



P.O. Box 1770
Kingston 8
Jamaica
E-mail: secretary@jvma.org
www.jvma.org

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PRESS RELEASE

Re: Arrest of so-called “veterinarian” on murder charge

The Jamaica Veterinary Medical Association (JVMA) would like to inform the public that the person charged in the brutal murder of a woman in May Pen, as reported in the print and electronic media on September 4, 2014, is **NOT a veterinarian nor is he a veterinary technician and has NO affiliation with any veterinary practice, organization or entity.**

The Association has been informed by one of our members that the individual did work in their corporate area practice several years ago in a janitorial role but was dismissed.

The JVMA would like to remind the public that a **Veterinarian** is a **veterinary medical doctor** trained for at least 5 years in an accredited tertiary institution who must be duly registered by the Jamaica Veterinary Board (JVB) under the Veterinary Act (1976) in order to practice veterinary medicine in Jamaica. The only other official category of veterinary health care personnel is the **Animal Health Assistant**, otherwise called a veterinary technician who must also receive formal training approved by the JVB and is duly enrolled as such to work under the supervision of a registered veterinarian.

There are also veterinary clinic assistants who may work with veterinarians within their clinical practices, but they have no authority to work on their own outside of the immediate supervision of their employer. The JVMA has lobbied for this category to be regulated by the JVB under a revised Veterinary Act which has been pending for several years.

There are many persons around the country who pretend to be veterinary personnel and engage in illegal practice. **The public is advised that all registered veterinary medical doctors possess an identification card issued by the JVB in addition to a registration certificate and an annual licensing certificate.** They should ask to see this identification in order to ensure proper, professional health care for their animals.

For a **list of registered veterinarians** please visit the JVMA website at <http://www.jvma.org/generalinformation/registeredveterinarians.html> . Acts of illegal practice may be reported to the police and the Jamaica Veterinary Board at 977-2489, 977-2492 e-mail jvb@moa.gov.jm.

The JVMA offers deep condolences to the family and friends of the victim of this heinous act.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Cadogan', followed by a horizontal line.

Dr. Paul Cadogan
Public Relations Officer
Jamaica Veterinary Medical Association