Professional Practice Standard

Diagnostic Laboratory Testing

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Introduction

Diagnostic laboratory tests can be a critical component of the diagnostic and/or treatment process in veterinary medicine. Veterinarians provide diagnostic laboratory testing with in-house diagnostic laboratory equipment or by sending tests to an external laboratory.

Practice Expectations

A veterinarian meets the Professional Practice Standard: Diagnostic Laboratory Testing when he/she:

1. Establishes a veterinarian-client-patient relationship (VCPR) before ordering or conducting tests.

2. Requires the test results as part of a preventative health maintenance program or to formulate a diagnosis and/or treatment plan.

3. Interprets the results and ensures the results are communicated to clients.

4. Implements and regularly documents a quality control process for each piece of in-house laboratory equipment.

5. Establishes, for all testing done by external laboratories, relationships with diagnostic laboratories that are accredited by a recognized organization that inspects and accredits diagnostic laboratories.
**Legislative Authority**

R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 1093: General s. 17(1)7.1; 22(1)7, 22(2)7, 22(4)6 *(Veterinarians Act)*

**Other References**

The following can be found on the College’s website at [www.cvo.org](http://www.cvo.org):

- *Professional Practice Standard: Medical Records*
- *Guide to the Professional Practice Standard: Medical Records*
- *Position Statement: The Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship*