health;

(b) the president of the Singapore Veterinary Association, or the representative nominated by the president of the Singapore
30 Veterinary Association;

(c) the Registrar.

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

5 (a) four or more veterinarians with full registration, at least one of whom has at least 10 years' experience as a veterinarian; and

 (b) two other individuals.

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

10 (5) The Minister may, at any time and without giving any reason, revoke the appointment of any member appointed under subsection (2) or (3).

Functions of Council

5. The functions of the Council are —

15 (a) to approve or reject applications for registration and renewal of registration as veterinarians under this Act and to approve any such applications subject to any conditions and restrictions that the Council thinks fit;

 (b) to issue practising certificates to registered veterinarians;

20 (c) to accredit courses and programmes for, and providers of, the training and assessment of individuals seeking to become registered veterinarians;

 (d) to accredit programmes for, and providers of, the continuing professional education of registered veterinarians;

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

 (f) to keep and maintain the registers;

30 (g) to coordinate and supervise the activities of committees appointed under section 10, Complaints Assessment Committees, Disciplinary Committees and Interim Orders Committees; and

- (h) 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.

President of Council

5 **6.—**(1) The Minister must appoint one of the members as president of the Council.

(2) The president is to preside at any meeting of the Council and, in his or her absence, the members present may elect a member to preside at that meeting.

10 **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 —

- 15 (a) he or she is not a citizen or a permanent resident of Singapore within the meaning given by section 2 of the Immigration Act 1959;
- (b) he or she is an undischarged bankrupt;
- 20 (c) he or she has been convicted in Singapore or elsewhere of any offence involving fraud, dishonesty or moral turpitude or implying a defect in character which makes him or her unfit for his or her profession;
- (d) he or she has been found guilty in Singapore or elsewhere of any improper act or conduct which brings disrepute to his or her profession;
- 25 (e) he or she has been found guilty in Singapore or elsewhere of professional misconduct;
- (f) where 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 76(1)(b), the individual has had the licence suspended or revoked under that Act;
- 30 (g) the registration of the individual as a registered veterinarian or specialist is suspended or cancelled under this Act; or

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

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

Filling of vacancies

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

(a) dies;

(b) resigns his or her office;

10 (c) becomes 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;

(d) is removed from office under subsection (2); or

15 (e) has his or her appointment revoked before the expiry of the term for which he or she has been appointed.

(2) The Minister may remove from office any member who is absent without leave of the Council from 3 consecutive meetings of —

20 (a) the Council; or

(b) any committee of the Council (including a Complaints Assessment Committee, a Disciplinary Committee or an Interim Orders Committee) of which he or she is a member.

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

(4) If any vacancy arises among the members appointed under section 4(2), the Minister may appoint an individual to fill the vacancy in the manner in which the appointment to the vacant office was made, and that individual is to hold office for as long as the member in whose place he or she was appointed would have held office.

30

(5) If any vacancy arises among the members appointed under section 4(3), the Minister must, as soon as practicable, appoint an individual to fill the vacancy in the manner in which the appointment to the vacant office was made, and that individual is to hold office for as long as the member in whose place he or she was appointed would have held office.

(6) No act done by or under the authority of the Council is invalid because of any defect that is afterwards discovered in the appointment or qualification of the president or any member of the Council.

10 **Meetings of Council and payment of members**

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

(2) The quorum at every meeting of the Council is one third of the total number of members or 4 members, whichever is the higher; and no business is to be transacted at any meeting unless a quorum is present.

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

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

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

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

(7) The members of the Council and members of any committee appointed under section 10 are to be paid any fees that the Minister may approve.

(8) If a member mentioned in subsection (7) is an employee, the fee mentioned in that subsection may be paid to the member or the member's employer.

Appointment and establishment of committees and delegation of powers

5 **10.**—(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.

10 (3) 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 are to be fixed by the Council.

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

15 (5) The Council may delegate to any committee appointed under subsection (1) 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 71 and 75), with or without any restriction or condition as the Council thinks fit.

20 (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).

PART 3

REGISTRATION OF VETERINARIANS

25 **Registrar of Council**

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

30 (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.

- 5 (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

10 **12.—**(1) The Registrar must maintain and keep 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;
- 15 (b) 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;
- 20 (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 every registered veterinarian to be contained in a register are the following:

- (a) his or her name and residential address;
- 25 (b) the address of his or her current place of practice;
- (c) the date of the registration of the individual;
- (d) the qualification by virtue of which he or she is registered and the date he or she obtained that qualification; and
- (e) any other particulars as the Council may determine.

- 30 (3) The Registrar is responsible for the maintenance and custody of the registers.

(4) Subject to subsection (6), every individual whose name is entered in a register must inform the Registrar in writing of —

- (a) any change in his or her name or residential address;
- (b) any change in his or her practice address;
- 5 (c) any change in any other prescribed particulars; or
- (d) any change of or addition to his or her qualification,

within 28 days after the change or addition.

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

(6) 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 (4)(a) on the date that he or she makes the report.

15 (7) The Registrar may disclose any information in a register to any prescribed person, if the disclosure is in accordance with prescribed conditions (if any).

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

20 **Alterations in registers**

13.—(1) 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 or specialist;
- 25 (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;
 - 30 (iii) who has requested and shown sufficient reason for the individual's registration to be cancelled, unless an

inquiry has or proceedings have commenced under Part 5 against that individual; or

(iv) whose registration has lapsed.

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.

Full registration

10 **14.**—(1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Council may register an individual as a veterinarian with full registration if the individual holds any prescribed qualification in veterinary medicine conferred by a university in Singapore or outside Singapore.

(2) The Council may register as a veterinarian with full registration an individual who does not hold any prescribed qualification mentioned in subsection (1) if the individual —

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

20 (b) satisfies the Council that he or she has the knowledge, skill and sufficient experience in the practice of veterinary medicine.

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

30 (4) The Council may register an individual under subsection (1) or (2) for any period that the Council thinks fit, and the registration may be renewed, at the Council's discretion, for any further period that the Council thinks fit.

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

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

- 5 (a) the individual must work in an establishment and under the direction or supervision of a duly qualified veterinarian with full registration, approved by the Council for a period specified by the Council, in order to acquire practical experience of any nature as the Council determines;
- 10 (b) the degree of the direction or supervision mentioned in paragraph (a) must meet any requirements specified by the Council;
- (c) the individual's performance is subject to review by a duly qualified veterinarian with full registration as approved by the Council;
- 15 (d) the particular employment or description of employment which the individual is permitted to undertake in the practice of veterinary medicine;
- (e) the particular establishment or description of establishments in which the individual is permitted to practise veterinary medicine;
- 20 (f) the particular branch or area of veterinary medicine in which the individual is permitted to practise.

(7) Despite subsections (1) and (2), the Council may, if it is of the view that it is not in the public interest for a individual mentioned in either of those subsections to be registered as a veterinarian with full registration, register the individual as a veterinarian with restricted registration, and section 15(4) and (5) applies accordingly.

Restricted registration

15.—(1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, 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 prescribed under section 14(1) which, in the

opinion of the Council, has provided the individual with adequate training;

(b) satisfies the Council that he or she has the knowledge and skills 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 the 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 by any person appointed by the Council.

(3) The Council may register an individual under subsection (1) for any period that the Council thinks fit, and the registration may be renewed, at the Council's discretion, for any further period that the Council thinks fit.

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

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

(a) the individual must work in an establishment recognised by the Council and under the direction or supervision of a duly qualified veterinarian with full registration who is approved by the Council;

(b) the degree of the direction or supervision mentioned in paragraph (a) must meet any requirements specified by the Council;

(c) the individual's performance is subject to review by a duly qualified veterinarian with full registration approved by the Council;

(d) the particular employment or description of employment which the individual is permitted to undertake in the practice of veterinary medicine;

(e) the particular establishment or description of establishments in which the individual is permitted to practise veterinary medicine;

5 (f) the particular branch or area of veterinary medicine in which the individual is permitted to practise.

Registration of specialists

16.—(1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Council may register a registered veterinarian with full registration as a specialist in any particular branch of veterinary medicine if he or she —

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

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

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

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

20 **17.** The Council may, at any time after registration of an individual under section 14, 15 or 16, amend, vary, revoke or suspend any condition or restriction imposed under that section or impose any new or additional condition or restriction on the registration.

