



THE COLLEGE OF
VETERINARIANS
OF ONTARIO

SUMMARY REPORT ON LEGISLATIVE REFORM CONSULTATION FEEDBACK

Background on the Consultations

The College Council has been engaged in strategic discussions regarding the need to consider reform to the *Veterinarians Act* since 2013. To progress this work, it commissioned an oversight advisory group, three working groups, in-depth research, and broad-based consultations. Included in the approach to consultation have been specific opportunities for the public to respond to key areas of debate. Comments and opinions received for each public consultation have been fed back into the College's analysis and discussion process to help shape Council's final recommendations.

This report provides a brief summary of the perspectives raised by those who participated in each separate consultation.

Consultations included the following topics:

1. Single Screening Process for Investigations
2. Expanded Public Register
3. Mandatory Quality Assurance Program
4. Interim Suspensions
5. Mandatory Reporting of Dismissal or Resignation Related to Incompetence or Incapacity of a Member
6. Publicizing a Notice of Hearing
7. Objects of the College

It should be noted that, while all consultations garnered veterinarian perspective, consultations (4), (5), and (6) received significant attention from the general public.

CONSULTATION FEEDBACK: OBJECTS OF THE COLLEGE

Consultation Period: January 11, 2017 - February 27, 2017

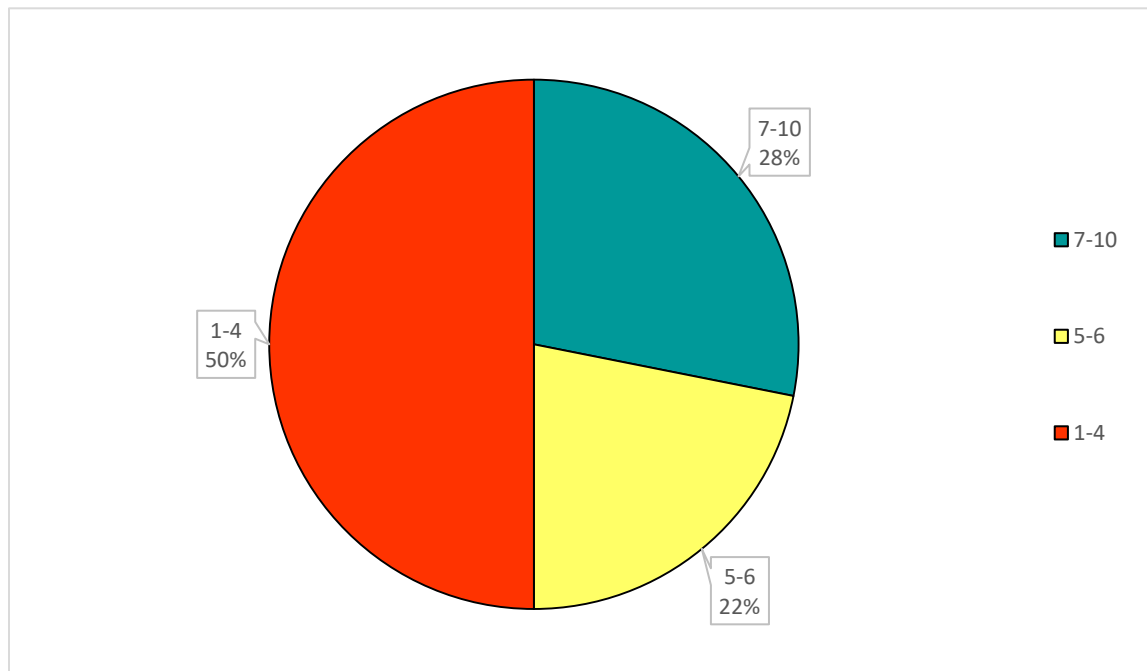
Submissions: 37 submissions

Overview of the Feedback:

Respondents who took the survey (rather than simply providing comments) were divided as follows based on the responses received to the question asking respondents to rank their support of the concept on a scale of 1 to 10:

- 1 - 4: critical of the concept
- 5 - 6: neither in favour of the concept nor critical of it
- 7 - 10: in favour of the concept

The following chart illustrates the breakdown of the responses received:



Additional Comments:

- *The intent and rationale of new objectives must be well very clearly defined to prevent any ambiguity and ensure strong support of the membership*
- *With the ever increasing advances in technology (telemedicine) revising the provisions to reflect this is important as many more practitioners integrate this into their practice. My only concern is the "programs." I would like more clarification on this - exactly what kind of "programs" and at who's expense. What would these programs entail? Would they specifically target those individuals who need them?*
- *Any effort to ensure an acceptable level of expertise in our members is worthwhile.*
- *I think that making sure that veterinarians are providing quality service is important.*
- *The proposal to include "Any other objects relating to the practice of veterinary medicine that Council considers desirable" gives the College far too much freedom--I don't want the CVO having 'carte blanche' to propose whatever changes they want.*

Following its review, Council directed that the College move forward on including this concept in its final proposal to the Ministry.

Appendix: Consultation Backgrounder

Objects of the College

Veterinarians Act: Legislative Reform – What do you think?

What is the Concept?

As a part of the College's legislative reform initiative, the College is reviewing the provisions in the *Veterinarians Act* related to the objects of the College, which outline the various purposes in carrying out the College's principal object to regulate the practice of veterinary medicine in order that the public interest may be served and protected.

It is proposed that changes be made to add to these provisions to ensure that the Act is clear on both the existing and the future proposed roles of the College.

Why is the College Considering Changes to this Concept?

Interestingly, the current College objects do not presently speak to all of the College's roles in protecting the public. It is therefore proposed that the Act be updated and revised to fully reflect the College's role in protecting the public by assuring safe and competent veterinary care. These changes are necessary to ensure that the profession's regulatory authorities are current and flexible to allow it to achieve its goal – safe, quality veterinary medicine.

What is Proposed?

It is proposed that the updated provision of the Act relating to the objects of the College include the following new objects, or purposes, of the College, which are indicated in *italics*:

1. To develop, establish, and maintain standards of knowledge, skill and proficiency among its members.

2. To develop, establish, and maintain standards of qualification for the practice of veterinary medicine.
3. To develop, establish, and maintain standards of professional ethics among its members.
4. *To develop, establish, and maintain programs and standards of practice to assure the quality of the practice of the profession.*
5. *To develop, establish, and maintain standards and programs to promote the ability of members to respond to changes in practice environments, advances in technology and other emerging issues.*
6. *To inspect and accredit veterinary facilities.*
7. To promote public awareness of the role of the College.
8. To perform such other duties and exercise such other powers as are imposed or conferred on the College under any Act.
9. *Any other objects relating to the practice of veterinary medicine that Council considers desirable.*