



## **Veterinary Ireland Media Release**

**28<sup>th</sup> December 2017**

### **Vets Concerned Over Changes to Code of Professional Conduct by Regulatory Body and Implications for Animal Health & Welfare**

Veterinary Ireland has voiced serious concerns in respect of recent and very significant changes by the Veterinary Council of Ireland to the Code of Professional Conduct for Veterinary Practitioners, relating to the ownership of veterinary practices and the practice of veterinary medicine.

The Veterinary Council of Ireland made these changes unilaterally, without any consultation with stakeholders.

Veterinary Ireland is concerned that these changes are contrary to the Veterinary Practice Act 2005 and about the impact that these changes would have for animal health and welfare, as well as the impact for the veterinary profession.

Veterinary Ireland has sought urgent clarification from the Veterinary Council of Ireland on the meaning and implications of a new provision in the Code, and is considering a legal challenge if it is apparent that the Veterinary Council intends to apply a change contrary to the Veterinary Practice Act 2005.

Veterinary Ireland has also written to the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine requesting an urgent meeting to discuss the recent unilateral changes made by the Veterinary Council of Ireland to the Code of Professional Conduct for Veterinary Practitioners.

The Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine is responsible for the conduct of the Veterinary Council of Ireland and it is also his remit to decide the policy by which it regulates the veterinary profession.

Veterinary Ireland has called on the Minister to intervene in order to ensure that veterinary services to the public and agri-food sector are maintained nationwide and on a 24/7 basis.

#### **ENDS**

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