Application for registration

25 **18.**—(1) An application for registration under section 14, 15 or 16 must be made in the form and manner determined by the Council and must be accompanied by —

(a) any document or particular that the Council requires; and

(b) the prescribed fee.

30 (2) For the purposes of subsection (1), different fees may be prescribed for different classes of applicants.

(3) 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 or specialist, as the case may be.

5 (4) The costs of any medical examination mentioned in subsection (3) must be borne by the applicant.

(5) The Council may refuse to register any applicant under section 14, 15 or 16 who —

10 (a) has had his or her registration as a veterinarian (or its equivalent) in any other country 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;

15 (iii) is unfit to practise —

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

(B) for any other reason;

20 (iv) has failed without reasonable cause to submit to a medical examination when required to do so under subsection (3);

(v) has failed to comply with any condition or restriction of any previous registration imposed on him or her by the Council; or

25

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

(6) If the Council refuses to register an applicant, the Council must by written notice inform the applicant of the refusal.

30 (7) A person who is aggrieved by any refusal of the Council under subsection (5) may, within 30 days after the notice given under subsection (6), appeal to the Minister whose decision is final.

Certificate of registration

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

5 Practising certificate

20.—(1) A registered veterinarian who desires to obtain a practising certificate must make an application to the Council in the form and manner determined by the Council.

(2) The application must be accompanied by the prescribed fee.

10 (3) A practising certificate is valid for a period not exceeding 2 years after the date of issue of the practising certificate

(4) An application for the renewal of a practising certificate must be made no later than 30 days before the expiry of the practising certificate and must be made in the form and manner determined by
15 the Council.

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

(6) Any applicant under subsection (1) must comply with —

20 (a) any prescribed requirement, including continuing professional education requirements; and

(b) any condition specified by the Council.

(7) Without limiting subsection (6), the Council may specify conditions that require an applicant for the grant or renewal of a
25 practising certificate to submit any information or declaration (including a statutory declaration) that the Council requires.

(8) The Council may —

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

30 (b) refuse to renew the practising certificate of a registered veterinarian,

if the registered veterinarian does not comply with subsection (6) or (7).

(9) If an individual's practising certificate is suspended or cancelled under any provision of this Act, he or she must surrender the certificate to the Council within 14 days after the suspension or cancellation.

(10) If —

- (a) an individual's registration as a registered veterinarian has lapsed;
- (b) the individual has had his or her registration as a registered veterinarian cancelled; or
- (c) the individual has had his or her registration as a registered veterinarian suspended,

any practising certificate issued to the individual is deemed to be cancelled and he or she must surrender the practising certificate to the Council within 14 days after the lapse, cancellation or suspension.

(11) An individual who fails to comply with subsection (9) or (10) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$1,000.

Publication of list of duly qualified veterinarians

21. The Registrar must publish on the Council's Internet website, or on any other medium which is accessible to members of the public as the Minister may require, a list of the names, practice addresses, qualifications and dates of qualifications and registration of all duly qualified veterinarians.

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

22.—(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 the 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

- 5 (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.

Power of Council to cancel registration

10 23.—(1) Despite the provisions of this Act, the Council may, upon any evidence the Council requires, cancel the registration of an individual under any of the following circumstances:

- (a) the individual has failed to comply with any condition or restriction to which his or her registration is subject;
- 15 (b) if the individual has been registered as a veterinarian with full registration or veterinarian with restricted registration — the Council is of the opinion, having regard to any review by a veterinarian mentioned in section 14(6)(c) or 15(5)(c) (as the case may be), that he or she is unable to perform the duties of a veterinarian with full registration or veterinarian with restricted registration (as the case may be) satisfactorily;
- 20 (c) if the individual has been registered as a veterinarian with full registration or veterinarian with restricted registration — the Council is of the opinion, having regard to a report of a veterinarian supervising him or her pursuant to a condition mentioned in section 14(6)(a) or 15(5)(a) (as the case may be), that he or she is unable to satisfactorily perform the duties of a veterinarian with full registration or veterinarian with restricted registration, as the case may be;
- 25 (d) if the individual has been registered as a specialist —
- 30 (i) his or her registration as a registered veterinarian has been cancelled; or

- (ii) he or she has contravened or failed to comply with any condition or restriction imposed under section 16(2);
 - (e) the individual has obtained his or her registration fraudulently or by an incorrect statement;
 - 5 (f) the individual's qualification for registration under this Act has been withdrawn or cancelled by the authority or university through which it was acquired or by which it was awarded;
 - 10 (g) the individual has had his or her registration (or its equivalent) in any other country withdrawn, suspended or cancelled by a competent authority in that country.
- (2) The Council must, before exercising its powers under subsection (1), notify the registered veterinarian concerned of its intention to take such action and must give the registered veterinarian
- 15 an opportunity to submit reasons why his or her registration should not be cancelled.
- (3) A person who is aggrieved by any decision of the Council under subsection (1) may, within 30 days after being notified of the decision, appeal to the Minister whose decision is final.

20 **Restoration of registration cancelled under section 23**

24.—(1) If the registration of an individual has been cancelled under section 23(1)(a), (b), (c) or (d), the Council may, on its own motion or upon the application by the individual —

- (a) restore the individual's registration to the register; or
 - 25 (b) register the individual as a veterinarian with full registration or veterinarian with restricted registration, or as a specialist, and section 14(4), (5) and (6), 15(3), (4) and (5) or section 16(2) (as the case may be) applies accordingly.
- (2) An application under subsection (1) must not be made to the
- 30 Council more than once in any period of 6 months.
- (3) An application under subsection (1) must not be made to the Council by or on behalf of the individual unless the individual has

complied with all the terms of the order made against him or her under section 23(1), where applicable.

Registrar's certificate

25. A certificate purporting to be signed by the Registrar —

- 5 (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 specialist, or had or did not have in force a practising certificate; or
- 10 (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

PRACTICE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

Prohibition of practice of veterinary medicine

26.—(1) Subject to subsections (2), (3), (4) and (5), an individual must not practise veterinary medicine in Singapore unless the individual is a duly qualified veterinarian.

- 20 (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 in accordance with any prescribed condition and —

- (a) in the course of the veterinary student's training; and
 - 25 (b) under the direction or 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.

5 (4) Subsection (1) does not apply to an individual who keeps and uses any animal for any scientific purpose in a licensed animal research facility, if the keeping and use of the animal in the licensed animal research facility for any scientific purpose is carried out in accordance with the Animals and Birds Act 1965 and the conditions
10 of the animal research facility licence.

(5) Subsection (1) does not apply to the doing of any act within the practice of veterinary medicine, other than any excluded act, by an individual if the act is done in accordance with any prescribed condition and under the direction or supervision of a duly qualified
15 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 6 months or to both.

20 (7) In this section —

“animal research facility licence”, in relation to any premises, means a licence issued under the Animals and Birds Act 1965 for the owner, occupier or person having management or control over those premises to keep and use animals for a
25 scientific purpose;

“authorised officer” and “veterinary biologics” have the meanings given to them by section 2(1) of the Animal and Birds Act 1965;

“excluded act” means —

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

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

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

(d) the issuance or endorsement of any certificate, report or document for 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; and

(e) any other act that may be prescribed;

“licensed animal research facility” means any premises for which a valid licence is issued under the Animals and Birds Act 1965 for the owner, occupier or person having management or control over those premises to keep and use animals for a scientific purpose.

False assumption of title, etc., by non-duly qualified veterinarian

27.—(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 style or title of a veterinarian; or

(ii) under any name, title, addition or description implying that he or she holds any diploma, 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;

5 (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.

10 (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 —

(a) under the direction or supervision of a duly qualified veterinarian; and

(b) in an establishment approved by the Council.

15 (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 6 months or to both.

20 (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.

25 (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.

False assumption of title of specialist

28.—(1) A registered veterinarian who is not registered under section 16 as a specialist in a branch of veterinary medicine must not —

30 (a) practise veterinary medicine or that branch of veterinary medicine under the style 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

- 5 (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 who contravenes subsection (1) may be subject to disciplinary proceedings under this Act.

Making representation of another as duly qualified veterinarian

- 10 **29.**—(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 27 or a contravention by *B* of section 28.

- 15 (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 6 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 —

- 20 (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 the act is committed is established for a charitable purpose or for purposes which include a charitable purpose, any activity carried out or
- 25 service provided by *A* or the person for that purpose.

(4) Where an offence is committed under section 27 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.

- 30 (5) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (4) shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$50,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both.

