



THE COLLEGE OF
VETERINARIANS
OF ONTARIO

UPDATE

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visit the CVO website at
www.cvo.org

December 2005

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Veterinary Skills, Training and Enhancement Program (VSTEP)

Soon to be a reality

The College of Veterinarians of Ontario, the Ontario Veterinary College / University of Guelph and the Ontario Veterinary Medical Association working in partnership and with the Ministries of Training, Colleges and Universities and Citizenship and Immigration have established the Veterinary Skills, Training and Enhancement Program (VSTEP). This program is primarily focused on internationally trained veterinarians.

VSTEP is designed to build on existing skills and qualifications while assessing needs such as academic knowledge and clinical skills that may be required and providing upgrading, re-training and remediation opportunities. In addition, there will be an orientation to the Ontario workplace. After successful completion of the North American Veterinary Licencing Examination (NAVLE), candidates are eligible to enroll in VSTEP. Upon successful completion of VSTEP and while waiting to take the Clinical Proficiency Examination (CPE), participants will have an opportunity to apply for a restricted licence until completion of the CPE.

Funding for VSTEP is from the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration. The three partners are very pleased with the support from the Ontario Government and are convinced that this exciting program will prove to be of major benefit to the public served by the veterinary profession.

Deputy Registrar leaving CVO

Deputy Registrar to spearhead new initiative



Dr. Alec Martin

Taking a proactive approach from one post to another

Six years. That's usually the maximum term for Council members and other appointments at the CVO. Ironically, it's also the time that Dr. **Alec Martin** has spent as the CVO's deputy registrar - a challenging and rewarding role that has equipped him well for the next journey in his career.

In November, Dr. Martin left the CVO to head up the development and implementation of the Veterinary Skills, Training and Enhancement Program (VSTEP) - an initiative designed to assist foreign-trained veterinarians develop the needed skills to become competent, successful members of the profession in Ontario. And with a background that includes 15 years as a mixed-animal practitioner and, now, six years at the regulatory college, Dr. Martin is uniquely suited for the job.

"I'm familiar with the ins and outs of practice as well as the challenges and issues surrounding the regulatory environment," says Dr. Martin. "Specifically, the experience I've gained with the licensing procedures for foreign-trained veterinarians has prepared me to now assist candidates through the process to reach more positive outcomes."

As the CVO's deputy registrar, Dr. Martin has been a "voice of regulation", responding to members' questions about regulatory issues. He's been a resource for the complaints, accreditation and discipline committees and a key contributor to the College's policy review and development activities.

Dr. Martin has felt privileged to be a part of the CVO's great strides towards becoming increasingly supportive of its members over the last six years. For example, more frequent use of pre-hearing conferences has streamlined the disciplinary process while increased responsiveness to the changing realities of veterinary practice have resulted in more comprehensive accreditation procedures and policies. He has also been an enthusiastic supporter of the recently introduced Quality Assurance programs for members of the profession.

Having been instrumental in the progressive steps like these and many others, Dr. Martin continues to advocate for an increasingly proactive approach to regulation and will carry that approach to the VSTEP.

Above all, it has been the interaction with members, staff, Council, stakeholders and others that have crossed his path that has allowed him to thrive over the years. And it is those interactions that he'll miss the most.

Registrar, Dr. **Barbara Leslie**, says Dr. Martin will be missed in return. His interpretation of the regulatory world, with a solid practical background to anchor his input, has been invaluable, she says, adding that his long-term envisioning of the profession has contributed to the CVO's continuing efforts to position itself as a proactive enabler.

"His hard work, sense of humour and many contributions have made him an absolute pleasure to work with," says Dr. Leslie. "His involvement with the VSTEP will bring great things to the program."

Looking forward to the next chapter in his career, Dr. Martin reflects on his great appreciation for the profession to which he has devoted himself. The self-regulating profession has a lot to be proud of, he says.

"When you're focused on the outcomes of complaints and discipline hearings, you sometimes forget how great the profession is," says Dr. Martin. "But the reality is that the profession is doing a great job - we're just trying to help it do an even better job."

Student Corner

by Tanya Fournier



Greetings! Welcome to the first article from the OVC Student Representative on the CVO council. I am pleased to provide this column to help to keep the veterinary profession updated on the involvement of the CVO with student veterinarians and to create a closer link between practising veterinarians, the CVO, and the student body at the OVC.

Recent events that I would like to highlight are the guest appearance of the Deputy Registrar, Dr. **Alec Martin**, in the Phase II Art of Veterinary Medicine lecture and the Welcome Ceremony hosted for the incoming Phase I students.

