



THE COLLEGE OF
VETERINARIANS
OF ONTARIO

UPDATE

Vol. 22 No. 2
ISSN 0821-6320

visit the CVO website at
www.cvo.org

June 2006

Inside...

CVO News	2
Elections	3
Medical Records made Easier	4
Medical Record Workshops	5
Council Bulletin / Proposed Amendment 6	
Survey Results	7
Complaints Case	8
Up dates	10
Regulatory Consultation	12
Practice of Veterinary Medicine	13
Veterinary Biologics .	14
Pets travelling to Portugal	15
Export Certification . .	16

Recent Developments for Registered Veterinary Technicians

On February 28, 2006 CVO President, Dr. Ed Doering, wrote a letter of congratulations to the Ontario Association of Veterinary Technicians (OAVT) on the enactment of by-laws creating a self-regulatory regime for Registered Veterinary Technicians (RVT's). The by-laws include provisions relating to registration, professional standards, complaints and discipline processes, approval of educational programs and a Code of Ethics. The OAVT was recognized in 1993 by a private Act (Bill Pr3) to promote professional standards for RVT's and its profession and to protect the title RVT and variations of that title.

Some veterinarians have inquired whether this development changes the approach to what activities can be assigned to RVT's and whether RVT's now have a separate status from other auxiliaries. The short answer is: not yet. The functions that can be assigned to any non-veterinarian by a veterinarian are described by regulations made under the *Veterinarians Act*, professional standards within the veterinary profession and the policies made to facilitate compliance with them. These provisions have not yet been changed. However, the College has agreed that once these by-laws were passed, it would discuss with the OAVT and other stakeholders the development of new standards. The College looks forward to a constructive dialogue with the OAVT and others to ensure any new standards allow the full potential of RVT's to be used while preserving the public interest.

The College will keep the profession advised about these discussions. Until then, the existing rules continue to apply.

Public Member Appointed to Council

The CVO Council and staff welcome a new public member, Mr. **Mike Buis**.



In 1981 Mr. Buis received his diploma in Agriculture from the University of Guelph. Mike is a full time farmer specializing in cow-calf and feedlot beef production.

He is a past president of the Ontario Cattlemen's Association (2002) and co-chair of the Environment Committee of the Cattlemen's Association (2000-2003). Mike is a member of the Ontario Cattlemen's Association, Canadian Cattlemen's Association, Kent Cattlemen's Association and the Kent Soil and Crop Improvement Association. He is a volunteer firefighter with the Chatham/Kent Fire Service, a service he has provided for over 20 years.

Mr. Buis resides in Chatham, Ontario with his wife and seven children.

In addition to his CVO Council responsibilities, Mr. Buis will serve on the Registration and Discipline Committees.

Quality Assurance Director



Ms. Susan Winter resigned effective April 1, 2006 as Director of Quality Assurance for CVO to assume a new position as Director of Professional Relations with the College of Medical Radiation Technologists of Ontario.

Susan began with CVO in July 2004 and met the challenge to create a new program emphasis for a CVO Quality Assurance Program, building on the foundation that began in 1999 with the Professional Enhancement Program.

Susan assumed a lead role in developing a proposal for a bridging program for internationally trained veterinarians and, in collaboration with other partners, achieved a grant of almost one million dollars for the Veterinary Skills and Training Enhancement Program (VSTEP).

Susan has spent her career working with professionals and professional organizations and acknowledges that it has been a pleasure to work with the College Council, the Quality Assurance Committee and the veterinary profession.

Policy Analyst

On May 2nd Mr. **Art Sinclair's** contract for services was completed and he is no longer employed as the Policy Analyst at the College of Veterinarians of Ontario. Mr. Martin Fischer will be leading future policy development with Ms. Christine Simpson and Ms. Beth Ready.

The College thanks Art for his assistance with policy development over the past year. We wish him much success with his future endeavours.

It's Election Time!

On **October 3rd**, the College of Veterinarians of Ontario will hold elections in two constituencies.

Constituency 7:

(County of Haliburton and the districts of Algoma, Cochrane, Kenora, Manitoulin, Nipissing, Parry Sound, Rainy River, Sudbury, Temiskaming and Thunder Bay and the district municipality of Muskoka). Dr. **Melody Mason** is not eligible for re-election because she has served two three-year terms.