(6) It is a defence for a person (*B*) charged with an offence under subsection (4) to prove that the firstmentioned offence was

committed 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*.

5 **Causing or permitting another to make representation of oneself as duly qualified veterinarian**

30.—(1) An individual (*A*) shall be guilty of an offence if *A* causes or permits a person (*B*) to make any representation about *A* which, if made by *A* with the requisite intent, would be an offence under section 27.

10 (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 term not exceeding 6 months or to both.

15 (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.

20 (4) Subsection (3) does not apply to an individual charged with an offence under subsection (1) with respect to a representation mentioned in section 27(1)(e) if the representation is made in the prescribed circumstances.

Liability of registered veterinarian for enabling another to act in contravention of section 27 or 28

25 31.—(1) A registered veterinarian who, by his or her presence, countenance, advice, assistance or cooperation, has knowingly enabled an individual (whether described as an assistant or otherwise) to assume a title in contravention of section 27 or 28 shall be guilty of an offence.

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 6 months or to both.

(3) It is a defence for an individual charged with an offence under subsection (1) to prove that —

(a) the commission of the offence was due to —

(i) a mistake on the individual's part;

(ii) reliance on information supplied to the individual; or

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

(b) the individual took all reasonable precautions and exercised
due diligence to prevent the commission of the offence.

Suspended individuals not to practise veterinary medicine during period of suspension

10 32.—(1) An individual whose registration as a registered
veterinarian is suspended under Part 5 must not practise veterinary
medicine during the period of suspension.

(2) An individual who contravenes subsection (1) shall be guilty of
an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding
15 \$50,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to
both.

Fraudulent registration as registered veterinarian, etc.

33.—(1) An individual must not —

20 (a) procure or attempt to procure registration as a registered
veterinarian or specialist under this Act, 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 or
representation, whether in writing or otherwise;

25 (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;

30 (d) fraudulently or dishonestly use 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 6 months or to both.

PART 5

DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS FOR REGISTERED VETERINARIANS

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

Voluntary cancellation, suspension of registration, etc.

34.—(1) A registered veterinarian may request the Council to take one or more of the actions in subsection (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 which is reasonable to expect of a veterinarian.

(2) Upon receiving a request under subsection (1), the Council may, with the agreement of the registered veterinarian, do one or more of the following:

- (a) cancel the registered veterinarian's registration;
- (b) suspend the registration of the registered veterinarian for a period not exceeding 3 years;
- (c) if the registered veterinarian is registered with full registration, cancel his or her registration as a veterinarian with full registration and register him or her as a veterinarian with restricted registration with any appropriate condition or restriction, and section 15(3) to (5) applies accordingly;

- (d) impose any new or additional condition or restriction on his or her registration or amend or vary any condition or restriction imposed under section 14, 15, 16 or 17, as the case may be;
 - 5 (e) 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 —
- 10 (a) the Council believes that there is evidence of any matter mentioned in section 36(3)(a) or (4)(a) or (b); or
 - (b) a complaint has been made against, or information has been provided about, the registered veterinarian under Division 2 and is pending against the registered veterinarian.
- 15 (4) Subject to section 39(9), subsections (2) and (3) also apply if the Council takes the action mentioned in section 39(6)(c)(ii).

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

Appointment of Complaints Panel

- 20 35.—(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 —
- 25 (a) at least 10 individuals, each of whom is a registered veterinarian with at least 8 years' experience as a veterinarian and is not a member of the Council; and
 - (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.
- 30 (3) The Council may, at any time, revoke the appointment of any member of the Complaints Panel or fill any vacancy in its membership.

Complaint against or information about registered veterinarian

36.—(1) A person (called in this Part the complainant) may make a complaint against, or provide information about, any registered veterinarian to the Council on any matter mentioned in subsection (3) or (4).
5

(2) Every complaint against, or information about, any registered veterinarian mentioned in subsection (1) must —

- (a) be in writing;
- 10 (b) be supported by a statutory declaration unless the complaint or information is made or provided by a public officer, an officer or employee of a public authority or the Council; and
- (c) be accompanied by every relevant document and information that is in the possession of the complainant.

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

- 15 (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
- 20 (b) that the professional services provided by a registered veterinarian are not of the quality that is reasonable to expect of him or her.

(4) The information mentioned in subsection (1) is information relating to —

- 25 (a) the conviction (whether in Singapore or elsewhere) of a registered veterinarian of an offence involving fraud, dishonesty or moral turpitude, or implying a defect in character that makes him or her unfit to practise veterinary medicine;
- 30 (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.

Limitation period for complaint or information

5 **37.**—(1) The Council must not refer a complaint or information to the Registrar under section 39(1) if the complaint is first made or the information is first provided to the Council after the expiration of the period of —

- (a) 6 years after the date of the act, conduct or occurrence that is the subject matter of the complaint or information; or
- 10 (b) 6 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, if that period expires later than the period mentioned in paragraph (a).

15 (2) The Council must not make a complaint or refer any information to the Registrar under section 39(2) after the expiration of the period of —

- (a) 6 years after the date of the act, conduct or occurrence that is the subject matter of the complaint or information; or
- 20 (b) 6 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, if that period expires later than the period mentioned in paragraph (a).

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

- 25 (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 it is reasonable for the person to seek.

Complaints made, etc., after expiration of limitation period

30 **38.**—(1) If any complaint or information is made or provided to the Council under section 36(1) after the expiration of the period mentioned in section 37(1), the Council must, within 2 weeks after

receipt of the complaint or information, refer the complaint or information to any member of the Council, other than the Registrar, appointed by the Council (called in this section the appointed member) for an assessment mentioned in subsection (3)(a).

5 (2) If the Council intends to make a complaint or refer any information about a registered veterinarian to the Registrar under section 39(2) after the expiration of the period mentioned in section 37(2), the Council must, as soon as practicable, refer the complaint or information to the appointed member for an assessment
10 mentioned in subsection (3)(a).

(3) If the Council refers any complaint or information to the appointed member for an assessment under subsection (1) or (2) —

(a) the appointed member must, within 3 weeks after the referral, assess whether it is in the public interest for the complaint or
15 information to be referred to the Registrar despite the expiration of the period mentioned in section 37(1) or (2) (as the case may be); and

(b) if the appointed member notifies the Council that he or she is of the opinion that it is in the public interest to refer the
20 complaint or information to the Registrar, the Council must, despite section 37(1) or (2) (as the case may be) and within 2 weeks after receipt of the notice, refer the complaint or information or make the complaint (as the case may be) to the Registrar.

25 **Review of complaint or information**

39.—(1) Subject to section 37(1) and subsection (3), the Council must, upon receiving any complaint or information under section 36, refer the complaint or information to the Registrar for review.

(2) Subject to section 37(2), the Council may also, on its own
30 motion, make a complaint or refer any information about a registered veterinarian on any matter mentioned in section 36(3) or (4) to the Registrar for review.

(3) The Council need not refer any complaint or information to the Registrar for review where the complaint or information relates to

any matter set out in section 23(1), and in such a case, the Council may take any action that it thinks fit under that section.

(4) If any complaint against or information about a registered veterinarian is made or referred to the Registrar under subsection (1) or (2), the Registrar must review whether there is sufficient merit in the complaint or information to warrant the institution of disciplinary proceedings under this Part against the registered veterinarian.

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

(a) enlist the assistance of any registered veterinarian or layperson on the Complaints Panel; and

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

(6) On the completion of the review, the Registrar must —

(a) if the Registrar finds that the complaint is frivolous, vexatious, misconceived or without merit, or that the information is unsubstantiated, recommend to the Council to dismiss the complaint or information;

(b) if the Registrar believes that there is evidence of any matter mentioned in section 36(4)(a), recommend to the Council to refer the complaint or information to a Disciplinary Committee for a formal inquiry; and

(c) in any other case —

(i) recommend to the Council to refer the complaint or information to a Complaints Assessment Committee for an inquiry; or

(ii) if the Registrar believes that there is evidence of any matter mentioned in section 36(4)(c) — instead of proceeding under sub-paragraph (i), recommend to the Council to notify the registered veterinarian of the evidence and, with the written agreement of the registered veterinary practitioner, proceed under section 34(2)(a) to (e).

(7) Upon receiving the findings and recommendation of the Registrar, the Council may —

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

5 (b) take any other action mentioned in subsection (6) that the Council thinks fit.