On September 15th, Dr. Martin was invited as a guest lecturer to discuss communication in veterinary medicine as it relates to complaints submitted by clients. His theories were presented based on his role as a regulator involved with complaints and discipline and on fifteen years of experience spent in practice. Topics included the communication pitfalls that frequently lead to troubles with clients, how these troubles lead to investigations by regulators, what the root causes of

these communication pitfalls are and how they include some of the more popular practice management teachings. Communication is vital to the practice of veterinary medicine and student veterinarians here at OVC are privileged to be a part of such an innovative course within the DVM program.

On September 21st, CVO's Registrar, Dr. **Barbara Leslie** welcomed the Phase I students into the DVM program at the annual "The Profession Welcomes You" ceremony. This year it was held in War Memorial Hall which was full of family and friends of the newest students of the OVC. The ceremony, hosted by Dr. **Peter Conlon**, included speeches of welcome by OVC **Dean Stone** and representatives of the OVMA, the CVMA, the OVC Alumni Association and from Dr. Leslie of the CVO. Dr. Leslie and I enjoyed meeting all of the students when we distributed CVO's gift to the students: a professional standards binder embossed with the CVO logo and each student's name. The binders are designed to be a central location to store all important CVO documents including the legislation and policies.

Please look for my next article appearing in the March issue.



(Above): group photo of Phase I students

(Right): Dr. Barbara Leslie welcomes her daughter Christy, a Phase I student, to the profession



Regulatory Consultations

Regulatory Consultation Documents Available for Comment

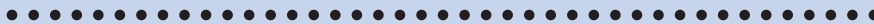
The following three existing draft **Position Statements** are available on the CVO website for comment. The CVO Council is seeking input on these from any interested parties prior to final consideration.

Ophthalmic Screening Programs

Congenital Deafness Screening Programs for Companion Animals

Cardiac Screening Programs

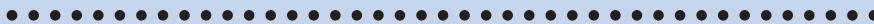
Please forward your comments by **January 15, 2006**.



The following draft **Guideline** is being circulated again based on feedback received from stakeholders. The CVO Council is seeking input on these from any interested parties prior to final consideration.

Medical Records for Companion Animals

Please forward your comments by **January 15, 2006**.

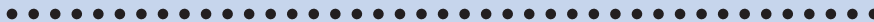


The following two **Position Statements** were approved by Council in June 2004 and were made available for comment at that time. The position statements are now due for review. The CVO Council is seeking input on these from any interested parties prior to its review in June 2006.

Position Statement on Licensure of Veterinarians in Emergency Situations

Position Statement on Delegating to Auxiliaries in Food Animal & Equine Practice

Please forward your comments by **March 1, 2006**.



The full documents are available at www.cvo.org under "Regulatory Consultations" or can be obtained by calling the CVO office. Please forward your comments to:

Mr. Art Sinclair
College of Veterinarians of Ontario
2106 Gordon Street
Guelph, ON N1L 1G6
Email: asinclair@cvo.org
Fax: 888-662-9479 or 519-824-6497

Council Bulletin / OVMA Conference

Council Meeting: September 28, 2005

- Received activity reports from statutory committees, the President and the Registrar.
 - Amended and accepted the Budget for 2005-2006.
 - Held a second reading on the draft **Guideline: Ordering, Performing and Interpreting Laboratory Tests in Veterinary Clinical Practice**, and returned it to staff for amendment.
 - Amended and accepted in principle the draft **Guideline: Medical Records for Companion Animals**, and directed staff to circulate the draft for consultation (see CVO website under Regulatory Consultations).
 - Amended and approved the **Position Statement: Animal Rehabilitation in Veterinary Practice** and directed that it be published (enclosed with this issue of *Update*).
 - Amended and accepted in principle the draft **Position Statements: Ophthalmic Screening Programs, Cardiac Screening Programs and Congenital Deafness Screening Programs for Companion Animals** and directed staff to circulate the drafts for consultation (see CVO website under Regulatory Consultations).
 - Decided that the CVO Public Award will not be awarded for 2005.
 - Approved the amended **Strategic Plan 2005 and Beyond**.
 - Approved proposed by-law amendments to be presented to the membership for confirmation at the Annual General Meeting **January 18, 2006** (see pages 6 and 7).
 - Appointed Dr. **Mark Gemmill** and Dr. **Peter Villhauer** as Deputy Returning Officers for the Council election to be held October 4, 2005.
 - Deferred appointment of a Working Group of Council to conduct Monitoring Reports in accordance with Board Governance Policies to permit further research.
 - Considered a request from the Ontario Veterinary Medical Association that the College support a regulatory amendment that would extend the right of non-voting shareholder ownership of veterinary professional corporations to family members of veterinarians. Council was not convinced that the proposal was consistent with the public interest mandate of the College but agreed to take a neutral position as long as the regulatory concerns were adequately addressed.
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OVMA Conference January 26-28, 2006

The Ontario Veterinary Medical Association is holding its annual conference and trade show at the Westin Harbour Castle Hotel in Toronto, Ontario. The conference program will feature concurrent sessions on bovine, equine, small animals, public health, practice management, and hospital personnel. There will be special registration fees for out-of-province delegates.

