



Veterinary registration requirements in Hong Kong

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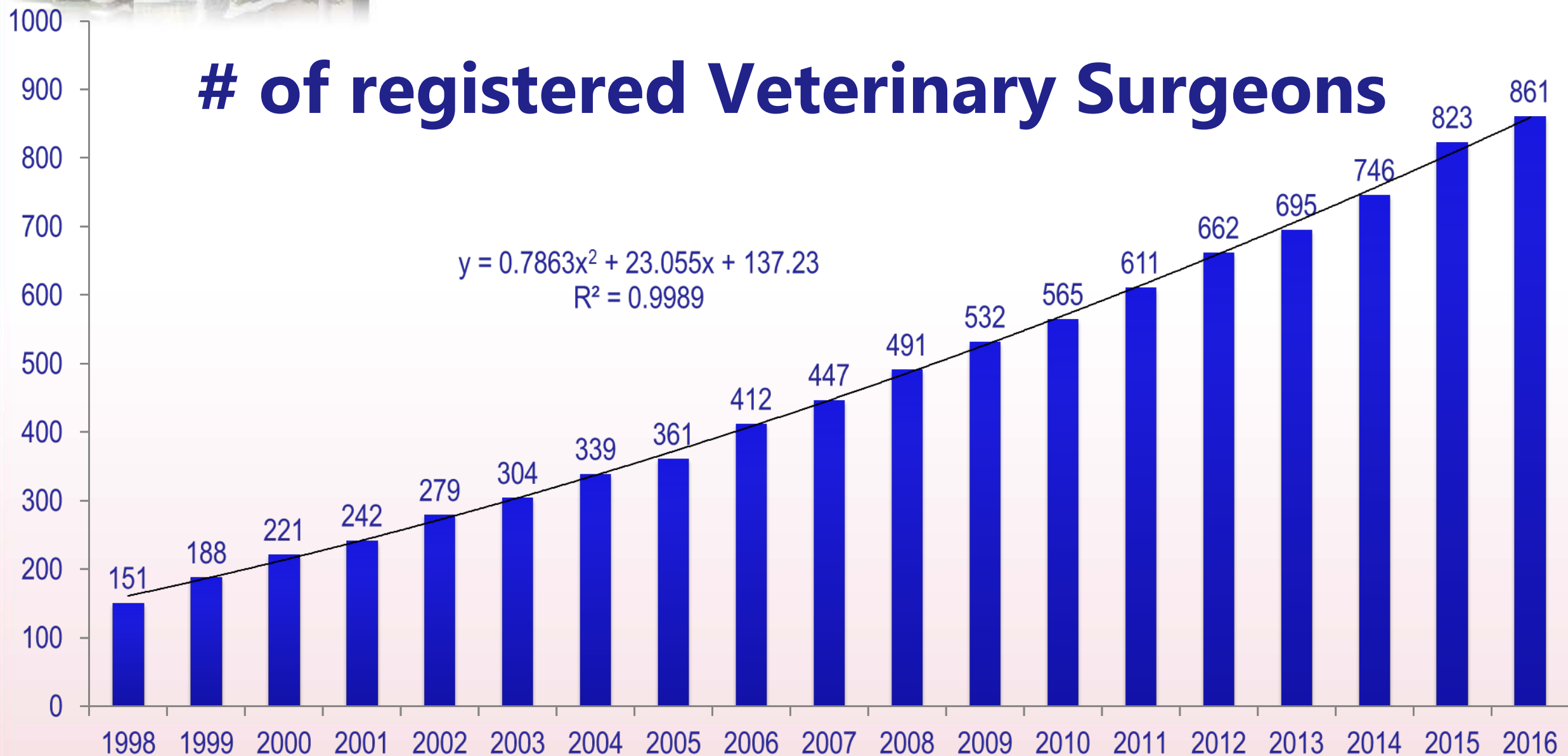
Veterinary Surgeons Board of Hong Kong

- An independent statutory authority
- Established (1997) under the Veterinary Surgeons Registration Ordinance (Laws of Hong Kong (CAP 529))
- provides for the **regulation of the practice** of veterinary surgery, the **registration of veterinary surgeons**, the **disciplinary control of the professional activities** of registered veterinary surgeons and for matters related





of registered Veterinary Surgeons





Phenomenal growth

- Over the past twenty years, the profession has grown nearly 6-fold
- Continues to add about 40 veterinary surgeons net (about 100 new registrations every year)
- HKVSB important to ensure quality