(8) If the Council decides to refer the complaint or information to a Disciplinary Committee or Complaints Assessment Committee, the Council must appoint a Disciplinary Committee under section 48(1) or a Complaints Assessment Committee under section 40(1) (as
10 appropriate) and refer the matter to the Disciplinary Committee or Complaints Assessment Committee for a formal inquiry or an inquiry, as the case may be.

(9) If the Council decides to take the action mentioned in subsection (6)(c)(ii), but the Council and the registered veterinarian are unable to agree on the course of action to be taken under section 34(2)(a) to (e), the Council must appoint a Disciplinary Committee under section 48(1) or a Complaints Assessment Committee under section 40(1) (as appropriate) and refer the matter
15 to the Disciplinary Committee or Complaints Assessment Committee for a formal inquiry or an inquiry, as the case may be.

(10) If any complaint or information about a registered veterinarian is referred to the Disciplinary Committee or Complaints Assessment Committee for a formal inquiry or inquiry (as the case may be) under subsection (8) or (9), the Council must —
25

(a) inform the registered veterinarian that it has done so; and

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

(i) the complaint or information; and

(ii) any statutory declaration that has been made in support of the complaint or information.
30

Division 3 — Complaints Assessment Committees

Appointment of Complaints Assessment Committee

5 **40.**—(1) If the Council decides under section 39(8) or (9) to refer any complaint or information for inquiry by a Complaints Assessment Committee, the Council must appoint a Complaints Assessment Committee for that purpose, comprising at least 3 members of the Complaints Panel, of whom —

10 (a) subject to subsection (2), at least one member of the must be a registered veterinarian with at least 8 years' experience as a veterinarian; and

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

15 (2) If, in the Council's opinion, it is inexpedient, difficult or impracticable to appoint under subsection (1)(a) a registered veterinarian with the period of experience specified in that provision, the Council may appoint, from among the members of the Complaints Panel, a registered veterinarian who has experience as a veterinarian for less than that period.

(3) Subject to subsection (4), the Council must appoint as the chairperson of the Complaints Assessment Committee —

20 (a) if the Complaints Assessment Committee only has one member who satisfies subsection (1)(a) — that member; or

(b) if the Complaints Assessment Committee has two or more members who satisfy subsection (1)(a) — one of those members.

25 (4) If subsection (2) applies, the Council must appoint a registered veterinarian appointed to the Complaints Assessment Committee as the chairperson of the Complaints Assessment Committee.

30 (5) A member of the Complaints Panel who has assisted the Registrar in reviewing any complaint or information under section 39(5)(a) must not be a member of a Complaints Assessment Committee inquiring into the same matter.

Powers and procedure of Complaints Assessment Committee

41.—(1) For the purposes of any inquiry, a Complaints Assessment Committee may require any person —

- 5 (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 —

- 10 (a) refuses or fails to comply with any requirement of the Complaints Assessment Committee under subsection (1); or
- (b) refuses to answer or gives a false answer to any question put to the person by a member of the Complaints Assessment Committee,

15 shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to 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.

20 (3) Subject to any regulations made under section 75, a Complaints Assessment Committee has the power to regulate its own procedure for an inquiry.

25 (4) A Complaints Assessment Committee must complete its inquiry not later than 3 months after the date on which the complaint or information to be inquired into is referred to it, unless the Council, on application of the Complaints Assessment Committee, allows otherwise.

Findings of Complaints Assessment Committee

30 **42.** Upon due inquiry into any complaint or information, a Complaints Assessment Committee must report its findings to the Council and recommend to the Council to do any of the following:

- (a) dismiss the complaint or information;

- (b) issue a letter of advice to the registered veterinarian;
- (c) issue a letter of warning to the registered veterinarian;
- (d) refer the complaint or information for mediation between the registered veterinarian and the person who made the complaint or provided the information;
- (e) refer the complaint or information for a formal inquiry to be held by a Disciplinary Committee;
- (f) give any other order that the Complaints Assessment Committee thinks fit.

10 **Decision of Council**

43.—(1) Upon receiving the findings and recommendation of a Complaints Assessment Committee, the Council may —

- (a) accept the recommendation and take the recommended action;
- (b) take any action mentioned in section 42 that the Council thinks fit; or
- (c) refer the complaint or information back to the Complaints Assessment Committee for further inquiry.

(2) The Council must not —

- (a) issue any letter of advice or letter of warning to a registered veterinarian; or
- (b) make any order mentioned in section 42(f) against the registered veterinarian,

unless the Council is satisfied that the Complaints Assessment Committee had allowed the registered veterinarian concerned an opportunity of being heard either personally or by counsel during the inquiry.

(3) The Council must notify the person who made the complaint or provided the information (as the case may be) of its decision.

(4) A registered veterinarian who is aggrieved by any advice, warning or order of the Council, being an advice, warning or order

mentioned in section 42(b), (c) or (f) may, within 30 days after being notified of the decision of the Council, appeal to the Minister whose decision is final.

5 (5) If the person who made the complaint or provided the information to the Council is dissatisfied with the decision of the Council referred to in section 42(a), (b), (c) or (f), the person may, within 30 days after being notified of the decision, appeal to the Minister whose decision is final.

10 (6) The Minister may, in an appeal made under subsection (4) or (5), make —

- (a) an order affirming the decision of the Council;
- (b) an order directing a formal inquiry to be held by a Disciplinary Committee; or
- (c) any other order that the Minister thinks fit.

15 *Division 4 — Mediation and withdrawal of matter*

Mediation

20 **44.**—(1) In referring any complaint or information (called in this section the proceedings) for mediation under section 43(1)(a) or (b), the Council may direct the personal attendance of the person who made the complaint or provided the information (called in this section 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.

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

30 (4) Subject to section 43(2), if the registered veterinarian refuses or fails, without reasonable cause, to comply with the direction under subsection (1), the Council may make any order mentioned in section 42(a), (b), (c), (e) or (f) that the Council thinks fit, and section 43(3) to (6) applies accordingly.

(5) Subject to section 43(2), if the mediation does not take place for any other reason, or the proceedings are not amicably resolved through mediation, the Council may take any action mentioned in section 42(a), (b), (c), (e) or (f) that the Council thinks fit, and section 43(3) to (6) applies accordingly.

(6) If the proceedings are amicably resolved through mediation, the Council may —

- (a) discontinue the proceedings; or
- (b) subject to section 43(2), take any other action referred to in section 42(a), (b), (c), (e) or (f) as it thinks fit, and section 43(3) to (6) applies accordingly.

Withdrawal of complaint or information

45.—(1) If a person who made any complaint or provided any information (called in this section a complainant) withdraws the complaint or information, the Council may, despite the withdrawal —

- (a) if the complaint or information is withdrawn before a Complaints Assessment Committee is appointed for an inquiry into the complaint or information — refer the complaint or information to a Disciplinary Committee or a Complaints Assessment Committee for a formal inquiry or an inquiry under section 39(8) or (9);
- (b) if the complaint or information is withdrawn after a Complaints Assessment Committee is appointed, but before the Complaints Assessment Committee reports its findings and makes its recommendations to the Council under section 42 — direct the Complaints Assessment Committee to continue the inquiry as if the complaint or information were not withdrawn;
- (c) if the complaint or information is withdrawn after the Complaints Assessment Committee reports its findings and makes its recommendations to the Council under section 42, but before a Disciplinary Committee is appointed for a formal inquiry into the complaint or information — refer the complaint or information to a Disciplinary Committee under

section 39(9), 43(1)(a) or (b) or 44(4), (5), or (6)(b) (as the case may be); or

5 (d) if the complaint or information is withdrawn after a Disciplinary Committee is appointed, but before the Disciplinary Committee makes an order under section 51(2) — direct the Disciplinary Committee to continue the formal inquiry as if the complaint or information were not withdrawn.

10 (2) If the Council gives directions under subsection (1)(a) or (b) to a Complaints Assessment Committee, the Complaints Assessment Committee must comply with the directions as if the complaint or information had been made or provided by the Council.

15 (3) If the Council gives directions under subsection (1)(a), (c) or (d) to a Disciplinary Committee, the Disciplinary Committee must comply with the directions as if the complaint or information had been made or provided by the Council.