For further information, contact **Christine Neziol**, Delegate Coordinator, Ontario Veterinary Medical Association, 245 Commercial Street, Milton, Ontario, L9T 2J3, toll free telephone (800) 670-1702, toll free fax (877) 482-5941, or email cneziol@ovma.org.

By-laws

Proposed By-law Amendments

Council approved the following proposed By-law amendments on September 28, 2005 to be presented to the membership at the Annual General Meeting on **January 18, 2006**.

(Underlined words are additions and ~~strike-throughs~~ are deletions from the existing text of the By-laws).

Constitution

23.-(1) There are hereby established the following committees, should council be of the opinion that they would be of assistance for each upcoming year, additional to those established by the Act:

1. Communications Committee,
2. Education Committee,
3. Finance Committee,
4. Nominating Committee.

(2) Where one or more vacancies occur in the membership of a committee, the committee members remaining in office constitute the committee so long as their number is not fewer than the prescribed quorum.

(3) Unless otherwise prescribed by law or this by-law, the council ~~shall~~ may appoint the members of each committee and a convener for each committee.

(4) The executive committee may and, if necessary for ~~a committee to achieve its quorum, shall~~ fill any vacancies which occur in the membership of a committee.

(5) Every appointment to a committee automatically expires at the annual meeting of the council which occurs next after the appointment.

Procedure

24.-(1) Each committee that has been appointed shall meet from time to time at the direction of the council or the executive committee or the call of its chairman or convener at a place in Ontario or by electronic means, date and time designated by the chairman or convener.

Finance Committee

27.-(2) The finance committee, where one has been appointed, shall review and report to the executive committee regarding the financial affairs and position of the college.

Nominating Committee

28.(4) The nominating committee shall,
(b) make recommendations to the ~~annual~~ council meeting through the executive committee regarding the members and convenors of each committee, and...

Banking

29.-(4) The registrar, the deputy registrar or other staff persons appointed by the registrar for the purpose may endorse any negotiable instrument for collection on account of the college through the bank or for deposit to the credit of the college with the bank, and the college's rubber stamp may be used for such endorsement.

Expenses

31.(1) Each year the council shall approve a budget for the operations of the college. Subject to a budget approved by the executive committee, the registrar may authorize the purchase or lease of goods or facilities, and the obtaining of services, for the benefit of the college.

31.(2) The registrar shall administer the finances of the college in accordance with the annual budget and council policies including, subject to subsection (3), determining the remuneration to be paid to employees of the college. Subject to a budget approved by the executive committee, the registrar shall determine the remuneration to be paid to employees of the college who are not designated as officers of the college.

31.(3) The executive committee shall determine the remuneration to be paid to the registrar officers of the college.

31.(4) The registrar, the deputy registrar or other staff persons appointed by the registrar for the purpose ~~of both the chief administrative assistant and the co-ordinator of the finance committee together~~, may sign cheques in payment of expenses of the college incurred in according with this section. Two signatures are required for each cheque. The registrar may establish internal administrative policies for the signing of cheques.

Borrowing

34.(4) The registrar or the deputy registrar may sign documents to implement a decision made under subsection (1) or subsection (3).

Documents

36.-(2) Unless otherwise provided by law or this by-law, a document of the college shall be signed by:

(a) the registrar and one of the president or vice-president if the document has financial implications greater than \$25,000 for the college, and

(b) the registrar, the deputy registrar or other staff persons appointed by the registrar for the purpose if the document has no financial implications for the college or the financial implications are for \$25,000 or less.

Deputy Registrar

38.-(1) A person hired by the registrar whom the council has appointed as a deputy registrar shall discharge the duties of the registrar during the absence, disability, or vacancy in the office, of the registrar.

(2) Where no person has been appointed by the council as a deputy registrar, the executive committee shall, in the event of the absence, disability, or vacancy in the office, of the registrar, appoint a person to act as registrar.

Membership

39.(1) The college shall maintain membership in the American Association of Veterinary State Boards of the United States, and shall pay the annual fee for the membership.