Constituency 11:

(Counties of Hastings, Northumberland, Peterborough, Prince Edward and Victoria and the regional municipality of Durham). Dr. **Richard Liddell** is eligible for re-election, as he has served one three-year term.

An election will not be held in Constituencies 2 and 8 as Drs. **Harry Vreugdenhil** and **Michele Dutnall** have served on the Executive Committee for the year immediately preceding this election (By-law 4.-(4)).

Election Timelines

July 2006

Nomination forms and the notice of election will be forwarded to every member in constituencies 7 and 11 prior to July 21, 2006.

August 29, 2006

Nominations due and must be received by the college no later than 4:00 p.m.

September 19, 2006

Ballots mailed.

October 3, 2006

Election date. Ballots are due by 2:00 p.m.

If you are interested in standing for election, or would like to have further information, please contact Ms. **Christine Simpson** at extension 2225 or by email at csimpson@cvo.org.

CVO councillors have interesting and wide-ranging responsibilities. Serving on Council is an opportunity and challenge that can offer an immense amount of personal satisfaction and fulfillment. Some frequently asked questions are addressed below:

What is the Council of the College?

The Council is the governing body, or Board of Directors, of the CVO, and its composition and powers are established in the *Veterinarians Act*. The Council is composed of 13 veterinarians and three to five public (non-veterinarian) members. Veterinarian members of Council are elected by their peers and bring their understanding of the profession, from the perspective of the setting in which they practice, to the Council table. Public members are appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council and bring the public perspective to Council decisions.

What is the time commitment?

Councillors can expect to attend approximately six regular council meetings per year to make policy

decisions affecting the practice of veterinary medicine, and discuss other matters as they pertain to the legislation of the profession. They will also be appointed to at least one other committee, with varying time commitments.

How are Councillors compensated?

Councillors are paid a per diem, currently \$400/day, and reimbursed expenses for all meeting days.

Can candidates send out campaign letters?

Yes. Those candidates wishing to send out a campaign letter should forward the correspondence for review by the CVO staff.

Medical Records Made Easier

Workshops inspire veterinarian to incorporate new technology



Dr. Brian MacCormick

One companion animal veterinarian is using technology to shape-up his medical records. He has implemented a series of changes at his practice after being inspired at local Medical Record Workshops.

Dr. Brian MacCormick, MacCormick Veterinary Services in Vankleek Hill, has made significant changes to his record keeping system after attending three Medical Record Workshops. The workshops - part of CVO's Quality Assurance program - are organized to assist practicing veterinarians with improving their medical records practically and efficiently.

With each new workshop, MacCormick gained new ideas that would fit well into his practice. After the first event, he made changes to his paper records to incorporate a template sticker during client exams. The sticker is set-up with check boxes and comment areas covering the 12 body systems. With this approach MacCormick has a routine overview for each client visit. When complete, he neatly sticks this template into the patient record.

After attending a subsequent workshop, MacCormick made the decision to complete his records in an electronic format. Now, in the biggest change, he's installed computer software which recognizes his voice and inputs the information more quickly into his electronic medical record templates.

"Using the voice-recognition and other new tools is making our records more consistent and efficient," said MacCormick. "The systematic approach is helping our standard of care and offers even more value to our clients."

MacCormick researched a variety of software programs before selecting Dragon NaturallySpeaking professional edition 8.0. The program offered MacCormick the highest level of accuracy (more than 90%), and was complemented by vocabulary software that recognizes common medical terms. A quality USB microphone allows MacCormick to dictate to his computer even with background noise such as barking dogs or ringing phones.

Now, two months since his electronic implementation, MacCormick is facing a steep learning curve. While the software overcomes the difficulty of typing at a fast pace, a whole new way of speaking must be learned to work with it - such as specifying where to indent, make spaces, or capitalize. Until being entirely comfortable with the new program changes, he's duplicating work with hand-written copies to avoid making computer errors. MacCormick's goal is to have all medical records in electronic format using voice-recognition within one year. While the time to adapt the new software is the biggest challenge, the results are worth the trade-off.

"Our records are more clean, clear, concise and consistent," said MacCormick. "We can do so much more with the information they provide."

