Coronavirus: An information update from the College of Veterinarians of Ontario
Update: March 18, 2020

- Consent in writing - signatures

In efforts to reduce transmission of COVID-19, practices are taking measures to implement social distancing. There are things to consider related to consent to help with limiting exposure.

The Professional Practice Standard on Informed Client Consent states that a licensed veterinarian is expected to indicate in the medical record that consent was obtained and, for interventions or courses of treatment that are of higher risk, obtains consent in writing where feasible. This applies to medical records kept for all species.

Where surgical treatments are to be performed on a companion animal, Ontario Regulation 1093 requires one of the following in the medical records:

1. The written consent to the surgical treatment signed by or on behalf of the owner of the animal.
2. A note that the owner of the animal or a person on the owner’s behalf consented orally to the surgical treatment, and the reason why the consent was not in writing.
3. A note that neither the owner of the animal nor anyone on the owner’s behalf was available to consent to the surgical treatment, and the reason why, in the member’s opinion, it was medically advisable to conduct the surgical treatment.

During this time where measures are being implemented to reduce transmission of COVID-19, a licensed veterinarian may choose to follow the requirement in #2 above.

Practice Advisory Service: The College’s Practice Advisory Service is available to answer your questions related to the practice of veterinary medicine. Please provide your e-mail address to ensure a timely response. Please note that inquiries to the Practice Advisory Service are higher than usual; we will respond as quickly as we can. Thank you for your patience. E-mail practiceadvice@cvo.org to contact a Practice Advisor.
**General Inquiries:** General inquiries can be made to inquiries@cvo.org and the appropriate staff person will get back to you.

**Helpful Reference Materials:**

Updates from the College on COVID-19
www.cvo.org/coronavirus

Ministry of Health

Infection prevention and control best practices for small animal veterinary clinics (general)
https://oahn.ca/resources/ipc-best-practices/

OVMA (COVID-19 FAQ)
https://www.ovma.org/veterinarians/coronavirus-faq/

Worms & Germs Blog (COVID-19 posts)
https://www.wormsandgermsblog.com/tags/covid-19/


World Health Organization
https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019

OIE World Organization for Animal Health

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