

Celebrating Our History

The regulation of veterinary medicine in Ontario has a rich and progressive history in serving people and their animals.

For nearly 150 years, the veterinary profession has demonstrated its commitment to animal welfare, public health, and quality medicine. As the College evolves into the College of Veterinary Professionals of Ontario, we are attentive to recognizing and celebrating College milestones which serve as our foundation.



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1950 to 1999



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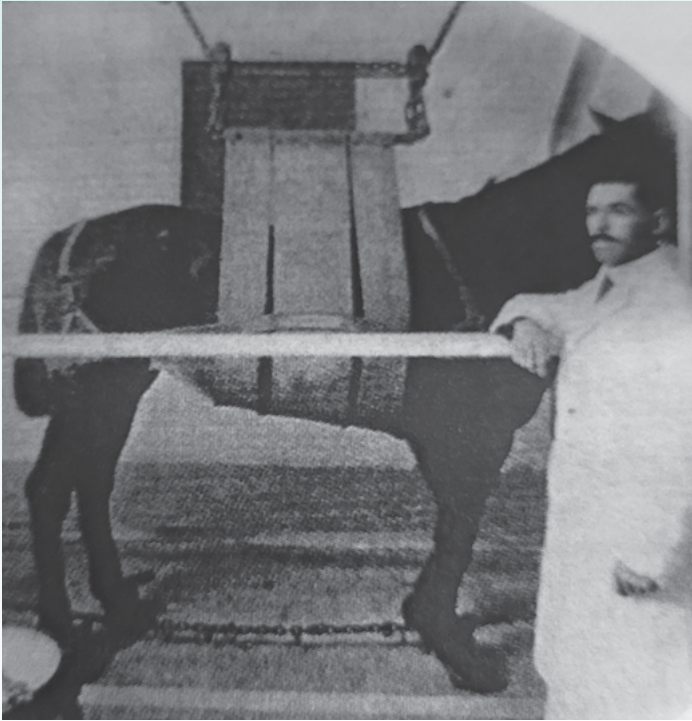
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1850 to 1899



From Settlers' Farms to Modern Veterinary Care

Veterinary work in Ontario has its roots in the agricultural community, tending to settlers' livestock. By the 1860's, the advent of steamship and railway travel created a need for improved animal care as livestock became more vulnerable to European diseases.

1844: Founding Standards in Veterinary Science

Queen Victoria approves the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons in Great Britain. The 1844 charter recognizes the "veterinary art" as a profession and gives the College the power to administer examinations to those wishing to be veterinary surgeons.

1871: Protecting the Title of Veterinary Surgeon

The *Agriculture and Arts Act* of Ontario is amended so no one should use the title of veterinary surgeon unless certified by a veterinary college. The 1871 census notes a total of 189 "farriers and veterinary surgeons".

1850 to 1899

continued...



1874: Canada's First Veterinary Association

A group of 27 pioneering veterinary surgeons form a society named the Ontario Veterinary Medical Association. This launched a new era of organized veterinary medicine in Canada.

1877: One of Ontario's Oldest Regulated Professions

The veterinary profession has been entrusted with regulating the medical care of animals since 1877. Veterinary medicine is one of the oldest regulated professions in Ontario and in Canada.

1879: Attaining True Professional Status

The Ontario Veterinary Association is incorporated by statute. The veterinary profession begins the journey to attain true professional status and the privilege of self-governance.

The OVA establishes by-laws to determine who is permitted to practise veterinary medicine in Ontario.



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What else was going on in the world between 1850 to 1899?

The telephone, phonograph, automobile, barbed wire, and incandescent light bulb were invented.

National association of professional baseball players adopted the batter's box (1874).

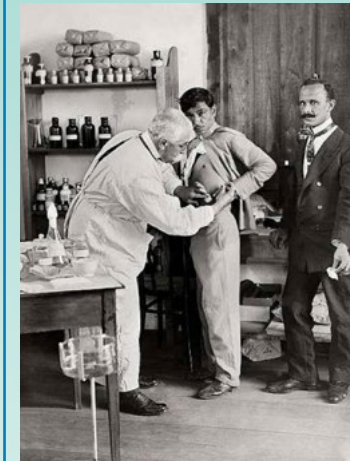


First zoo in the United States opens in Philadelphia (1874).



Antiseptic surgery was introduced.

Rabies vaccine was introduced (1885).



X-rays were discovered, leading to advancements in medical diagnostics (1895).



