FRAUD ALERT

He then informs me that his bookkeeper Amanda sent this amount in error to me and was supposed to be sent to a company to purchase building materials.

I noticed that my bank balance had altered with his deposit.

The next day I reimbursed him the monies minus the sterilisation fee.

When I phoned him for further details he gave me an address I knew could not exist — I then knew I had been robbed.

The banks cannot stop a transfer by EFT.

It can take 36 hours to combine a police report, case number and bank fraud squad for submission.

He uses various cell phone numbers.

It takes 2-3 days for money to be transferred by EFT between unrelated banks, however, a cooperative in the bank can speed it up to 50 minutes which occurred in my case.

The money is taken out within minutes of having entered.”

What can you do to safeguard yourself against the scam?

1. Take note that there are many variations on this scam. It does not only happen in the veterinary industry.
2. Be on your guard the moment you hear the word “overpayment” or words to that effect.
3. The alleged “overpayment” may occur by cheque, cash payment (you will be shown a “cash” deposit slip, stamped by the bank) or EFT (easily manipulable by scammers).
4. The request for repayment would very often be accompanied by some alleged “urgency” (very often a convincing reason as to why the money should be “repaid” now or immediately, such as “I need to pay my supplier now, or I will lose business/my business” or even, “my child/wife is seriously ill and I need the money urgently to procure medical services”).
5. The more urgent the reason for the repayment is or the more pressure is exerted in order to expedite the payment, the more wary and suspicious you should be.
6. Do not be intimidated or threatened into making the payment, unless you took the precautions set out in this e-mail.
7. Never effect a repayment until you received confirmation (written) from your bank that the money has effectively cleared in your bank account under these circumstances.
8. Pending credits should show in your account as pending, either in words or with an asterisk showing it as pending.
9. If a payment shows as pending, do not make a repayment.
10. If payment was made by cheque, wait at least 10 working days to allow the cheque to clear.
11. If payment was made in cash, wait until the amount actually shows as cleared in your bank account.
12. Even if the amount shows as cleared in your bank account, always under the circumstances described in this e-mail, take the precaution of clarifying with your bank that the payment has indeed cleared.
13. If in doubt, call your bank at a general number. **Never** use a name and/or telephone number provided by the “client” to verify whether a payment has cleared (the person may collude with someone in the bank or just ask a friend to confirm what you are being told).