~~(2) The registrar and a member of the council appointed by the council shall represent the college at meetings of the American Association of Veterinary State Boards.~~

~~(3)~~ (2) The college shall maintain representation on the National Examining Board of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association and shall pay the annual assessment for the same.

~~(4) A member of the registration committee appointed by the council shall represent the college at meetings of the National Examining Board of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association."~~

Ketamine

The College has received a notice from Health Canada in regards to the classification of ketamine. Ketamine is an analogue of phencyclidine and as such is regulated under the Controlled Drug and Substances Act and the Narcotic Control Regulations. Despite the fact that this product is currently listed under Schedule 1 of the Food and Drug Act, it must be treated in the same fashion as any other controlled or narcotic substances. There is also a requirement to safely store this product in a locked environment.

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.

Did this veterinarian fail to respond appropriately to the cat's condition?

Background:

Ms. Owner presented her cat, Tuffy, to Dr. X because of her concern that he was listless and breathing with difficulty. Following his examination, Dr. X recommended that Tuffy be admitted for radiographs and blood tests, to which Ms. Owner agreed. The radiographs revealed findings consistent with mild pulmonary edema. Tuffy was discharged to his owner's care about 2 hours later with dispensed medication and instructions for Ms. Owner to take him to the area emergency clinic if he worsened overnight.

Tuffy's breathing worsened overnight. The following morning, Ms. Owner took Tuffy to Dr. A at another veterinary facility. Tuffy was euthanized that same morning by Dr. A.

Ms. Owner subsequently filed a complaint with the College, alleging that:

Dr. X gravely underestimated Tuffy's condition, in that he failed to recognize that Tuffy should not have been sent home, but should have been placed in a hospital emergency environment.

Decision and Reasons:

The Committee considered Ms. Owner's allegation that Dr. X "underestimated" the severity of Tuffy's condition, and should have hospitalized him overnight rather than sending him home.

*"...Dr. X
"underestimated" the
severity of Tuffy's
condition, and should
have hospitalized him
overnight..."*

The submissions and medical records provided evidence that Tuffy, a 2 year old, neutered male cat, was presented to Dr. X at about 4:00 p.m. on a weekday afternoon with the reported concern of "heavy breathing" apparent since that morning. Tuffy had not previously been seen at Dr. X's facility, but his owner reported there was no history of medical problems.

Dr. X submitted that on

examination, Tuffy did exhibit "an increase in respiratory effort", but appeared adequately oxygenated on room air, and his breathing did not worsen with the stress of a physical examination and positioning for radiographs.

The Committee reviewed the medical records, which indicated that a thorough examination had been performed and included the findings that Tuffy had an elevated respiratory rate, pink mucous membranes, and "mild abdominal breathing". On auscultation, there were increased respiratory sounds but no discernible heart murmur. Dr. X documented his assessment that Tuffy was "in m1 [mild] respiratory dyspnea", and advised radiographs and blood tests. Based on the radiographs, he diagnosed "mild pulmonary edema" secondary to a yet undetermined primary disease process. He considered allergic lung disease, bacterial, viral and parasitic pneumonia, neoplasia, and heart disease as possible primary conditions.

Dr. X submitted further that he decided to treat Tuffy conservatively and send him home pending the blood test results,

Complaints Case / By-election

which would be available the following morning. He administered an injection of dexamethasone, and dispensed antibiotics, theophylline and prednisone. He advised that Tuffy receive “absolute rest” overnight, and provided Ms. Owner with the telephone number of the emergency clinic and a map, with the instructions that Tuffy was to be taken there should he worsen overnight.

Following its review of the medical records and radiographs, the Committee determined that this evidence supported Dr. X’s assessment that Tuffy’s degree of respiratory compromise was mild, and did not

support the view that Dr. X “gravely underestimated” the severity of his condition. On this basis, the Committee concluded it was not unreasonable for Dr. X to elect a conservative approach and send Tuffy home with medication rather than advising overnight hospitalization. Dr. X’s explicit instructions to Ms. Owner to attend an emergency clinic should Tuffy worsen overnight (instructions Ms. Owner acknowledged were provided) indicated he recognized Tuffy could deteriorate. The Committee accordingly elected to take no action with respect to Ms. Owner’s allegation.

