



THE COLLEGE OF  
VETERINARIANS  
OF ONTARIO

# PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE STANDARD

## *Diagnostic Laboratory Testing*

**Published:** July 2014

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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*

College publications contain practice parameters and standards which should be considered by all Ontario veterinarians in the care of their patients and in the practice of the profession. College publications are developed in consultation with the profession and describe current professional expectations. It is important to note that these College publications may be used by the College or other bodies in determining whether appropriate standards of practice and professional responsibilities have been maintained. The College encourages you to refer to the website ([www.cvo.org](http://www.cvo.org)) to ensure you are referring to the most recent version of any document.