



THE COLLEGE OF
VETERINARIANS
OF ONTARIO

February 14, 2018

Minister Leal
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
77 Grenville Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1B3

Dear Minister:

The Council of the College of Veterinarians of Ontario is pleased to provide you with a series of recommendations for your consideration to modernize the regulation of veterinary medicine in Ontario.

These recommendations are the culmination of four years of studied analysis and public consultation. They are far reaching, comprehensive and significant to our mandate to identify and reduce risk to the care of animals in Ontario. Each recommendation has received careful review against current evidence, current best practices locally and internationally, and current needs identified by data and risk analysis.

Central to these recommendations, in particular scope of practice, is the inclusion of the regulation of veterinary technicians within the legislation. With the final approval of this direction by both the College Council and the Board of Directors of the Ontario Association of Veterinary Technicians, you will note that this submission is being made jointly. We are seeking your consideration of advancing a new Act focused on the regulation of veterinary medicine with both professions recognized under one piece of legislation.

Our submission includes 19 recommendations along with our primary references. The results of the most significant and relevant public consultations have also been included. Please note these were conducted by a third-party agency and aimed at ensuring objectivity and integrity in the process. These consultations included veterinarians, the public, veterinary technicians, and other key stakeholders. In addition, the College has a significant repository of background materials that it is willing and prepared to provide for review by your staff should you decide to proceed with proposing a new Act and system of regulation.

We wish to indicate that while the majority of recommendations are being presented for your study and thought, additional discussions are continuing which will parallel this process. These include:

- Further proposed exemptions, or not, to the proposed authorized activities. Discussions continue with pharmacists, chiropractors, physiotherapists and farriers.
- The composition of the Council given the proposed inclusion of veterinary technicians under the legislation.

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Instilling public confidence in veterinary regulation.

- The need for a permissive clause on the grandparenting of currently practicing veterinary technicians and the relevant qualifications.

This submission to you and your Ministry is a significant step forward in progress related to assuring the professions practicing within veterinary medicine are well equipped to act responsibly in the public interest in the future. It supports the public in their right to access low risk animal care directly and not require veterinary oversight unnecessarily. Lastly, it acknowledges a model of interprofessional care that has oversight balanced with the recognition of professional skills and judgement.

Minister, our organizations look forward to working with your staff team as they analyze our recommendations. Please know we will be available to answer any questions and our background materials are open for easy access.

We are appreciative of our accountability to you and the Ontario public and both of our organizations provide this document to you in good faith.

Sincerely,



Steven Jacobs, DVM
College of Veterinarians of Ontario
President



Jody Carrick, RVT
Ontario Association of Veterinary Technicians
President

cc: Dr. Leslie Woodcock
Director and Chief Veterinarian for Ontario