CVO to hold a By-election in Constituency #1

Due to the resignation of Dr. Sheila Etue, the CVO will hold a by-election on **Tuesday, February 14, 2006** in **Constituency #1** to complete the term of office which is due to expire at the 2007 Annual Council Meeting as per section 13.-(3)(4) of the By-laws which states:

(3) Where a councillor dies or resigns or his or her office otherwise becomes vacant before the expiry of his or her term of office under subsection 4(2), the president shall declare the councillor's office to be vacant, and

(a) where the unexpired term of the councillor whose office became vacant does not exceed one year, the council shall appoint for the constituency of the councillor a successor from among the members who reside in the constituency, or

(b) where the unexpired term of the councillor whose office became vacant exceeds one year, the registrar shall hold a by-election for the constituency of the councillor in accordance with this Part.

(4) A by-election to fill a vacancy on the council shall be held on the first Tuesday following seventy calendar days from the declaration of the vacancy or where, in the opinion of the registrar, an election on that date is infeasible, on the first Tuesday thereafter that is feasible for an election in the registrar's opinion.

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.

Up-Dates (August 16 - November 4, 2005)

The College welcomes the following new registrants between August 16, 2005 and November 4, 2005. The list also indicates licence type as follows:

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

Dr. Agnes Agunos	R	Dr. Daniel Lindquist	G
Dr. Natalie Beck	G	Dr. Jodi Maki	G
Dr. Shiv Bishnoi	G	Dr. Rachel Malamed	G
Dr. Veronique Blais	G	Dr. Carlos Medina	PGR
Dr. Grigory Brodetsky	G	Dr. Rameshbhai Patel	G
Dr. Safi Chand	G	Dr. Rolando Quesada	PGR
Dr. Bikram Dayed	G	Dr. Ramanjit Randhawa	G
Dr. Jose Diaz	G	Dr. Ann Rankin-Burkart	G
Dr. Tara Edwards	G	Dr. Alejandro Rey	G
Dr. Colette Elmas	PGR	Dr. Rebecca Ritchie	G
Dr. Bhan Garg	G	Dr. Amanda Robinson	G
Dr. Albert Guirguis	G	Dr. Catalina Roman	G
Dr. Ervin Harxhi	G	Dr. Luis Rubio-Martinez	PGR
Dr. Kimberley Hawkes	G	Dr. Lisa Sepesy	G
Dr. Fatima Hussein	G	Dr. Sukhpal Singh	A
Dr. Renee Jones	G	Dr. Cajup Sulko	G
Dr. Jens Koerner	PGR		

The following is a list of new corporations.

New Corporations

Barrhaven Veterinary Hospital Professional Corporation	Dr. L. Guitard Professional Corporation
Bastian Veterinary Professional Corporation	Dr. Marie Surprenant Professional Corporation
Brookfield Veterinary Hospital Professional Corporation	Innisfil Veterinary Professional Corporation
Clark Animal Hospital Professional Corporation	Josephson Veterinary Professional Corporation
Cottage Country Animal Clinic Professional Corporation	Linda Sommers Professional Corporation
Dr. C. Ringelberg Professional Corporation	Robert Blackburn Professional Corporation
	Sunset Strip Veterinary Professional Corporation
	W. K. Foster Veterinary Professional Corporation

Up-dates (August 16 - November 4, 2005)

The following is a list of new and closed veterinary facilities.

New Facilities

Animal Hospital of East Barrie

Category: Companion Animal Hospital
Director: Dr. Trish O'Sullivan

Balsara Veterinary Mobile Services

Category: Companion Animal Mobile
Director: Dr. Khorshed Balsara

Harwood Pet Hospital

Category: Companion Animal Hospital
Director: Dr. Marvelle Mootoo

Island City Animal Hospital

Category: Companion Animal Hospital
Director: Dr. Paul O'Neill

Muldrew Lake Veterinary Services

Category: Food Producing Animal Mobile
Director: Dr. Kelli Drost

Northwestern Veterinary Hospital

Category: Companion Animal Hospital
Director: Dr. Jacob Hansen

Richard Gryff-Chamski, D.V.M.

Category: Equine Mobile
Director: Dr. Richard Gryff-Chamski

Salem Road Animal Hospital

Category: Companion Animal Hospital
Director: Dr. Kulwinder Gill

Seeley's Bay Animal Hospital

Category: Companion Animal Hospital
Director: Dr. Tracy Decaire

Swansea House Calls for Pets

Category: Companion Animal Mobile
Director: Dr. Branislav Kukic

Thicketwood Veterinary Services

Category: Companion Animal Office
Director: Dr. Christopher Elson

Closed Facilities

Algoma Park Animal Clinic

Category: Companion Animal Hospital
Director: Dr. Jacob Hansen

Cross Roads Animal Clinic

Category: Companion Animal Hospital
Director: Dr. Jacob Hansen

Dr. Judith A. Senior

Category: Food Producing Animal Mobile
Director: Dr. Judith Senior

Linda Hack D.V.M.

