



SPEAKING FRANKLY

A Report on the Veterinary Practice Advisory Panel

February 2021

BACKGROUND

As a component of its Strategy 2020 objectives, the Council of the College of Veterinarians of Ontario formed a veterinary practice advisory panel to assist with its work. The veterinary practice advisory panel's specific mandate includes:

- to provide early advice to the College on emerging policy matters
- to provide feedback on the implementation of draft policy
- to provide input on the communication strategy with the veterinary community
- to assist in the identification of risk areas in practice
- to identify emerging trends and challenges in practice

The panel aims to meet at least three times a year, once face-to-face with Council.

This report summarizes key areas highlighted by the panel at its most recent meeting, and outlines opportunities for College consideration.

This teleconference meeting of the Veterinary Practice Advisory Panel was held on February 11, 2021.

KEY AREAS

(A) Feedback on the College's Annual Report

- Report is clear and visually appealing
- Icons were well-used and helped disseminate information
- Potential opportunity to provide increased clarity around the work of the Discipline Committee (i.e. use of agreements, different types of hearings, etc.)
- Importance of including and promoting OneHealth

(B) Update on College Work on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

- Importance of focusing on all areas of discrimination
- Importance of having tangible and reportable goals
- Difference between feel-good messaging vs. actual opportunity for change
- Importance of continuing to develop spectrums of care for different socioeconomic classes

(C) Leading Risks in Veterinary Practice

- List appears extensive
- Potential to more clearly state requirements around delegation
- Importance of focusing on managing stress/fatigue/mental health
- Difference between risks posed by vs. risks posed to veterinarians

(D) Veterinary Engagement in New College Working Groups

- Importance of connecting with established organizations/associations
- Lack of appetite amongst veterinarians to engage with the College due to the pandemic
- Importance of public health and veterinary engagement

(E) Trends or Issues to Raise for Consideration

- The future of veterinary practice after the pandemic

SUMMARY

The Council is grateful to the members of the advisory panel for their candid comments and willingness to engage with the profession as it aims to instill confidence in veterinary regulation. All information and identified opportunities will be considered for both immediate and future planning.