MacCormick has had a busy few months incorporating the changes, but feels the efforts will save time and confusion later. He encourages other veterinarians to make the most of Medical Record Workshops.

"They're an important way for our profession to be reminded about and take steps toward advancing quality assurance," said MacCormick.

Medical Record Workshops



attendees at the Lakefield and Ottawa Workshops



attendees at the London Workshop



*facilitators:
Dr. Sue Kilborn
and
Dr. Marc Marin*



*attendees at the Toronto
area Workshop*



attendees at the Sault Ste. Marie Workshop

In March the College held six interactive medical record workshops. They were held in Ottawa, Kingston, London, Toronto area, Lakefield and Sault Ste. Marie.

Additional workshops will be held in the fall of 2006. Watch for further information on dates and locations to take advantage of the opportunity when CVO comes to a city near you.

Council Bulletin / Proposed Amendment

Council Meeting: March 22, 2006

- Received an **Overview Report of the Professional Profile Survey Results** and directed that a summary be published in *Update*. (see page 7 and Overview Report is enclosed with this issue of Update)
- Received a **Summary of Revenue and Expenditures for the 1st Quarter** and a **Budget vs. Discrepancies Report**.
- Approved in principle a draft position statement: **Steering** and directed staff to circulate the draft to stakeholders and interested parties for consultation.
- Approved in principle a draft position statement: **Terminating the Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship** and directed staff to circulate the draft to stakeholders and interested parties for consultation.
- Passed position statements: **Evaluation of Congenital Deafness in Companion Animals and Ophthalmic and Cardiac Screening Programs** and directed that these be published. (enclosed with this issue of Update)
- Passed a proposed amendment to **Ontario Regulation 1093, Section 5.4.(i) Clinical Proficiency Examination**. (see below for amendment)
- Accepted a report from Dr. Bryan Kennedy with regard to the **CVMA Species-specific prudent use guidelines for the administration of antimicrobials in food animals** and approved his continuing to liaise with the CVMA on behalf of the College.
- Received a presentation from Dr. **Mark Spiegle**, CVO representative to the National Examining Board.
- Appointed Dr. **Trevor Bachelder** to the Complaints Committee.

Proposed Regulation Amendment (this will be forwarded to Cabinet for approval)

The Council of the College of Veterinarians of Ontario approved the following proposed amendment on March 22, 2006. (underlined words are additions and strike throughs are deletions from the existing text of the Regulations)

5.(1) 4. The applicant,

- i. if a graduate of an acceptable unaccredited veterinary school, after compliance with paragraph 3 of subsection (1), has successfully completed the clinical proficiency examination of the National Examining Board of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association administered ~~through an accredited veterinary school,~~ through an accredited Clinical Proficiency Examination site,

What you told us

43% of you have plans to retire, many within 10 years and 45% plan to cut back on work hours within the next 5 years. These statistics are derived from the **Professional Profile Survey Results** completed this year by Harry Cummings and Associates for the CVO. Of our 3,300 members, 1,281 (40%) completed this survey making the results highly relevant as a barometer of our profession.

The overview summary of this survey is included in this issue and the complete report can be accessed on the CVO website. This document makes very interesting reading as it reveals important shifts in our demographics and potential trends in career planning which may significantly affect our efforts in meeting client demands in the next 10 to 15 years.

Based on the survey results, the average age of male veterinarians in Ontario is 52 and that of female veterinarians is 41. Male and female veterinarians varied substantially in many of the questionnaire responses. For example, female veterinarians indicated work/life balance and keeping up with new technologies as primary challenges while male veterinarians indicated the costs of practice as the main challenge they faced.

Not surprisingly, 95% of you indicated that it is very important to maintain complete medical records; however, only 16% have participated in Medical Record Workshops. Good record keeping was also considered an important indicator of quality veterinary care by 85% of respondents.

There are many more interesting details of your responses to this survey included in the overview. Please take a few minutes to read it.

Hiring a New Graduate or Someone New to Ontario?

