



## VETERINARIAN SUSPENDED FOR UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

The Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA) has suspended a veterinarian, Dr Edmond Tan Chok Jueh, from veterinary practice for 9 months for unprofessional conduct. The suspension was put into effect from 24 February 2003.

2 Dr Tan was a veterinary practitioner at the Edmond Tan Veterinary Surgery at Blk. 151 Serangoon North Ave 2 #01-65 Singapore 550151. His unprofessional conduct involved improper handling of vaccines, and provision of controlled vaccines to an unqualified person, Mr Chan Yew Heng, a dog breeder, to be used for inoculating dogs in his kennel.

3 By his acts, Dr Tan had placed animals at considerable health risk. In the handling and use of vaccines, Dr Tan re-constituted the vaccines and left them at room temperature for an extended period of time before use. This practice, which is against the manufacturer's instructions, can compromise the effectiveness of the vaccines and result in insufficient protection against disease for inoculated animals.

4 By allowing an unqualified person to inoculate dogs, there is a risk of vaccines being wrongly administered to animals that are not fit to receive them. The animals also face the risk of not being properly inoculated, and this can result in them being inadequately protected against serious diseases.

5 On 11 March 2003, the Subordinate Court of Singapore found Mr Chan to be guilty of possessing controlled vaccines without a licence under the Animals and Birds Act. He was fined \$3,000. The penalty also took into consideration the charge on inoculating animals without a licence.

6 Under the Animals and Birds Act (Chapter 7), any person, other than an authorised officer, who possesses any veterinary biologics or inoculates any animal or bird without a licence is liable to a fine up to a maximum of \$10,000 for each offence or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both. Further, the Director-General of the AVA may, if he is satisfied that it is in the interest of the public, suspend or revoke a veterinarian's licence to practise under the Act.

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