Category: Companion Animal Mobile
Director: Dr. Linda Hack

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.

Auld, Jack (Barton) (OVC 1951)

Fischer, John Alexander (OVC 1946)

Mollison, Lloyd George (OVC 1941)

Morgan, Timothy Charles (OVC 1972)

Ochalski, Jan Peter (OVC 1957)

Pope, David C. (LON 1959)

Terrill, Susan Anne (OVC 1978)

continued on next page...

Up-dates (August 16 - November 4, 2005)

The following veterinarians are no longer licensed in Ontario.

Dr. Antonio Dearo
Dr. Catherine Fjordbakk
Dr. Trent Gall

Dr. Jeremy Orr
Dr. William Schilthuis

*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.*

REMINDER - OFFICIAL REGISTER

In 2006, the list of members on the website will be expanded and will become the official public register of the College. This means it will include a complete list of all members and all the required information regarding members.

Please note that if you do not have a business address and do not wish the public register to contain your home address, you may wish to provide a post office box or other reliable contact address which would then be included in the register.

CVO DIRECTORY

The CVO Directory will be available on paper in the spring of 2006 and one copy mailed to all accredited practices. Additional copies will be available on CD. Please advise the CVO by fax (519-824-6497 or toll free 888-662-9479) or email (inquiries@cvo.org) if you would like to receive the CD.

The facility list is available on the CVO website and is updated weekly.

CVO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, January 18, 2006

at the
College of Veterinarians of Ontario
2106 Gordon Street, Guelph, Ontario

Coffee and Refreshments: 3:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Meeting Convenes: 3:30 p.m.

Registration

To register call the CVO office by January 6, 2006
(519) 824-5600 / (800) 424-2856
or email bready@cvo.org

The meeting agenda will include consideration of any by-laws, report of the CVO Council, acceptance of the financial statements and the appointment of auditors.

Members who wish to receive a copy of the minutes from last year's AGM may contact the CVO office with their request. A limited number of copies will be available at the meeting.

Membership Renewals 2006

The annual membership renewal forms were mailed in mid-October. If you have not received your form, please contact **Karen Gamble** at the CVO to avoid the \$100 late payment penalty or cancellation of your licence for non-payment.

Remember to complete the annual renewal form and continuing education form and return the renewal form with your fee payment.

Rabies Policy

Rabies Policy Changes

by Les Kumor, DVM

Acting Senior Staff Veterinarian, Ottawa

Re: Management of Pets Exposed to Rabies-Suspect or Rabies-Confirmed Animals

On September 1, 2005, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's (CFIA) rabies policy changed with regard to the management of primary vaccinated, vaccinated, and non-vaccinated pets exposed to rabies-suspect or rabies-confirmed animals.

The following is a brief summary of the changes relating to the involvement of private veterinarians.

The new policy applies only to domestic pets - dogs, cats and ferrets - and provides the owners of vaccinated and primary vaccinated pets with the option of having the pet re-vaccinated, in addition to the previously available options of quarantine or euthanasia. The new policy encourages rabies re-vaccination by the owner's private veterinary practitioner at the owner's expense. Only in situations where re-vaccination by the private veterinarian is not possible will the CFIA veterinary inspector provide this service on a cost-recovery basis (\$60 plus applicable taxes). Formerly re-vaccinations were performed by CFIA veterinarians at no cost to the owner.

The new policy also provides owners of vaccinated pets with the option of having the pet tested to determine its rabies neutralizing antibody (RNA) titre. Collecting the blood sample and submitting it to the Kansas State Rabies Laboratory will be conducted by private veterinarians at the owner's expense. This option was made available at the request of pet owners.

To qualify for either of the options described above, the rabies re-vaccination or blood sample collection for RNA testing must be within five days of confirmed or suspected rabies exposure.

The CFIA will place successfully re-vaccinated pets, as well as those whose titre is found to be adequate, under the 45-day owner's observation period. The pets for which re-vaccination or blood collection can not be accomplished within the prescribed five-day period will be subject to a three-month quarantine. If the RNA titre is found not to be adequate, the pet will be considered non-vaccinated and managed accordingly.

The new policy also removes the requirement for non-vaccinated pets to be vaccinated by a CFIA veterinarian, at no charge to the owner, at the end of a six-month quarantine period. The CFIA will now recommend vaccination at the end of the quarantine period by a private veterinary practitioner at the owner's expense.

