

## NOTICE OF DECISION AND REASONS

IN THE MATTER OF: *THE VETERINARY MEDICAL ACT*, S.M. 1999, c.32  
(the "Act")

AND IN THE MATTER OF: Dr. WENCHAO ZHENG, A MEMBER OF THE  
MANITOBA VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION  
("MVMA").

AND IN THE MATTER OF: A HEARING BEFORE AN INQUIRY PANEL OF THE  
PEER REVIEW COMMITTEE OF THE MVMA.

### Panel of the Inquiry Panel:

 Chair  
  


TO: Dr. Wenchao Zheng  
Animal Hospital of Manitoba  
995 Main Street  
Winnipeg, MB R2W 3P8

TO: Registrar

### Legal Counsel for the Member:

David Girard

Danielle Schmidt

### Legal Counsel for the Peer Review Complaints Committee:

Terra Welsh  
Chimwemwe Undi

### Legal Counsel for the Inquiry Panel:

Stuart J. Blake, K.C.

Hearing Date: July 29, 2025

Joint Submission

A joint submission by Counsel for the Peer Review Complaints Committee ("PRCC") and Counsel for the Member was heard by this Panel on July 29, 2025.

Counsel tendered and summarized a Statement of Agreed Facts and a Book of Authorities, both of which were marked as exhibits.

Jurisdiction, Service and Panel Composition

1. Dr. Wenchao Zheng, DVM, admits his membership in the Manitoba Veterinary Medical Association.

2. By correspondence dated March 11, 2025, the PRCC provided Dr. Zheng with written notice of the PRCC's decisions to refer four complaints to be considered by the PRCC.

3. The four complaints before this Panel are:

(a) The complaint of [REDACTED], dated November 27, 2023.

(b) The complaint of [REDACTED], dated December 14, 2023.

(c) The referral by the MVMA Registrar, dated May 22, 2024 (the "May Referral"); and

(d) The referral by the MVMA Registrar, dated December 9, 2024 (the "December Referral").

4. The PRCC also provided written notice setting out its decisions and the reasons for the decisions to each of the complainants involved in the four complaints. The PRCC has therefore complied with the requirements of subsection 23(2) of the Act.

5. The PRCC's March 11, 2025 correspondence to Dr. Zheng attached the Charges of Professional Misconduct regarding the complaints, dated March 11, 2025.

6. A Notice of Hearing was served on April 10, 2025 scheduling the hearing of the Charges for May 1, 2025.

7. On April 30, 2025, Dr. Zheng provided written consent to the Panel to commence its hearing on a date subsequent to the commencement date contemplated by subsection 32(2) of the Act and admitted that the Association has complied with the requirements of

subsection 32(2) of the Act. The parties then jointly requested the adjournment of the May 1<sup>st</sup> hearing date.

8. A revised Notice of Hearing was issued by counsel to the Panel on May 1, 2025, confirming the hearing dates of July 28-30, 2025.

9. The Association provided Dr. Zheng with disclosure of all relevant documentary evidence prior to the hearing, and Dr. Zheng admitted that the Association has therefore complied with the requirements of subsection 33(3) of the Act.

10. Dr. Zheng has no objection to any of the members of the Panel nor to legal counsel to the Panel on the basis of bias, a reasonable apprehension of bias, or a conflict of interest.

11. A request made by a news reporter to attend the hearing was granted on the condition that s. 34(1) of the Act be complied with.

12. Dr. Zheng did not appear before the Panel but his legal counsel attended and made a submission.

### Decision

1. The allegations against Dr. Zheng are described in the Notice of Hearing.
2. This Panel accepts the joint recommendation of counsel as to disposition of the Charges and sanction.
3. Dr Zheng is an experienced veterinarian and long standing member of the MVMA and should therefore be aware of ethical considerations expected of a member, such as when providing prompt referral for care outside the member's experience and competency (orthopedic procedures) is required. He should also be aware of the requirements to provide informed consent for all medical and surgical procedures and document those conversations in the medical record, as required.
4. Despite previous agreements into which Dr Zheng has entered, which have included multiple hours of continuing education, in addition for the requirement for all members to complete a certain number of hours of continuing education per year, there appear to be severe deficiencies in his knowledge of current anesthesia recommendations, particularly the use of multimodal analgesia and effective routes of parenteral fluid administration, all of which are critical to safely and ethically provide surgical services of any kind, not just orthopaedics, to the public.

5. Dr Zheng has repeatedly failed to adhere to previous agreements entered in to with the PRCC and the MVMA.
6. Dr Zheng has an extensive disciplinary history with the MVMA and shows an ongoing disregard for their ability to impose sanctions on members and be a self- regulating body, therefore bringing the profession into disrepute.

This Panel also took into consideration the following mitigating factors:

1. Dr Zheng has agreed to cease practicing in 2026, or earlier if the terms of the aforementioned agreement are not fulfilled on the dates provided.
2. Dr Zheng has agreed not to perform any orthopaedic surgeries at his practice unless performed by a board certified surgeon.
3. Dr Zheng has agreed to this joint recommendation, providing closure for the clients involved.

While there are not many precedents in the veterinary profession in Manitoba for similar cases, in arriving at its decision, this Panel reviewed proceedings from other provinces and other professions within Manitoba, and considered the authorities submitted by counsel for the PRCC and is of the view that this decision protects the public interest as well as provides a fair opportunity for Dr Zheng to meet the requirements of the agreement. The Panel also recognizes that to not accept the recommendation may be seen to bring the administration of justice into disrepute.

The Panel is of the view that the joint submission is appropriate and has accepted the parties' Joint recommendation as to sanctions and finds that Dr. Zheng committed professional misconduct and conduct unbecoming a member contrary to the Act.

This Panel orders as follows:

1. **Reprimand:** Dr. Zheng is to be reprimanded with respect to the facts and matters outlined in the Charges of Professional Misconduct dated March 11, 2025.
2. **Conditions on practice:** The following conditions are to be placed on Dr. Zheng's entitlement to practice veterinary medicine:
  - a. No orthopedic surgery: Dr. Zheng will be permanently restricted from performing orthopedic surgery, effective immediately. Only board-certified orthopedic surgeons will be permitted to perform orthopedic surgery at Dr. Zheng's clinic, Animal Hospital of Manitoba (the "**Clinic**"). A notice will be

posted at the Clinic and on the Clinic's website advising that he does not perform orthopedic surgery.

For the purposes of this condition, "orthopedic surgery" is any procedure used to treat any acquired or developmental/congenital disorders of bones, joints, muscles, tendons, ligaments, and/or spinal cord and nerves.

- b. Completion of Continuing Education: Dr. Zheng will provide the Registrar with proof, satisfactory to the Registrar, that he has completed the outstanding CE at issue in the two Referrals, by October 31, 2025 (the "**CE Deadline**").
  - c. Extension of practice supervision: Dr. Zheng will enter an agreement extending the practice supervision he is currently under until June 30, 2026 (the "**Retirement Date**"). The supervisor and agreement must be approved by the Registrar. Such agreement must be entered into by December 31, 2025 (the "**Practice Supervision Deadline**").
  - d. Restriction on practice: On the Retirement Date, if neither Dr. Zheng's licence nor his registration is suspended for any reason, a condition will be imposed on Dr. Zheng's licence that he is restricted from practicing veterinary medicine. Dr. Zheng will still be required to submit the required renewal forms and pay the associated fees to renew his licence in accordance with the MVMA's standard procedures.
3. **Contribution to costs**: Dr. Zheng is to pay \$15,000 towards the costs incurred by the MVMA in investigating and hearing these matters, by February 28, 2026 (the "**Costs Deadline**").
  4. **Suspension**: Dr. Zheng's licence and registration will be suspended if any of the following occur:
    - a. Dr. Zheng fails to provide proof of completion of the outstanding CE, as described in point 2(b) above, by the CE Deadline.

- b. Dr. Zheng fails to enter a satisfactory agreement extending his practice supervision, as described in point 2(c) above, by the Practice Supervision Deadline.
- c. Dr. Zheng fails to pay \$15,000, as described in point 3 above, by the Costs Deadline.

The suspension will remain in place until the respective term is satisfied or Dr. Zheng's licence and registration are cancelled in accordance with point 5, below.

- 5. **Cancellation of Certificate of Registration and Licence:** If Dr. Zheng's registration and/or licence is suspended on the Retirement Date for any reason, then his Certificate of Registration and Licence will be cancelled on the Retirement Date. If neither his licence nor his registration are suspended as of the Retirement Date, both will be cancelled on June 30, 2027.

The Panel's decision will be published and made available to the public.

Dated this 4th day of September, 2025.

DR. 

DR.   