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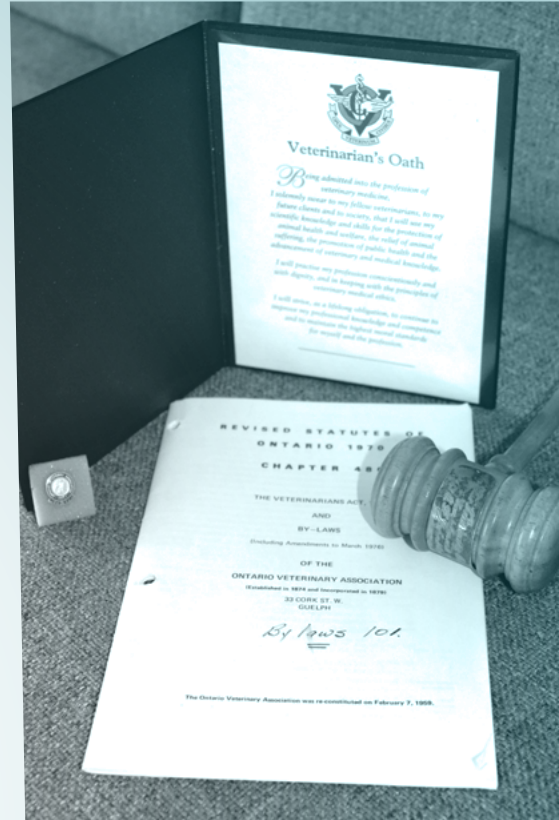
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1931: The Veterinary Science Practice Act is Proclaimed

The *Veterinary Science Practice Act* broadened the scope of veterinary medicine to include domestic animals as well as livestock. The Ontario Veterinary Association, now the College of Veterinarians of Ontario, became a corporate body empowered to govern its members and issue licences.



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What else was going on in the world between 1900 to 1949?

The gasoline-powered tractor, television, plastic, and the vacuum cleaner were invented.



Insulin (1921), penicillin (1928), and sulfa drugs (1935) were discovered.

The Golden Retriever is recognized by the Canadian Kennel Club (1922).



First commercial pet foods were introduced.



The atomic bomb was developed (1942).

Family pets became more common as people moved to cities and away from farms.



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1950 to 1999



1970: Animal Health Technicians

The Canadian Association of Animal Health Technicians is established. Seven years later, in 1977, CAAHT becomes the Ontario Association of Animal Health Technicians, which becomes the Ontario Association of Veterinary Technicians in 1991.

1986: First Female President

Dr. Susan McNabb is the first female president of the Ontario Veterinary Association, which became the College of Veterinarians of Ontario.

1989: The Veterinarians Act is Updated

The *Veterinarians Act* provides the College with the authority to regulate the practice of veterinary medicine and to govern its members in accordance with the Act, the regulations and the by-laws in order that the public interest may be served and protected. The update also separates the public interest of regulation and the professional interest of the association.



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1950 to 1999



1990: Facility Accreditation

The College approves the first set of Minimum Standards for Veterinary Facilities in Ontario. The document provides requirements which support the inspection of veterinary facilities.

1992: New Building

The CVO moves into a new office space at 2106 Gordon Street in Guelph, Ontario.

1999: Improved Record Keeping

The Professional Enhancement Program, a free and voluntary initiative, is established to improve veterinarians' record keeping. The Peer Review of Medical Records program provides veterinarians with input on their records, following review by trained peer reviewers. The College developed record expectations for bovine and companion animal practice.

What else was going on in the world between **1950 to 1999**?

The cardiac pacemaker was invented (1960).

Safer anesthetic drugs and techniques were developed, making surgical procedures less risk for animals.



Ultrasound, computed tomography, and magnetic resonance imaging became more widely used in veterinary medicine.



Vaccines were developed to protect animals from parvovirus, distemper, and feline leukemia virus.

Spay and neuter clinics for stray cats and dogs begin.



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2000 to 2011



2000: Auxiliaries in Practice

CVO engages a task force to study the role of auxiliaries in veterinary practice.

2002: New Partnership

The CVO and Ontario Veterinary Medical Association announce a partnership to offer the Professionals Health Program to support the well-being of Ontario veterinarians.

2007: Focus on Fairness

The Office of the Fairness Commissioner opens in April 2007. The office requires registration practices that are fair, transparent, impartial and objective to remove discrimination practices and systemic barriers to professional licensure.

2008: New Committee Focuses on Quality Practice

College Council adds the Quality Assurance Committee, as a non-statutory committee, to provide recommendations which promote continued competence and continuing professional development among veterinarians.



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2000 to 2011



2008: Female Veterinarians

In 2008, female licensed members outnumber their male counterparts for the first time in Ontario.

2009: Quality Assurance

Council approves a voluntary quality assurance program for members.

2009: Mobility

The *Ontario Labour Mobility Act* improves labour mobility across Canada for certified workers in professions and trades.



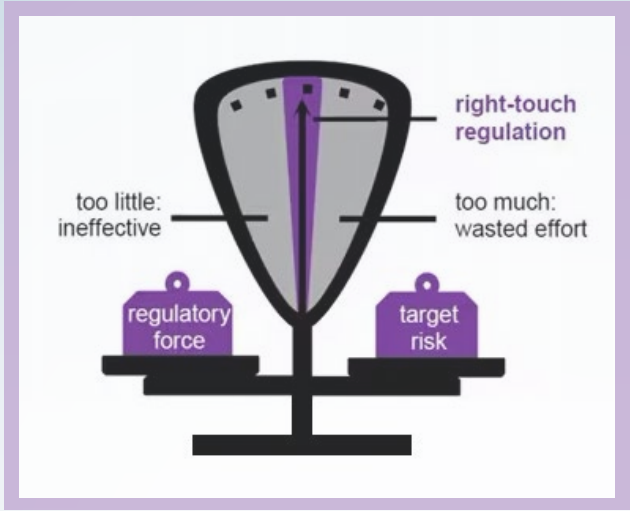
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What else was going on in the world between 2000 to 2011?