To ensure that the veterinarian you plan to hire is licensed with the CVO, please check with the CVO office at:

(519) 824-5600 ext. 2228 / toll free (Ontario) (800) 424-2856

or email Ms. **Karen Gamble**
registration co-ordinator, at kgamble@cvo.org

Complaints Case

Complaints cases are designed as an educational tool to help Ontario veterinarians and the public gain a better understanding of the current trends observed by the College's Complaints Committee. The cases are an edited version of some of the cases dealt with by the Committee. The law does not allow for either the veterinarian or the complainant to be identified.

Review the complete medical record

Mr. and Mrs. Owner presented their 3 year-old, female Shih Tzu, Fluffy, to Dr. X of the ABC Animal Hospital for annual vaccinations. Within five minutes of receiving the vaccinations, Fluffy experienced a severe allergic reaction. Despite immediate emergency treatment, Fluffy died.

In the letter of complaint received by the College, Mr. and Mrs. Owner alleged that:

Dr. X's failure to read Mr. and Mrs. Owner's dog's medical record prior to administering the vaccinations caused the death of their dog. Had Dr. X read the medical record, she would have noted that the dog was allergic to the two vaccinations when given together.

The Committee reviewed the medical records of the ABC Animal Hospital, as well as written submissions from Mr. and Mrs. Owner, and also from Dr. X.

Mr. and Mrs. Owner submitted that Dr. X gave Fluffy two needles, and within five minutes she went into cardiac arrest and died and that it

was highlighted on Fluffy's record that she was allergic to these two medications when given together. When Dr. X was asked by Mrs. Owner why she gave Fluffy the two needles, Dr. X indicated that she neglected to read the notation in the record from the previous vaccination.

“...Dr. X indicated that she neglected to read the notation in the record from the previous vaccination.”

In reviewing the medical records, the Committee noted that Fluffy's medical records were presented to Dr. X in the usual manner with the vaccination certificate placed on the top. An appointment form was appended to the records which contained a highlighted notation indicating a previous vaccination reaction. However, the highlighted notation was not readily visible, as

it was on the portion of the form inside the file folder. A handwritten note by the receptionist indicating a previous vaccination reaction appeared on the upper left corner of the appointment form.

Dr. X admitted that she removed the vaccine certificate, which was placed on top of the record, which indicated both sets of vaccines, and without fully removing the file from the folder and proceeded with the appointment finding the dog to be healthy in every way. She administered the vaccines and within two minutes, Fluffy vomited. When Mrs. Owner commented that Fluffy had done the same thing two years ago, Dr. X consulted the medical record and noted the previous vaccine reaction. Despite emergency treatment, Fluffy quickly deteriorated and died.

An independent post mortem was performed which provided substantive evidence that the acute allergic reaction the dog experienced following her vaccination resulted in her death from cardiovascular collapse.

Complaints Case

Despite the complainants' allegation that "the dog was allergic to the two vaccinations when given together," the Committee recognized that Fluffy's allergic reaction may well have been in response to one component of one of the vaccines injected, and not necessarily because the two vaccination injections were given at the same time. If this was indeed the case, giving the two vaccination injections at different times would not likely have prevented the fatal anaphylactic reaction Fluffy suffered. However, had Dr. X been properly aware of the previous vaccination reaction, she could have discussed with the Owners the risks and benefits of administering any further vaccinations to Fluffy, and allowed them to make an informed decision regarding whether or not to proceed.

The Committee members agree that it is the responsibility of the attending clinician to fully review a patient's medical record prior to each visit, and especially prior to a vaccination appointment, in order to

properly inform him/herself of any medical conditions, drug or vaccination reactions or other health issues pertinent to the animal being presented. In so doing, the clinician is taking necessary action to ensure that he/she will not inadvertently administer a treatment which he/she knows or ought to know could potentially cause the animal harm.

The Committee particularly noted that Dr. X acknowledged in her submission that she neglected to review Fluffy's medical record prior to vaccination, acknowledged that her omission likely resulted in the death of the dog and expressed deep remorse for her error and its tragic consequences. As well, Dr. X indicated that measures had been taken to ascertain that such an incident will not occur again.

While the Committee acknowledged that measures such as flagging of the appointment form and querying the owner are very helpful to alert the veterinarian to a previous vaccination reaction, such measures cannot be regarded as a

substitute for an adequate review of the patient record by the attending clinician.