Division 5 — Investigations and assessments

Conduct of investigation by investigator

46.—(1) If —

20 (a) the Disciplinary Committee directs an investigation under section 49(10); and

(b) the Disciplinary Committee is of the opinion that the registered veterinarian should be called upon to answer any allegation made against him or her,

25 the Disciplinary Committee must —

(c) give the registered veterinarian written notice of the investigation; and

30 (d) invite the registered veterinarian to give to the investigator, within the period (being not less than 21 days after the date of the notice) specified in the notice, any written explanation he or she may wish to offer, containing all 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 to which the matter relates; and
- (b) any statutory declaration made in support of the complaint or information.

5 (3) The registered veterinarian may, at any time before the expiration of the period specified for the submission of the written explanation, make not more than one application to the Disciplinary Committee for an extension of the period, and any extension given by the Disciplinary Committee must not exceed 21 days.

10 (4) If, in the course of an investigation mentioned in subsection (1), an investigator receives any information that relates to the registered veterinarian who is the subject of the investigation and 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
15 the Council.

(5) If, in the course of an investigation mentioned in subsection (1), 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.

20 **Investigation report and information obtained in course of investigation or inquiry**

47.—(1) Upon completing an investigation into any complaint or information, the investigator must submit a report on the findings of the investigation to the Disciplinary Committee.

25 (2) The report mentioned in subsection (1) must include any written explanation given by the registered veterinarian under section 46(1)(d).

(3) Subject to subsection (1), a person must not disclose the contents of any investigation report or any information contained in
30 any document which was obtained in the course of any investigation or inquiry commenced under this Part to any other person, including the registered veterinarian concerned, except —

- (a) if the Disciplinary Committee to which the investigation report is submitted considers that there are compelling reasons to do so; or
- 5 (b) if the disclosure is required for the purpose of administering or enforcing this Act, the Animal and Birds Act 1965 or the Infectious Diseases Act 1976.

Division 6 — Disciplinary Committees

Appointment of Disciplinary Committee

10 **48.**—(1) If any complaint or information is referred to a Disciplinary Committee for a formal inquiry under sections 39(8) or (9), 43(1)(a) or (b), 43(6)(b) or 44(4), (5) or (6)(b), the Council must appoint a Disciplinary Committee for that purpose, comprising at least 3 members, of whom —

- 15 (a) subject to subsection (2), 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 (2), 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
- 20 (c) at least one member must be —
 - (i) a member of the Complaints Panel; and
 - (ii) subject to subsection (2), either a registered veterinarian with at least 8 years' experience as a veterinarian or a legal professional.
- 25

30 (2) If, in the Council's opinion, it is inexpedient, difficult or impracticable to appoint under subsection (1)(a), (b) or (c)(ii) a registered veterinarian with the period of experience specified in that provision, the Council may appoint, from among the members of the Council or the members of the Complaint Panel (as the case may be), a registered veterinarian who has experience as a veterinarian for less than that period.

(3) Subject to subsection (4), the Council must appoint the member who satisfies subsection (1)(a) as the chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee.

5 (4) If subsection (2) applies in respect of the member appointed under subsection (1)(a), the Council must appoint that member as the chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee.

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

10 (6) An individual who has assisted the Registrar in reviewing any complaint or information under section 39(5)(a) or a member of a Complaints Assessment Committee inquiring into any complaint or information concerning a registered veterinarian must not be a member or observer of a Disciplinary Committee inquiring into the
15 same complaint or information.

(7) An observer appointed under subsection (4) 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.

20 (8) The production of any written instrument purporting to be signed by the Council and making any appointment mentioned in this section is evidence that the appointment has been duly made.

(9) Every member and the observer of a Disciplinary Committee must be paid any remuneration that the Council may determine.

25 (10) In this section, “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;

(b) is an advocate and solicitor of at least 15 years’ standing; or

30 (c) is a Judicial Service Officer or Legal Service Officer who has in the aggregate at least 15 years of full-time employment in the Singapore Judicial Service or the Singapore Legal Service (or both).

Powers and procedure of Disciplinary Committee

5 **49.**—(1) Before a Disciplinary Committee commences its formal inquiry into any complaint or information referred to it, the Registrar must serve on the registered veterinarian concerned a notice of the formal inquiry.

(2) An inquiry must not be fixed on a date earlier than 21 days after the date of the notice of the formal inquiry except with the agreement of the registered veterinarian.

10 (3) On application to the Disciplinary Committee, the registered veterinarian may request to postpone the formal inquiry, and the Disciplinary Committee may grant the application and postpone the formal inquiry to a date that it may determine, or refuse the application.

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

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

20 (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

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

30 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) 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

5 (c) may, subject to the rules, regulate its own procedure for a formal inquiry.

(7) Any party to the proceedings before a Disciplinary Committee may take out subpoenas to testify or to produce documents, and the subpoenas must be served and may be enforced as if they were orders
10 to attend court or orders to produce documents issued in connection with a civil action in the General Division of the High Court.

(8) Any person giving evidence before a Disciplinary Committee is legally bound to tell the truth.

(9) Persons giving evidence in a formal inquiry have the same
15 privileges and immunities in relation to a formal inquiry as if it were a proceeding in a court of law.

(10) For the purposes of a formal inquiry into any complaint or information —

(a) the Disciplinary Committee may direct an investigator
20 appointed under section 67 to investigate the complaint or information; and

(b) the investigator may exercise one or more of the powers under that section in carrying out the investigator's functions and duties under this Part.

25 (11) A Disciplinary Committee must complete its formal inquiry not later than 6 months after the date of its appointment, unless the Council, on application of the Disciplinary Committee, allows otherwise.

Appointment of experts and legal counsel

30 **50.**—(1) For the purposes of any formal inquiry by a Disciplinary Committee, the Disciplinary Committee may appoint one or more of the following:

(a) an independent expert;

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

5 (2) The registered veterinarian concerned may appear in person before the Disciplinary Committee or be represented by counsel.

(3) In appointing any expert under subsection (1)(a), the Disciplinary Committee must hear the views of the registered veterinarian concerned and the Council.

10 (4) The Disciplinary Committee may, instead of or in addition to appointing its experts under subsection (1)(a), allow the registered veterinarian concerned and the Council to appoint their respective experts.

15 (5) An expert or advocate and solicitor appointed under subsection (1) may be paid remuneration of an amount and by one or more persons to be determined by the Disciplinary Committee.

Findings of Disciplinary Committee

51.—(1) If a registered veterinarian is found by a Disciplinary Committee —

20 (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 for his or her profession;

25 (c) 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;

(d) to have been guilty of professional misconduct; or

(e) to have failed to provide professional services of the quality which is reasonable to expect of him or her,

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

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1), the Disciplinary Committee may —

- (a) by order cancel the registration of the registered veterinarian;
- 5 (b) by order suspend the registration of the registered veterinarian for a period not exceeding 3 years;
- (c) by order impose any new or additional condition or restriction on the registration of the registered veterinarian or amend or vary any condition or restriction imposed under section 14, 15, 16 or 17, as the case may be;
- 10 (d) by order impose on the registered veterinarian a penalty not exceeding \$50,000;
- (e) order that the registered veterinarian be censured in writing;
- (f) order the registered veterinarian to give any undertaking that the Disciplinary Committee thinks fit to abstain in future
15 from the conduct complained of; or
- (g) make any other order that the Disciplinary Committee thinks fit.

(3) In any proceedings instituted under this Part against a registered veterinarian consequent upon his or her conviction for a criminal
20 offence, a Disciplinary Committee and the General Division of the High Court on appeal from any order of a Disciplinary Committee are to accept his or her conviction as final and conclusive.

(4) If the Disciplinary Committee does not find that any matter mentioned in subsection (1) is established against a registered
25 veterinarian, the Disciplinary Committee must dismiss the complaint or information.

(5) If a Disciplinary Committee makes an order under subsection (2), the Disciplinary Committee may also order the registered veterinarian concerned to pay to the Council any sums that
30 it thinks fit in respect of costs and expenses of and incidental to any proceedings before the Disciplinary Committee and, where applicable, an Interim Orders Committee.

(6) For the purposes of an order made under subsection (5), the Disciplinary Committee may certify that costs for more than one advocate and solicitor must be paid, if it 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.

(7) The General Division of the High Court has jurisdiction to tax any costs mentioned in subsection (5) 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.