The Professional Standards Authority publishes *Right-touch regulation*, which focuses on risk management.



Camera phones became commercially available allowing users to capture and share images on the go (2000).



YouTube founder Jawed Karim uploaded the first video—a brief clip of himself at the San Diego Zoo; today, YouTube has over a billion users and is the world's largest video-sharing platform (2005).



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2012 and beyond



2013: Modern Legislation a Strategic Priority

The College Council sets legislative reform as a strategic priority.

2016: Telemedicine

The College Council approves a standard on telemedicine in veterinary medicine, the first in North America.

2017: Proposal to Government

The College Council approves recommendations, following nine public consultations, to support modernization of the College's governing legislation to the provincial government.

2018: Increase in Internationally Educated Veterinarians

In 2018, the number of internationally educated veterinarians holding a general licence exceeds 1,000, and is 21% of the licensed members in Ontario.

2012 and beyond continued...



2019: Regulatory Effectiveness

Council focuses its work on the management of current and emerging risks in veterinary medicine and adopts a position on regulatory effectiveness and outcomes-focused regulation.

2019: Pain Management

The College Council publishes a position on pain management in veterinary medicine.

2020: Commitment to Inclusion

The College is committed to inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility, and has developed an action plan to identify opportunities for change, understanding, and growth.

2022: Moving Forward

The College relocates to the Hanlon Business Park in Guelph, Ontario. At the same time, the College introduces its new logo.

2012 and beyond continued...



Photo: Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food & Agribusiness, the Hon. Rob Flack; CVO Registrar & CEO Jan Robinson; and CVO President Dr. Wade Wright welcome the new *Veterinary Professionals Act*.

2022: Spectrum of Care Position

The College Council presents a position on spectrum of care which acknowledges that choices made along a spectrum will vary depending upon the client's circumstances.

2023: New Accreditation Model Launched

In October, the College launched a new flexible and innovative facility accreditation model and standards which permits a veterinarian to define their facility's scope of practice and then meet the facility standards that are relevant to their scope.

2024: New *Veterinary Professionals Act* is Approved

The provincial government approves the *Veterinary Professionals Act* as the new legislative framework to govern the veterinary profession in Ontario.



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What else happened in the world in **2012** and beyond?

There is an increased use of telemedicine in the delivery of veterinary medicine.

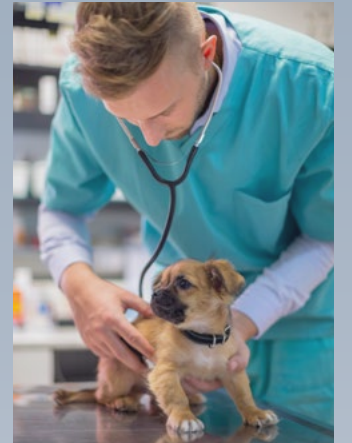
Veterinary medicine includes a focus on preventative care, including check-ups, vaccinations and nutrition. Other notable improvements and advancements are in pain management techniques.

Canada's pet population is reported to be 27.9 million, with 58% of Canadians owning a pet (2020).

The highly contagious coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 leads to the COVID-19 pandemic.

CVMA reports corporations own 20% of Canada's veterinary practices (2023).

OVMA estimates the annual cost of owning a puppy is around \$5,300 and a dog at around \$4,500 (2023).



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Looking ahead

The College Council welcomes its new legislation, the *Veterinary Professionals Act*, which received Royal Assent in the Ontario legislature on June 6, 2024.

The new framework modernizes the regulation of the veterinary profession in Ontario. The *Veterinary Professionals Act* represents the biggest update to the regulation of veterinary medicine in Ontario in over 30 years.



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Looking ahead continued...



The new legislation:

- Includes veterinary technicians as licensed members;
- Moves towards an authorized activities model that outlines what activities constitute the practice of veterinary medicine and who is permitted to perform them;
- Recognizes the collaboration among intraprofessionals (veterinarian and veterinary technician) and interprofessionals (veterinary professionals and other non-veterinary animal care providers) who provide animal care;
- Permits activities that can be carried out by veterinary technicians;
- Recognizes the role of non-veterinary animal care providers, including chiropractors, pharmacists, farriers, artificial insemination technicians and other human-based practitioners who have taken additional training in animal care (i.e., animal rehabilitation); and
- Includes a formal quality assurance program.



Looking ahead continued...

After 11 years of research, consultation, and conversation, the College is pleased the *Veterinary Professionals Act* has officially become law.

The College acknowledges all our partners in this process, in particular the Ontario Veterinary Medical Association and the Ontario Association of Veterinary Technicians whose support and collaboration were fundamental to this achievement.



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Reference: Celebrating 125 years of the veterinary profession,
1999 commemorative publication.

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