The new policy provides owners whose pets have been exposed to rabid animals with more options. It eliminates the need for quarantining pets that have current vaccinations, strengthens responsible animal ownership, and ensures equitable service delivery across all provinces.

For further details on the CFIA's new rabies policy, please contact your nearest Animal Health District Office.

Animal Rehabilitation in Veterinary Practice

You will find enclosed with this issue of *Update* a Position Statement which has been approved by Council. The Position Statement is posted on the CVO website at www.cvo.org under Communications - Council Publications.

Ontario a leader in veterinary quality assurance



Dr. Jim Sweetman

Veterinarian applauds CVO programs

When it comes to assuring quality in the veterinary profession, says a Windsor-based veterinarian, Ontario is a North American leader.

Dr. **Jim Sweetman** - this year celebrating his 25th year in the profession - is a small animal practice owner in Windsor. He has experienced first hand the impact of the CVO to help veterinarians to meet ever-rising public expectations.

Continuing Education

Continuing education is essential, he says, to help veterinarians remain abreast of the latest technologies and procedures. This is supported by the CVO's commitment to its quality assurance programs, he adds, having participated in them himself over the years. And he's seen positive results in his clinic.

"We've gained the tools to refine our medical recording procedures and make them more efficient and more effective," says Dr. Sweetman. "They're

clean, thorough and accurate - and that ensures better diagnosis and treatment for our patients and greater satisfaction for their owners."

Medical Records Workshops

The CVO's medical records workshops have provided Dr. Sweetman and his clinic staff with tools such as protocols and procedure templates that save them time yet help them maintain more thorough records. The workshops also introduced them to the ease of electronic records, which have since been implemented in the clinic.

Peer Review Program

Participation in the peer review program has enabled Dr. Sweetman to submit his medical records and receive feedback from a trained peer group on how to better maintain his medical records. Having undergone two peer reviews to date, he has seen a noticeable improvement in his clinic's recording procedures.

"Our medical records reflect on us as a clinic," says Sweetman. "Requests for file transfers to other clinics are common, and excellent continuing patient care relies on accurate interpretation of the patient's medical history. Pet owners expect and deserve nothing less."

Dr. Sweetman sees public expectations for the veterinary profession continuing to increase. "Clients are better educated, and with the Internet leading an information revolution, they can and will challenge us regularly," he says. But, believing that the best client is an educated client, Dr. Sweetman offers that the CVO's quality assurance programs work, and serve as an effective model for other jurisdictions to continue to raise the bar for the profession.

Medical Record Workshops



Attendees at the Windsor workshop

The College held four interactive medical record workshops in November. They were held in Windsor, Mississauga, New Liskeard and Pembroke.

Additional workshops will be held in March 2006. Please see the list below of upcoming workshops and take advantage of the opportunity when CVO comes to a location near you.



Attendees at the Mississauga workshop

Upcoming Spring Medical Record Workshops

Please see below a list of upcoming medical record workshops. Practices in the geographical area of a scheduled workshop will be notified by mail but all workshops are open to practices across the province. The entire practice care team is invited to attend and participate. While there is no registration fee, participants must pre-register since group size is limited. Please contact Ms. **Anita Stephenson** at extension 2237 or email astephenson@cvo.org.

Date	Location
March 6, 2006	Kingston
March 7, 2006	Ottawa
March 8, 2006	Peterborough
March 13, 2006	Toronto
March 14, 2006	London
March 20, 2006	Sault Ste. Marie

Council and Executive



(From left): Dr. Al Thompson and Dr. David Kerr

Welcome two new Council Members

The College welcomes two new council members: Dr. **David Kerr** and Dr. **Al Thompson**.

Dr. David Kerr is from Bolton, Ontario representing Constituency #12. He is a small animal practitioner and is the owner of North Hill Animal Hospital.

Dr. Al Thompson is from Stouffville, Ontario representing Constituency #10. He is a small animal practitioner and is currently doing locum work.

Executive Committee for 2005/2006

(Front row, from left): Dr. Michele Dutnall, Dr. Ed Doering, Dr. Arie Vreugdenhil. (Back row, from left): Dr. Alma Conn and Mr. Doug Walper.



Council for 2005/2006



(Front row, from left): Ms. Tanya Fournier, Mr. Doug Walper, Dr. Michele Dutnall, Dr. Ed Doering, Dr. Arie Vreugdenhil, Dr. Alma Conn. (Back row, from left): Dr. Melody Mason, Dr. Tim Arthur, Dr. Grant Maxie, Dr. Richard Liddell, Dr. David Kerr, Dr. Al Thompson, Mr. Don Stobo, Mr. James Williams and Dr. Lois Valli. (Absent): Dr. James Clark

Discipline Hearing

Summary of Recent Discipline Hearing

Discipline Hearings

The *Veterinarians Act*, section 31.-(1) “Where the Discipline Committee finds a member or former member of the College guilty of professional misconduct or serious neglect, the registrar shall publish the finding...” The name of the member who is subject of the hearing may, or may not, be included depending on the decision of the Discipline Committee panel. Information revealing the names of the witnesses and clients has been removed.