(8) The costs and expenses mentioned in subsection (5) include —

(a) the costs and expenses of —

(i) any assessor or advocate and solicitor appointed by the Council for proceedings before the Disciplinary Committee and, where applicable, the Interim Orders Committee; and

(ii) any expert appointed by the Disciplinary Committee under section 50(1)(a);

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

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

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

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

Further orders by Disciplinary Committee

52.—(1) If a registered veterinarian, in respect of whom an order under subsection (2) or (3) or section 51(2)(c), 56(1)(e) or 58(1)(b) is made, is found by a Disciplinary Committee (whether, in the case of

an order under subsection (2) or (3) or section 51(2)(c), it is the Disciplinary Committee that made the order or another Disciplinary Committee appointed in its place) to have failed to comply with any of the requirements imposed on him or her as a condition or restriction of his or her registration, the Disciplinary Committee may,
 5 if it thinks fit, by order —

(a) cancel his or her registration; or

(b) suspend his or her registration for a period not exceeding 12 months as specified in the order.

10 (2) If a Disciplinary Committee has made an order for suspension under subsection (1)(b) or section 51(2)(b), the Disciplinary Committee may make an order under section 51(2)(c), to take effect on the expiry of the current period of suspension.

(3) If a Disciplinary Committee has made an order for suspension
 15 under subsection (1)(b) or section 51(2)(b) against a registered veterinarian and he or she has failed to comply with that order, the Disciplinary Committee or another Disciplinary Committee appointed in its place may, if it thinks fit —

(a) by order cancel his or her registration; or

20 (b) make an order under section 51(2)(c), to take effect from the expiry of the current period of suspension.

(4) If a Disciplinary Committee has made an order under section 51(2)(c), the Disciplinary Committee or another Disciplinary Committee appointed in its place may revoke the order or revoke or
 25 vary any condition or restriction imposed by the order.

(5) If a Disciplinary Committee has made an order under this section or section 51, or has varied any condition or restriction imposed by an order under this section, the Registrar must immediately serve on the registered veterinarian and on the person
 30 who made the complaint or provided the information a notice of the order or the variation.

(6) On making an order for the cancellation of the registration of a registered veterinarian or for the suspension of his or her registration

under subsection (1) or (3) or section 51(2)(a) or (b), a Disciplinary Committee, if satisfied that to do so —

- (a) is necessary for the protection of members of the public;
 - (b) is in the interests of animal health or welfare; or
 - 5 (c) is in the interests of the registered veterinarian concerned,
- may order that, despite section 53(1) or an appeal under section 54 —
- (d) the registered veterinarian's registration is cancelled immediately; or
 - (e) the registered veterinarian's registration is suspended
 - 10 immediately.

(7) If an order under subsection (6) is made, the Registrar must immediately serve a notice of the order on the individual to whom it applies and —

- 15 (a) if that individual was present or represented at the proceedings of the Disciplinary Committee, the order takes effect on the date the order is made; or
- (b) if that individual was neither present nor represented at the proceedings of the Disciplinary Committee, the order takes effect on the date of service of the notice on the individual.

20 **When order by Disciplinary Committee takes effect**

53.—(1) Subject to section 52(6), an order made by a Disciplinary Committee for the cancellation of the registration of a registered veterinarian or for the suspension of his or her registration under section 51(2)(a) or (b) or 52(1) or (3) does not take effect until the

25 end of 30 days after the order is made.

(2) An order of a Disciplinary Committee, other than an order for the cancellation of a registration or for the suspension of a registration under section 51(2)(a) or (b) or 52(1) or (3), takes effect on the date the order is made.

30 (3) While any order of suspension of registration remains in force, the individual concerned is not to be regarded as being registered,

even though the individual's name still appears in the register concerned.

(4) If an individual whose registration is suspended under an order of suspension of registration complies with all the terms of the order,
 5 the individual's rights and privileges as a registered veterinarian revive immediately after the order of suspension expires or is revoked.

(5) To avoid doubt, sections 36 to 54 continue to apply to an individual whose registration is suspended.

10 **Appeal against Disciplinary Committee's decision or order**

54.—(1) If a person who made a complaint or provided information (called in this section a complainant), a registered veterinarian or the Council is dissatisfied with a decision of or an order by the Disciplinary Committee mentioned in section 51(2), (4) or (5) or 52
 15 (called in this section the decision of the Disciplinary Committee), the complainant, registered veterinarian or Council may, within 30 days after the notice of the decision of the Disciplinary Committee is served on the complainant or registered veterinarian (as the case may be), appeal to the General Division of the High Court against the
 20 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
 25 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
 30 contrary to the evidence.

(4) Despite anything in section 51 or 52, but subject to subsection (5), if a registered veterinarian has appealed to the General Division of the High Court against an order mentioned in section 51(2) or 52 (called in this section the relevant order), the relevant
 35 order is not to take effect until after —

- (a) the relevant order is confirmed by the General Division of the High Court;
 - (b) the appeal is for any reason dismissed by the General Division of the High Court; or
 - 5 (c) the appeal is withdrawn.
- (5) Subsection (4) does not apply if, at the time of making the relevant order —
- (a) where the relevant order is made under section 51(2)(a) or (b) or 52(1) or (3) — the Disciplinary Committee makes an
 - 10 order under section 52(6)(d) or (e); or
 - (b) in any other case — the Disciplinary Committee orders that the relevant order take effect immediately despite an appeal because doing so —
 - (i) is necessary for the protection of members of the
 - 15 public or is otherwise in the public interest;
 - (ii) is in the interests of animal health or welfare; or
 - (iii) would be in the interests of the registered veterinarian concerned.

Division 7 — Interim Orders Committees

20 **Interim Orders Committee**

55.—(1) The Council may appoint one or more Interim Orders Committees, each consisting of three or more members, to inquire into or review any complaint or information under this Division.

- (2) The Council must appoint to each Interim Orders Committee —
- 25 (a) at least two members of the Council, one of whom is to be appointed the chairperson; and
- (b) at least one member of the Complaints Panel who is a registered veterinarian with at least 8 years' experience as a veterinarian.

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

(4) The Registrar, or the chairperson of a Complaints Assessment Committee or Disciplinary Committee, may refer any complaint or information to the Council for the purpose of —

(a) appointing an Interim Orders Committee; or

(b) referring the complaint or information to an Interim Orders Committee,

for the Interim Orders Committee to determine whether an order should be made under section 56(1).

(5) The Council may, on its own motion and at any time after any complaint or information is made, provided or referred under section 36(1) or 39(2), refer the complaint or information to an Interim Orders Committee for the purpose of determining whether an order should be made under section 56(1).

(6) The Registrar, a member of the Complaints Panel who has assisted the Registrar in reviewing any complaint or information under section 39(5)(a), or a member of a Complaints Assessment Committee or Disciplinary Committee inquiring into the complaint or information, must not be a member of an Interim Orders Committee inquiring into and determining the same complaint or information.

(7) If the Council refers any complaint or information to an Interim Orders Committee under subsection (4), any member of the Council who participated in or influenced the making of the decision to make the referral must not be a member of the Interim Orders Committee inquiring into or reviewing the same complaint or information.

(8) A member of an Interim Orders Committee inquiring into or reviewing any complaint or information must not be a member of a Complaints Assessment Committee or Disciplinary Committee inquiring into or reviewing the same complaint or information, or take part in any deliberation of the Council in respect of the same complaint or information under any provision of this Part.

(9) Sections 49(4) to (10) and 50 apply, with the necessary modifications, to an Interim Orders Committee as it applies to a Disciplinary Committee appointed under section 48, and for this purpose a reference in those provisions to a Disciplinary Committee is a reference to the Interim Orders Committee.

Interim orders

56.—(1) Subject to subsection (4), if, upon due inquiry into any complaint or information referred to an Interim Orders Committee, 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 concerned, that the registered veterinarian's registration is suspended or is made subject to any condition or restriction, the Interim Orders Committee may make an order —
- (d) that the registration of the registered veterinarian is suspended for a period not exceeding 18 months as specified in the order (called in this Part an interim suspension order); or
- (e) that the registration of the registered veterinarian 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 (called in this Part an interim restriction order).

(2) An Interim Orders Committee must inquire into and decide on the complaint or information referred to it as soon as is practicable after the complaint or information is referred to it.

(3) The Registrar must immediately notify the registered veterinarian of the order made under subsection (1), and the order takes effect on the date the order is made.

(4) An Interim Orders Committee must not make an order under subsection (1) at any time after the relevant proceedings are concluded.

5 (5) For the purposes of subsection (4), the relevant proceedings are concluded when any one of the events mentioned in section 61(2)(a) or (b) occurs.