Registration in HK

- Personal attributes of the individual – no convictions
 - “Letter of Good standing” from each and every registration body
- Relying on the credibility of the graduate’s *alma mater*
- Credibility conferred by international accreditation





International accreditation the key

- Essentially three internationally-operating accreditation systems are being recognised in Hong Kong:
 - Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) London
 - Australasian Veterinary Boards Council (AVBC) through its Veterinary Schools Accreditation Advisory Committee (VSAAC)
 - American Veterinary Medical Association College of Education (AVMA CoE)
- Graduates from such accredited schools registrable directly





International accreditation the key

- Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) London
 - accredits the schools in the United Kingdom only, but participates in joint visitations (with AVBC, and others)
 - Graduates of accredited schools automatically registrable
 - has, however, more recently expanded to the Caribbean (St Georges), but declined to grant accreditation (yet AVMA did)
 - In the UK, RCVS usually visits half-way through the degree roll-out, and in the final year and then regularly (every 3 - 7 years; two new schools recently, Nottingham and Surrey (under way)
 - Not an arm's length relationship (accreditor and registrar alike)





International accreditation the key cont.

- Australasian Veterinary Boards Council (AVBC) through the Veterinary Schools Accreditation Advisory Committee (VSAAC)
 - accredits the veterinary schools in Australia (7) and New Zealand (1) (three new ones in past decade)
 - Graduates of accredited schools automatically registrable
 - has a reciprocal recognition agreement with RCVS (and a separate one with the South African Veterinary Council (SAVC))
 - also participates in joint visitations (Chair headed Surrey visit)
 - Sits between schools and registration boards (arms-length)





International accreditation the key cont.

- American Veterinary Medical Association College of Education (AVMA CoE)
 - accredits North American veterinary colleges
 - Graduates of accredited colleges **NOT** automatically registrable
 - graduates still need to sit NAVLE through NVBME
 - also accredits internationally (Europe, Australia and New Zealand, Caribbean etc.)
 - arms-length (because of role of NVBME)
- All of these bodies are aligning their requirements, using their respective assessment templates, essentially similar requirements (apart from EMS – AVBC/RCVS)





International accreditation the key cont.

- Three more categories considered by the HKVSB
 - The respective examinations for individual foreign graduates as conducted by:
 - RCVS (Statutory MRCVS examination),
 - the AVBC (the National Veterinary Examination (NVE))
 - and the Educational Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates (ECFVG) of the AVMA
 - Some Taiwanese graduates (from NTU and National Chung Hsing, with additional six months practical experience, are certified in HK)





International accreditation the key cont.

- Lastly
 - by individual assessment demonstrating that:
“he has passed such examinations in veterinary surgery and other related subjects and has received such training and experience as the Board may accept in his particular case”
 - that assessment is carried out by a third party, the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ), who uses specialised assessors







Accreditation has teeth

- Can put veterinary school on notice
 - If one or more standards are not met, “minor” or “probationary”
- Can shorten the period of accreditation
 - Usually 7 years, may be as short as 1 or 3 years
- Can withdraw accreditation – no more new students enrolled
 - “terminal” accreditation, programme wound up





Observations

- In general, only degrees from internationally accredited schools accepted
 - AVBC and SAVC (OP), after further endorsement by the RCVS
 - AVMA (but without NAVLE, which is required by AVBC/RCVS)
 - Accreditation expectations generally in alignment (reciprocal agreement between AVBC and RCVS, have yet to disagree) some misalignment with AVMA (over EMS provisions)
 - Taiwanese schools and their acceptance by HKVSB appears vulnerable (no international accreditation)
 - Individual assessment an “enlightened” pathway not found elsewhere





A daunting task?



CityU's College of Veterinary
Medicine and Life Sciences
subscribed to AVBC pathway

Ongoing quality assurance
during development (frequent
visits)

Immediate accreditation upon
first cohort graduating





CityU's CVMLS progress

- AVBC consultative visit in December 2015
- Full-site “Reasonable Assurance pathway” visit in December 2016
- Letter of Reasonable Assurance” granted in March 2017
- First student cohort commencing in “September 2017
- “Reasonable Assurance” converts to “Provisional Accreditation”
- Six monthly reporting to AVBC, next visit expected in 2018/19, jointly with the RCVS





QUESTIONS

