

ROYAL COLLEGE OF VETERINARY SURGEONS

V

MR WILLIAM WYLIE SIM

JUDGMENT

The Committee has taken the opportunity to study the records from the original hearing on 18 July 2005 when the hearing was adjourned on Mr Sim's undertaking to abstain from the use of intoxicating liquor and comply with other conditions pertaining to his treatment programme.

The hearing resumed on 30 January 2006, when Mr Sim was found guilty of disgraceful conduct in a professional respect on a further charge relating to the truthfulness of the information given by Mr Sim to the RCVS Preliminary Investigation Committee and the Disciplinary Committee.

On 31 January 2006 the Committee decided to postpone judgement for two years on condition that Mr Sim did not consume alcohol, continued therapy under medical supervision, provided blood samples as requested, and that Dr Heston, his medical supervisor, gave written reports on his progress. Mr Sim was also only to practise as a veterinary surgeon where he had made prior arrangements with clients' usual practitioners to provide any necessary assistance or aftercare.

The Committee heard from Mr Sim and Dr Heston that Mr Sim has now breached the condition regarding abstention from alcohol on at least four occasions, the first during September 2005, while the case was adjourned, twice more in September 2006 and again in October 2006. The Committee is concerned that Mr Sim appears unable to abstain from alcohol at all times, not only when he is carrying out veterinary work, in order for him to deal with his dependency.

It was Dr Heston's opinion on 30 January 2006 that Mr Sim was fit to carry out practice provided he continued to carry out the programme of action that had been set in place. Having had the opportunity to demonstrate that he can control his addiction the Committee believes it is now an unacceptable risk to the public and their animals to allow him to continue to practise when he has shown that he cannot adhere to the programme of action and conditions that he had previously agreed.

The Committee has considered carefully the options available to it, and must act in the best interests of the public, their animals, and the veterinary profession. It has concluded that these are best served by Mr Sim having a period of time when he can come to terms with his condition and recognise that his future is in his own hands.

It is the decision of this Committee that Mr Sim's name be removed from the *Register*.

In any application for readmission Mr Sim must be aware that he will be expected to provide verifiable evidence gathered over a significant time scale that he has been able to abstain from alcohol. He must also provide evidence of Continuing Professional Development to maintain his clinical knowledge during his absence from the profession.

DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE
9 NOVEMBER 2006