Decisions may be obtained, in full, by contacting **Rose Robinson**, coordinator for Complaints and Discipline, at extension 2227 or email robinson@cvo.org.

Dr. William Schilthuis (*Goderich, Ontario*)

On July 26, 2005 the Discipline Committee met to consider allegations of professional misconduct and serious neglect against Dr. Schilthuis.

Dr. Schilthuis was alleged to have engaged in professional misconduct and/or serious neglect in a number of areas:

- Failing to keep adequate records and provide adequate care
- Failing to measure or record vital signs
- Failing to record drug information
- Failing to properly supervise auxiliaries
- Providing inappropriate dental care
- Providing inappropriate anesthesia during surgery
- Providing inappropriate treatment of enterotoxemia
- Providing inappropriate treatment of suspected hypothyroidism
- Providing inappropriate homeopathic treatment in place of accepted or established veterinary medicine
- Providing inappropriate use of urine dip stick to make inappropriate or inadequate diagnoses, treatment plans and prognoses
- Providing non-indicated use of medication
- Providing inappropriate testing for blood clotting
- Providing inappropriate practice of homeopathy

- Being rude towards a client
- Failing to make an adequate diagnosis
- Failing to maintain the standards of either conventional or homeopathic veterinary medicine
- Allowing an auxiliary to prescribe homeopathic remedies

At the beginning of the hearing, the College and Dr. Schilthuis jointly submitted an Irrevocable Acknowledgment and Undertaking (“the Undertaking”), which contained the following provisions:

- By executing the Irrevocable Acknowledgment and Undertaking, Dr. Schilthuis resigned as a member of the College effective September 30, 2005
- When Dr. Schilthuis’ resignation took effect, his licence to practice veterinary medicine was cancelled and he undertook to tender his licence to the College at that time
- In the event that Dr. Schilthuis wishes to reapply for membership or seek the reinstatement of his membership with the College, he will not do so before October 1, 2007
- Dr. Schilthuis specifically acknowledged section 11 of the Act and undertook not to practice any form of veterinary medicine in Ontario, or hold himself out as a veterinarian

Discipline Hearing / Wildlife Policies

- Dr. Schilthuis consented to the College publishing his name, a description of the allegations contained in the Notices of Hearing, the fact of the withdrawal of the allegations and staying of proceedings in respect of the allegations, the fact of his resignation and the terms of the Irrevocable Acknowledgment and Undertaking in the College's newsletter, *Update*, and to make this information available to the public by including it in the College Register

After hearing submissions from the parties, and deliberating on the matter, the Committee agreed to accept the terms of the settlement set out in the Undertaking.

The Committee ordered that the matter be stayed on the basis set out in the Undertaking. The stay will remain in effect unless Dr. Schilthuis breaches the conditions of the Undertaking.

Ontario Enhances Wildlife Rehabilitation Policies

Changes to Ontario's Wildlife Rehabilitation Program will enhance the standards of care for wildlife undergoing rehabilitation, and enhance the protection of human and wildlife health. Implementation of the enhancements will begin January 1, 2006.

The enhancements include a proficiency level for new custodians, mandatory rabies vector species (RVS) training for all wildlife custodians and new and revised authorization conditions. These conditions include changes to release rules for juvenile wildlife and the allowance of RVS rehabilitation in the rabies High Risk Area.

Authorization requirements for veterinarians have not changed. Veterinarians providing medical care to wildlife do not require an authorization. If a veterinarian is rehabilitating wildlife, then a Wildlife Custodian Authorization is required. Veterinarians

are exempt from the new training requirements, and will be provided with the study materials to use as a resource.

Comments were requested through an Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR) posting early in 2005. Changes were made to the program based on recommendations received from the rehabilitation community.

Please go to the EBR website to view the new Wildlife Custodian policy and procedure, and new conditions of authorization. To access the posting go to the Environmental Commissioner's web page at <http://www.eco.on.ca>, go to the Environmental Registry, and search for EBR posting #PB04E6022. All materials posted to the EBR website in December of 2004 are replaced by these final documents.

Please direct any questions to your local Ministry of Natural Resources district office.

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.

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