The Committee had very serious concerns about Dr. X's actions in proceeding to vaccinate Fluffy without having adequately reviewed her medical records. The evidence of this case is substantive that her actions in this regard resulted in an acute anaphylactic reaction in her patient, which proved fatal.

The Committee did not consider this case worthy of a referral to the Discipline Committee for the purposes of determining if Dr. X committed an act of professional misconduct. Instead, the Committee advises Dr. X to exercise extreme caution to ensure that she consistently and adequately reviews the medical record of every patient presented to her for treatment, in order to ensure that such a tragedy as occurred in this case will not happen again.

Inserts with this issue of Update

You will find enclosed with this issue of Update three Position Statements which have been approved by Council. The Position Statements are also posted on the CVO website at www.cvo.org under Communications-Council Publications.

- **Congenital Deafness Screening Programs for Companion Animals**
 - **Cardiac Screening Programs**
 - **Ophthalmic Screening Programs**

Up dates (February 1, 2006 - May 1, 2006)

The College welcomes the following new registrants between February 1, 2006 and May 1, 2006. The list also indicates licence type as follows:

*G = General GNR = General Non-Resident E = Educational R = Restricted A = Academic
PGR = Postgraduate and Resident Licence PS = Public Service*

Dr. Sarah Boston	G	Dr. Gurpreet Pandher	G
Dr. Cesar Caballero	PGR	Dr. Augusto Pareja	G
Dr. Kara Jacobson	G	Dr. Jagpreet Sadheora	G
Dr. Kelly MacLellan	G	Dr. Rebecca Seidler	G
Dr. Padmini Makkapati	G	Dr. Gurjinder Sidhu	G
Dr. Sarah Malek	E	Dr. Jaunni Snyder	G
Dr. Hasmukhray Merja	G	Dr. Marie-Claude Theoret	G
Dr. Nasreldin Mohamed	G	Dr. Martin Thibeault	G
Dr. Martha Navarro	G		

The following is a list of new and closed corporations:

New Corporations

Bhullar Veterinary Professional Corporation
Blagrove Veterinary Professional Corporation
Brant-Norfolk Veterinary Professional Corporation
Buckland Veterinary Professional Corporation
Callbeck Animal Hospital Professional Corporation
Campbellville Animal Hospital Professional Corporation
Creditview Animal Professional Corporation
Crossan Veterinary Professional Corporation
Dr. Kim Boudreau Professional Corporation
Hunsberger Veterinary Professional Corporation
Ledermueller Veterinary Professional Corporation
Otonabee Animal Hospital Professional Corporation
Osmond Veterinary Professional Corporation
Reynen Veterinary Professional Corporation
St. Marys Veterinary Professional Corporation

Stephanie Marquette Professional Corporation
Strickland Veterinary Professional Corporation
Thicketwood Veterinary Services Professional Corporation
Toxopeus Veterinary Professional Corporation
Trent Hills Veterinary Professional Corporation
Utopia Equine Professional Corporation
Wieringa Veterinary Professional Corporation
Young Veterinary Professional Corporation

Closed Corporations

Dr. Nancy Tarzwell Professional Corporation
Trevor Bachelder Professional Corporation

Up dates (February 1, 2006 - May 1, 2006)

The following is a list of new, closed and relocated veterinary facilities:

New Facilities

Allen Equine Services

Category: Equine Mobile

Director: Dr. Candace Allen

Bajwa Veterinary House Call Services

Category: Companion Animal Mobile

Director: Dr. Naeem Bajwa

Binbrook Animal Hospital

Category: Companion Animal Hospital

Director: Dr. Richard S. Johnson

Cottage Country Animal Clinic

Category: Companion Animal Hospital

Director: Dr. Natalie Eves

DeLuna Equine Veterinary Services

Category: Equine Mobile

Director: Dr. Tai DeLuna

Dr. Boctor's Veterinary House Call Services

Category: Companion Animal Mobile

Director: Dr. Bassem Boctor

Lake Country Animal Hospital

Category: Companion Animal Hospital

Director: Dr. Katerina Marchildon

Marina Animal Hospital

Category: Companion Animal Hospital

Director: Dr. Farzad Ghazi

McKee-Pownall Equine Services

Category: Equine Mobile

Director: Dr. Mike Pownall

Ottawa Mobile Equine Services

Category: Equine Mobile

Director: Dr. Aurora Arrioja

Palumbo Mobile Veterinary Services

Category: Companion Animal Mobile and Food

Producing Animal Mobile

Director: Dr. Laura Palumbo

Port Perry Animal Hospital

Category: Companion Animal Hospital

Director: Dr. Nancy Silverberg

Closed Facilities

Midland Avenue Animal Clinic

Relocated Facilities

Carleton Place Veterinary Hospital

Casselman Veterinary Clinic

Huronian Veterinary Emergency Clinic

Metzger Veterinary Services

Port Perry Veterinary Services

In Memoriam

The council and staff of the CVO were saddened to learn of the following deaths and extend sincere sympathy to their families and friends. In memory of deceased members, the CVO contributes an annual grant to the Ontario Veterinary College Alumni Trust.

Abernethy, Robert F. (OVC 1967)

Cameron, Alexandra (OVC 1980)

Coleman, Lloyd George (OVC 1941)

Sapegin, George (Yug 1946 - CVO 1953)

Up dates (February 1, 2006 - May 1, 2006)

The following veterinarians are no longer licensed in Ontario:

Dr. Sujinder Singh Bhachoo
Dr. Diane Chandler
Dr. George Collard
Dr. Gisele Cyr
Dr. Lynn Roberta Griffin
Dr. Steven Hendrick
Dr. Carolyn Levitz
Dr. Alana Mason
Dr. Suzanne Pearce
Dr. Rona Posen

Dr. Bruce Robb
Dr. Tanya Ross Loster
Dr. Janet Saunders
Dr. Nicole Schaefer
Dr. Navdeep Kumar Sharma
Dr. Roberto Soares
Dr. Shana Thoms
Dr. Adrian Tompkins
Dr. Villy Vaerum
Dr. Julie Webb

*If you note any errors in the preceding lists or believe someone may be practising without a licence, please contact Ms. **Karen Gamble** at extension 2228 or e-mail kgamble@cvo.org.*

Regulatory Consultation Document Available for Comment

The following Position Statement was approved by Council in November 2004 and was made available for comment at that time. The Position Statement is now due for review. The CVO Council is seeking input on this from any interested parties prior to its review in November 2006.

Granting Exemptions to the Self-Contained Requirement for Veterinary Facilities

The full document is available at www.cvo.org under “**Regulatory Consultations**” or can be obtained by calling the CVO office. Please forward your comments by **August 11, 2006** to:

Mr. **Martin Fischer**
College of Veterinarians of Ontario
2106 Gordon Street, Guelph, ON N1L 1G6
email: policy@cvo.org
Fax: 888-662-9479 or 519-824-6497

What Constitutes the Practice of Veterinary Medicine?

At its April 12, 2006 meeting, the Executive Committee of the College was asked to consider what constituted the practice of veterinary medicine with respect to:

- Artificial Insemination
- Animal behaviour counselling
- Thermography
- Hyperbaric Oxygen Chambers
- Dental cleaning and scaling without anesthesia

In the case of artificial insemination and animal behaviour counselling, the committee was asked to consider whether veterinarians who offer services which may, in some circumstances, be undertaken by non-veterinarians, must perform those services from an accredited facility, where those are the only services that the veterinarian intends to offer.

The committee considered that when veterinarians perform these services they do so in such a way that they constitute the practice of veterinary medicine. When veterinarians perform these services they perform assessments, give veterinary advice (implicitly or explicitly) and sometimes prescribe drugs. As a professional, a veterinarian is expected to provide a higher level of expertise. Veterinarians can prescribe drugs that a layperson cannot. Given the fact that the veterinarian's professional status will automatically communicate to the public a level of expertise in the subject, and increase the public's expectations with respect to the service, that veterinarian must be subject to oversight from the College. Part of that oversight includes practicing from an accredited facility.

With respect to Thermography and Hyperbaric Oxygen Chambers, the committee was of the view

that either procedure could be provided to the public by laypeople, so long as:

1. There is no examination, assessment or diagnosis offered or undertaken.
2. There are no claims made that the person is providing therapy, a treatment or the device has curative properties.
3. Any necessary sedation must be provided by a licensed veterinarian who would remain on-site to ensure the health and welfare of the animal (in which case the veterinarian, the operator of the device and the client have clear understanding of the nature and limits of the roles of each participant).
4. The results of any diagnostic testing must be provided to the client's regular veterinarian for interpretation.