Review of interim orders

10 57.—(1) Subject to subsection (2), if an Interim Orders Committee has made an order under section 56(1), the Interim Orders Committee or another Interim Orders Committee appointed in its place —

15 (a) must review the order within the period of 6 months beginning on the date on which the order was made, and must, for so long as the order continues in force, further review it before the end of the period of 3 months beginning on the date of the decision of the immediately preceding review; and

(b) may review the order where new evidence relevant to the order has become available after the making of the order.

20 (2) If the General Division of the High Court has extended the order under section 60(2) or an Interim Orders Committee has made a replacement order under section 58(1)(c) or (d), the first review after the extension or making of the replacement order must take place —

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

30 (b) if it had been reviewed under subsection (1) — within the period of 3 months beginning on the date on which the General Division of the High Court ordered the extension or the replacement order was made, as the case may be.

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

58.—(1) Upon a review under section 57 or upon the recommendation of a Complaints Assessment Committee or
 5 Disciplinary Committee, the Interim Orders Committee that made an interim suspension order or interim restriction order under this section or section 56(1) in relation to any registered veterinarian may do any of the following:

- 10 (a) revoke the order or revoke any condition or restriction imposed by the order;
- (b) make an order varying any condition or restriction imposed by the order or impose any new or additional condition or restriction;
- 15 (c) in the case of an interim suspension order — if satisfied that the public interest, the interests of animal health or welfare or the interests of the registered veterinarian concerned would be more adequately served by an interim restriction order, replace the interim suspension order with an interim restriction order having effect for the remainder of the period
 20 of the former; or
- (d) in the case of an interim restriction order — if satisfied that —
 - 25 (i) to do so 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 concerned; or
 - (ii) the registered veterinarian has not complied with any requirement imposed as a condition or restriction of his or her registration in the interim restriction order,
 - 30 replace the interim restriction order with an interim suspension order having effect for the remainder of the period of the former.

(2) The Registrar must immediately notify the registered veterinarian of the decision under subsection (1), and the order takes effect on the date the order is made.

5 (3) For the purposes of subsection (1), a reference to an Interim Orders Committee that made an interim suspension order or interim restriction order includes a reference to another Interim Orders Committee appointed in its place.

Right of hearing

10 **59.** An order under section 56(1) or 58(1)(b), (c) or (d) must not be made by an Interim Orders Committee in respect of any registered veterinarian unless he or she has been given an opportunity of being heard either personally or by counsel on the question of whether such an order should be made in his or her case.

Application to General Division of High Court

15 **60.**—(1) The Council may apply to the General Division of the High Court for an extension of the period for which an order made under section 56(1) or 58(1)(c) or (d) has effect, and may apply again for one or more further extensions.

20 (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, upon application by the registered veterinarian concerned —

25 (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 vary any condition or restriction imposed by the order; or

30 (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 the registered veterinarian concerned is notified of the

interim suspension order or interim restriction order under section 56(3) or 58(2), as the case may be.

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

5 (6) The General Division of the High Court may, upon 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 —

10 (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

15 **61.—**(1) An interim suspension order or an interim restriction order is in force until the earlier of the following:

(a) the end of the period specified —

(i) in the order; or

20 (ii) if the period is extended under section 60(2), in the order extending it;

(b) the date on which the relevant proceedings are concluded.

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1)(b), the relevant proceedings are concluded when any one of the following occurs:

25 (a) if a Complaints Assessment Committee is appointed to inquire into the complaint or information — the Council makes a decision mentioned in section 42(a) or (b) and —

30 (i) no appeal to the Minister under section 43(4) or (5) is made against that decision within the period specified in that provision, or such an appeal is made and is subsequently withdrawn; or

(ii) the Minister makes an order under section 43(6)(a) or (c) on an appeal against the decision;

(b) if a Disciplinary Committee is appointed to inquire into the complaint or information, the Disciplinary Committee —

(i) makes an order under section 51(2) which takes effect;
or

5 (ii) dismisses the complaint or information under section 51(4).

Individual suspended under interim suspension order not regarded as registered

10 **62.**—(1) While an individual's registration is suspended under an interim suspension order, the individual is not regarded as being registered even though the individual's name still appears in the register.

15 (2) If an individual whose registration is suspended under an interim suspension order complies with all the terms of the order, the individual's rights and privileges as a registered veterinarian revive immediately after the interim suspension order expires or is revoked.

(3) To avoid doubt, sections 36 to 54 continue to apply to a person whose registration in the register is suspended by or under an interim suspension order.

20 *Division 8 — Miscellaneous*

Council may appoint legal counsel

25 **63.**—(1) For the purposes of an inquiry under this Part by an Interim Orders Committee, the Council may appoint an advocate and solicitor to prosecute the complaint or information, or to advise that Committee on any legal matter relating to the inquiry.

(2) If 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.

Restoration of registration cancelled under Part 5

30 **64.**—(1) This section applies in relation to an individual whose registration has been cancelled —

(a) under section 34(2)(a) or (c); or

(b) pursuant to an order made by a Disciplinary Committee under section 51(2)(a) or 52(1)(a) or (3)(a).

5 (2) Subject to subsections (3) and (4), the Council may, on its own motion or upon an application for restoration by the individual mentioned in subsection (1), if it thinks fit, restore his or her registration.

(3) In the case mentioned in subsection (1)(b), the Council must not restore the registration of an individual under subsection (2) if —

10 (a) the veterinarian has not complied with all the terms of any order made against him or her by the Disciplinary Committee;

(b) the application for restoration is made before the expiration of 3 years after the date of the cancellation; or

15 (c) the application for restoration is made more than once in any period of 12 months.

Meetings and proceedings of committees

20 **65.**—(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

25 (3) The Council must, as soon as practicable —

(a) fill any vacancy in a relevant committee; and

30 (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 or a formal inquiry (as the case may be), appoint another relevant committee in place of the firstmentioned relevant committee to continue with the inquiry or formal inquiry.

(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 (5) The chairperson of a relevant committee may at any time summon a meeting of the relevant committee.

(6) A relevant committee may meet for the purposes of its inquiry or formal inquiry (as the case may be), and may adjourn and otherwise regulate the conduct of its inquiry or formal inquiry as its
10 members think fit.

(7) All the members of a relevant committee must be present to constitute a quorum for a meeting of the relevant committee.

(8) Despite subsection (7), any resolution or decision in writing signed by all the members of a relevant committee is as valid and
15 effectual as if it had been made or reached at a meeting of the relevant committee where all its members were present.

(9) Subject to section 48(7), 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
20 determined by a majority of votes and, in the case of an equality of votes, the chairperson has a casting vote.

(10) However, if any member of a relevant committee —

(a) has his or her appointment revoked or is removed under subsection (2); or

25 (b) is unable through death, illness or any other cause to continue with the inquiry,

the relevant committee must not make any decision on any question arising at a meeting until that vacancy is filled.

(11) A member of a relevant committee who ceases to be a member of the Complaints Panel or Council (as the case may be) on the
30 expiration of his or her term of office is taken to be a member of the relevant committee until the completion of the work by the relevant committee.

Officer or employee of National Parks Board not disqualified from being committee member

5 **66.**—(1) 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 by reason only that he or she is such an officer or is so employed, as the case may be.

10 (2) 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 Complaints Assessment Committee, 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.

15 (3) In this section, “National Parks Board” means the National Parks Board constituted under section 3 of the National Parks Board Act 1996.

PART 6

MISCELLANEOUS

Investigators

20 **67.**—(1) The Council may, in writing, appoint a member of the Council, a public officer, an officer or employee of a public authority or any other person 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

25 (b) to carry out an investigation under Part 5.

