



THE COLLEGE OF  
VETERINARIANS  
OF ONTARIO

College of Veterinarians of Ontario  
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### **Council Meeting Highlights: March 20 & 21, 2019**

The following items were considered by Council at its March meeting.

#### **Code of Ethics**

The College's Code of Ethics, which was introduced in 2015, was revised for Council's consideration. The Code is intended to help guide decision-making. The revised version incorporates Council's work on professionalism, competence and ethics. The Quality Assurance Committee will continue to work on the draft with particular attention to how the Code may be used by veterinarians who practise with food animals. A draft will return to Council for consideration later this year.

#### **Humane Animal Handling and Restraint**

Council finalized the professional practice standard on humane animal handling and restraint in veterinary medicine. This new standard outlines the expectations all veterinarians have related to the care and handling of animals. An advisory group was selected to provide guidance to Council on this topic. Council also appreciates the input received from the public and from veterinarians during the consultation period. This standard will be posted soon.

#### **Internationally Educated Veterinarians Report**

Council reviewed a report, "Supporting Transitions," which assessed the needs of internationally educated veterinarians entering into practice in Ontario. Through a research project, the College collaborated with partners to better understand the supports that internationally educated veterinarians need to transition into practice in Ontario. Council accepted the report and referred it to the Registration Committee for further analysis and action.

#### **Peer Review of Medical Records**

Council received a presentation on recent changes to the Peer Review of Medical Records (PRMR) program. Previously, practices that were due for renewal of their Certificate of Accreditation were eligible for random selection for PRMR. Now, all accredited veterinary practices operating in Ontario are eligible for random selection. Approximately 5% of practices will be selected each year. Participation in the PRMR process is mandatory under Section 50 of Ontario Regulation 1093. Practices will submit medical records that demonstrate the record-keeping of all veterinarians in the practice.

#### **Modernization of the Veterinarians Act**

Council continued its evolving work in the modernization of the Veterinarians Act with a discussion on the merits of electing or appointing the professional members of Council. Council received input on this topic from Mr. Harry Cayton, who is an international advisor to the Professional Standards Authority which is based in the United Kingdom. Mr. Cayton joined Council via teleconference and offered his experience on election vs. selection in the regulatory world. Following discussion, Council directed further analysis of the strengths of our current process and what gaps needed specific mitigation, if any.

#### **Pain Management – Position Statement**

Council discussed its position statement on pain management, which was established in 2013. Pain management is an important part of humane veterinary practice and is a vital aspect of safe patient care. Council had suggestions for changes to the document and will review the draft again at its June meeting.

## **Presentations**

*Veterinary Practice Advisory Panel:* Members of the Veterinary Practice Advisory Panel met with Council and shared their thoughts on current trends impacting veterinarians, how to engage veterinarians in consultations, and advice on how Council can best utilize the panel. The panel members have volunteered for a three-year-term to provide input on policy matters, identify areas of risk in practice, and share trends and challenges in practice.

*OMAFRA Deputy Minister:* Council was also pleased to welcome Greg Meredith, the Deputy Minister of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs. Deputy Meredith spoke to Council about current key ministry initiatives with particular attention to College opportunities.