Finally, the committee considered inquiries concerning the legality of providing cleaning and scaling of the teeth of companion animals without anesthetic.

The College considers scaling and cleaning of animals' teeth, beyond simple brushing, to constitute dentistry and falls within the scope of practice of veterinary medicine, and as such, may only be performed by a licensed veterinarian, or an auxiliary under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian. Members should conduct themselves accordingly.

The American Veterinary Dental College recommends that all dental treatments be performed under anesthesia to ensure a complete and safe dental examination and cleaning.

Veterinary Biologics

Importation of Veterinary Biologics

by Ann West, DVM, Veterinary Biologics Veterinarian - Operations, CFIA

The manufacture and importation of veterinary biologics in Canada is regulated by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) under the authority of the *Health of Animals Act and Regulations*. Veterinary biologics include veterinary vaccines, diagnostic tests for the diagnosis of animal infectious diseases and antibody products with label claims to treat or prevent any infectious disease of animals.

Veterinary biologics are regulated to ensure that the products used in animals in Canada are safe, effective, pure and potent. All manufacturers of approved veterinary biologics that are allowed to be licensed and imported for use in Canada must first provide detailed information about the effectiveness, safety and manufacturing to the CFIA-Veterinary Biologics Section (VBS) for careful assessment and review by scientific experts. CFIA veterinary inspectors also conduct on-site inspection of manufacturing facilities as part of this review process.

Requirement for an Import Permit

A significant number of animal vaccines and diagnostic kits used in Canada are imported from other countries including the United States, Europe, Australia and New Zealand. These foreign manufacturers must demonstrate that they utilize appropriate facilities and expertise to manufacture veterinary biologics to

conform with Canadian licensing requirements. The country of origin must also have the required animal disease freedom and/or surveillance systems to meet Canadian import requirements for animal products and veterinary biologics.

The importation of any veterinary biologic into Canada requires a valid import permit issued by the CFIA - VBS in Ottawa. There is no exemption from the import permit requirement for small shipments, “personal use” or for emergency or research use. (Reference *Health of Animals Regulations* Part XI Veterinary Biologics, Section 121.(1) “No person shall import a veterinary biologic into Canada unless he does so under and in accordance with a permit issued by the Minister”.)

Commercial Import Permits

Commercial import permits are only issued by the CFIA-VBS (Ottawa) for products which are registered/licensed for use in Canada. For a list of veterinary biological products licensed for use in Canada (please note that this list may not be completely up-to-date) see the following web link: <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/anima/vetbio/prod/prode.shtml>.

Emergency & Research Use Import Permits

Under certain special circumstances, Canadian veterinarians may apply to CFIA-VBS for a permit to import veterinary biologics which are unlicensed in Canada, for use under

the importing veterinarian’s supervision, in research or emergency situations. Applications to import unlicensed products are reviewed on a case-by-case basis to either allow or refuse the importation, after a review of the rationale for use submitted by the importing veterinarian and evaluation of specified minimum product information. The permit will specify conditions and requirements based on a risk assessment of the product and its proposed use. This provision is restricted to specific serials in the case of injectable products. Imported products must be shipped directly from the manufacturer, and used under the supervision of the importing veterinarian.

In a covering letter sent with the application and appropriate fee, the importing veterinarian must briefly explain the rationale for importing and using unlicensed product in Canada by providing the following information:

1. The name and address of the farm(s) for which the product is being imported.
2. The history of the disease situation. The incidence of disease on the farm(s). Test results of the affected animals on those farms. Information on other vaccines/treatments tried, or diagnostic kits used, and the success or failure rate.
3. The reason for deciding to use this imported vaccine or diagnostic kit.

Pets Travelling to Portugal

4. The number of doses or vials, or diagnostic tests or kits to be imported.

The veterinarian's letter must also confirm the following:

1. The product will be used under the supervision of the importing veterinarian.
2. The veterinarian and clients are aware that the product is not licensed and has not been evaluated as a veterinary biologic in Canada and will be used at their own risk.
3. The product is being imported for investigational or emergency use.