(2) An investigator may, for the purposes of subsection (1)(a) or (b) —

30 (a) without warrant enter, inspect, and search during regular business hours any premises which are used or proposed to be used, or in respect of which there is reasonable cause to believe are being used, by any registered veterinarian who is

under investigation to carry out the practice of veterinary medicine;

- 5 (b) inspect or examine any animal (whether living or dead), object or thing or observe any activity conducted in or on the premises;
- (c) take a sample from any animal (whether living or dead), or of any thing, that is or has been in contact with, or in the vicinity of, the animal;
- 10 (d) make a still or moving image or recording of the premises and any animal (whether living or dead), object or thing in or on the premises;
- (e) inspect any document in or on the premises and take extracts from, or make copies of, any such document;
- 15 (f) take into or onto the premises any equipment and material that the investigator requires for the purpose of exercising any power in relation to the premises;
- (g) operate electronic equipment in or on the premises; and
- (h) take into custody any animal (whether living or dead), object or thing in the premises which the investigator reasonably believes to be the subject matter of, or to be connected with, an investigation under subsection (1)(a) or (b).
- 20 (3) An investigator may, for the purposes of subsection (1)(a) or (b) —
- 25 (a) examine orally any person apparently acquainted with any facts and circumstances of the matter under investigation;
- (b) require any person who appears 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;
- 30 (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 animal (whether living or dead), 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 electronic equipment in or on any premises includes the power —

- (a) to use a disk, tape or other storage device that is in or on the premises and can be used with the equipment or in association with the equipment;

- (b) to operate electronic equipment in or on the premises to put the relevant data in documentary form and remove the documents so produced from the premises; and

- (c) to operate electronic equipment in or on the premises to transfer the relevant data to a disk, tape or other storage device that —

- (i) is brought to the premises for the exercise of the power; or

- (ii) is in or on the premises and the use of which for that purpose has been agreed in writing by the occupier of the premises,

and to remove the disk, tape or other storage device from those premises.

(5) The power to require a person to provide a document or 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 or information is not provided, to require that person to state, to the best of his or her 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.

5 (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.

10 (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

15 (d) after correction (if necessary), be signed by the person.

(8) A person who —

(a) wilfully obstructs or delays an investigator in the exercise of any power under subsection (2) or (3); or

20 (b) fails to comply with any requisition or order of an investigator under subsection (3),

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
25 which the offence continues after conviction.

(9) In this section, “take a sample”, from 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

30 (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.

<From s 241(5) Food Safety and Security Act 2025.>

Assessors to Council

5 **68.**—(1) For the purposes of advising the Council, and 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.

10 (3) The Council may appoint a medical assessor to assist the Council and any committee appointed by the Council in proceedings before any of them under this Act.

(4) The Council may pay to the legal assessor and medical assessor, as part of the expenses of the Council, any remuneration determined
15 by the Council.

(5) 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

20 **69.** 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;

25 (c) any member of a Complaints Assessment Committee, a Disciplinary Committee, an Interim Orders Committee or any other committee appointed under section 10; 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
30 purported exercise of any power or the performance or purported performance of any function under this Act.

Deemed public servants

70.—(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:

- 5 (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
- 10 any other committee appointed under section 10;
- (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

15 Committee or an Interim Orders Committee.

Composition of offences

71.—(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

20 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.

25

(3) All sums collected under this section must be paid to the Consolidated Fund.

Service of documents

72.—(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

30 section.

(2) A document permitted or required by this Act to be served on an individual may be served —

- (a) by giving it to the individual personally;
- 5 (b) by sending it by prepaid registered post to the address specified by the individual for the service of documents or (if no address is so specified) the individual's residential address or business address;
- 10 (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.

15 (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;
- 20 (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 —

- 25 (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
- 30 (c) by sending it by email to the last email address of the body corporate or unincorporated association.

(5) 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

5 (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.

(6) However, service of any document under this Act on a person by email may be effected only with the person's prior written consent
10 to service in that way.

(7) This section does not apply to documents to be served in proceedings in court.

(8) In this section —

15 “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 —

20 (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;

25 “document” includes a direction, order or 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;

30 “residential address” means an individual's usual or last known place of residence in Singapore.

Jurisdiction of court

73. A Magistrate's Court or a District Court has jurisdiction to hear and determine all offences under this Act and, despite anything to the contrary in the Criminal Procedure Code 2010, has power to impose
5 the full penalty or punishment in respect of the offence.

Exemption

74. 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
10 and subject to such conditions as the Minister may impose.

Regulations

75.—(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.

15 (2) Without limiting subsection (1), the Council may, with the approval of the Minister, make regulations —

- (a) regulating the registration and renewal of registration of veterinarians and specialists in any branch of veterinary medicine;
- 20 (b) providing for different registration requirements for specialists of different branches of veterinary medicine;
- (c) regulating the grant and renewal of practising certificates, including prescribing conditions for their grant and renewal, and the reinstatement of practising certificates cancelled
25 under the Act;
- (d) prescribing the procedure of, and 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;
- 30 (e) providing for the payment of fees to a Complaints Assessment Committee, a Disciplinary Committee, an Interim Orders Committee or any other committee appointed by the Council under this Act;

- (f) enabling a Complaints Assessment Committee, a Disciplinary Committee or an Interim Orders Committee to order discovery or inspection of documents for the purpose of any proceedings before them;
 - 5 (g) prescribing that a registered veterinarian in respect of whom an interim suspension order or an interim restriction order has been made is, if he or she so requires, entitled to be heard by the Interim Orders Committee on each occasion the Committee reviews the order, and may be represented by
 - 10 counsel at each review;
 - (h) prescribing the procedure for the withdrawal of charges by the Council in any proceedings under Part 5;
 - (i) regulating the cancellation and restoration of registration;
 - (j) regulating the professional practice, etiquette, conduct and
 - 15 discipline of registered veterinarians and specialists in any branch of veterinary medicine;
 - (k) prescribing any additional function of the Registrar;
 - (l) prescribing the fees (including, in the case of renewal of registration and in the case of a practising certificate under
 - 20 this Act, a late application fee for late applications) and other charges for the purposes of this Act;
 - (m) prescribing acts or activities which a registered veterinarian may perform only on satisfaction of specified requirements; and
 - 25 (n) 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) For the purpose of subsection (2)(l), the regulations may
- 30 prescribe different rates of fees and charges in respect of different classes of persons, in respect of different periods or on any other differential basis.
- (4) Regulations made under this Act may make different provisions for different classes of persons and different circumstances.

(5) 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 to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both.

5 **Consequential and related amendments to other Acts**

76.—(1) In the Animals and Birds Act 1965 —

(a) in section 44(1)(b), replace “a person licensed under section 53” with “a registered veterinarian under the Veterinary Practice Act 2026”; and

10 (b) repeal section 53.

(2) In the Health Products Act 2007, in section 2(1), replace the definition of “veterinarian” with —

““veterinarian” means a person who is a duly qualified veterinarian under the Veterinary Practice Act 2026;”.

15 (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 under the Veterinary Practice Act 2026;”.

20 (4) In the National Parks Board Act 1996, in section 6(1), after paragraph (i), insert —

“(ia) to provide administrative, financial, technical and personnel support to the Veterinary Council in the performance of its functions and exercise of its powers under the Veterinary Practice Act 2026;”.

(5) 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 under the Veterinary Practice Act 2026.”.

30 (6) 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 under the Veterinary Practice Act 2026;”.

Saving and transitional provisions

5 **77.**—(1) If immediately before the date of commencement of section 26 (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

10 (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 or after the appointed day until the earliest of the following:

15 (c) the date immediately after the expiry of 12 months (or any longer period that may be prescribed) after the appointed day;

20 (d) the date on which the Council grants a practising certificate to the individual under section 20, 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 by the Council under section 18(5) or is withdrawn;

25 (f) the date that the individual’s application for a practising certificate is refused by the Council under section 20(8) or is withdrawn.

(2) If immediately before the date of commencement of section 26 (called in this subsection the appointed day) —

30 (a) a 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 veterinarian with restricted registration on or after the appointed day until the earliest of the following:

- 5 (c) the date immediately after the expiry of 12 months (or any longer period that may be prescribed) after the appointed day;
- (d) the date on which the Council grants a practising certificate to the individual under section 20, after registering the individual as a veterinarian with full registration or veterinarian with restricted registration (as the case may be) under this Act;
- 10 (e) the date that the individual's application for registration is finally refused by the Council under section 18(5) or is withdrawn;
- 15 (f) the date that the individual's application for a practising certificate is refused by the Council under section 20(8) or is withdrawn.

(3) For a period of 2 years after the commencement of any provision of this Act, the Minister may, by regulations, prescribe such provisions of a saving or transitional nature consequent on the enactment of that provision as the Minister may consider necessary or expedient.

(4) In this section —

25 “full licence” means a licence, issued to an individual under section 53(1) of the Animal 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 Animal and Birds Act 1965, that imposes a condition on the licensee to treat, vaccinate or inoculate animals only —

- 30 (a) at a place of practice specified in the licence; and
- (b) under the supervision of an individual who holds a full licence.