Coronavirus: An information update from the College of Veterinarians of Ontario
Update: March 24, 2020

- Requests for personal protective equipment & ventilators

As the COVID-19 crisis persists, veterinarians in Ontario are aware of the increasing demand for supplies by human health care agencies. In particular, there is a growing urgency to requests for personal protective equipment and ventilators. It is impossible to forecast the extent of COVID-19’s impact on our province. These efforts are in response to a need to stabilize human health where possible.

Not all veterinarians have supplies or equipment to spare at this time, but some may. The College of Veterinarians of Ontario recognizes that veterinarians are experiencing uncertainty about what is the right course of action in this circumstance. This is a situation where moral obligations may be in conflict; for example, the intersection of duty to both public health and animal health and welfare.

The College believes that a veterinarian’s choice to donate supplies to human medicine to fight COVID-19 is a personal decision. If you are struggling with making this decision, the College’s Code of Ethics and supporting material is available.

If you choose to donate supplies, the information to expedite that contribution is available on the Province of Ontario’s website.

The College appreciates the ongoing contributions of veterinarians in response to the public health crisis in Ontario.

College of Veterinarians of Ontario materials concerning the Code of Ethics:

- Code of Ethics
- Guide to the Code of Ethics