All forms and more information concerning the above is available at the following web site: <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/anima/vetbio/info/vb321e.shtml>.

Information concerning import permits and the veterinary biologics program in Ontario may be obtained from the following:

Dr. Ann West

Veterinary Biologics Veterinarian
Veterinary Biologics-Operations-
Ontario
Canadian Food Inspection Agency
118071 Jackson Road, R. R. #5
Owen Sound, ON N4K 5N7
Telephone: (519) 371-4272
Facsimile: (519) 371-7047
E-mail: westa@inspection.gc.ca

Veterinary Drugs

Frequently there is confusion regarding the regulation of veterinary drugs. This information is being provided to attempt to clarify the regulation of these drugs and re-direct enquiries concerning these products.

Veterinary drugs (which are assigned a DIN or Drug Identification Number) are primarily regulated by the Veterinary Drugs Directorate (VDD) of Health Canada, under the authority of the *Food & Drugs Act and Regulations*.

An Emergency Drug Release is an authorization, under the provisions of Sections C.08.010 and C.08.011 of the Food & Drug Regulations, to permit the manufacturer of a new drug to sell a limited quantity of the new drug to a veterinary practitioner.* The new drug is one which is not marketed in Canada and is requested by the practitioner for the purpose of diagnosing or treating a medical emergency in a patient under his or her care.

More information concerning emergency drug release is available on the VDD website at http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/vet/index_e.html.

*'Practitioner' means a person who is registered and entitled under the laws of a province to practice the profession of veterinary medicine.

PETS TRAVELLING TO PORTUGAL

This is information for veterinarians whose clients are taking their pets with them to Portugal.

The Consulate of Portugal, since August 24, 2005, has required that the health certificate for a pet be accompanied by an original Letter of Standing from the CVO for the veterinarian who signed the health certificate. These documents must be presented at the Consulate of Portugal before a pet is allowed on the aircraft (call the Consulate re: the time frame for the health certificate).

The pet owner can contact Ms. **Karen Gamble** at 1-800-424-2856 ext. 2228 to request the letter of standing. They provide the veterinarian's name and a Visa or MasterCard number for the fee of \$10.00 plus GST. The letter can be mailed, picked up, or sent by courier for an additional charge (currently \$3.36).

Export Certification

In August of 2005, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) announced that cattle destined for export to the U.S. had to be separated by sex for 50 days (revised January 12, 2006 to 60) prior to pregnancy inspection. Approval for export certification was dependant on the cattle being confirmed "open" by a CFIA accredited veterinarian. The U.S. government indicated they would enforce a zero tolerance for pregnancies in heifers.

Failure to meet the accredited veterinarian export certification functions is a serious matter and jeopardizes the integrity of Canadian exports to the U.S. and the international recognition and acceptance of CFIA's Accredited Veterinarian Program.

Diagnosis of pregnancy either by manual or ultrasonic examination is a precise science. Under the current CFIA requirements, there is no room

for error, individual interpretation, or outside variables not within the veterinarian's control. CFIA requires a decisive interpretation: the decision is black or white i.e. pregnant or open. The CVO has been made aware of many variables which exist throughout the process over which the veterinarian may have little or no control.

Some practitioners have elected not to perform this service because of the rules set out by CFIA and the difficulty in controlling the variables.

If you wish to continue to provide this service, be cautioned that should you be found to be in non-compliance with the Accredited Veterinary Agreement, your accreditation for export may be removed and the entire industry could be compromised.

CVO e-news

Have you signed up for the CVO electronic newsletter? To sign up go to the CVO website (www.cvo.org).

Professionals Health Program

Confidential toll-free line:
1-800-851-6606

Update, the official publication of the College of Veterinarians of Ontario, is the principle means of communication between the College and its members. It is the primary means of informing the membership on regulatory issues, with the expectation that members will govern themselves accordingly. *Update* is charged with the responsibility of providing comprehensive, accurate and defensible information.

Phone: 519-824-5600
Ontario toll free: 1-800-424-2856
Fax: 519-824-6497
Ontario toll free: 1-888-662-9479
email: inquiries@cvo.org
website: www.cvo.org

acting editor: Ms. Beth Ready

Publication mail agreement Number: 40583010