



THE COLLEGE OF  
VETERINARIANS  
OF ONTARIO

# UPDATE

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[www.cvo.org](http://www.cvo.org)

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*(Pictured, left to right): Dr. Clare Craig,  
Dr. Beverly Baxter and Dr. Randy Graham*

The College welcomes three new council members: Drs. **Beverly Baxter, Clare Craig and Randy Graham.**

Dr. Beverly Baxter is from Sudbury, Ontario representing constituency #7. She is a small animal practitioner and is the owner of Baxter Animal Hospital.

Dr. Clare Craig is from Stirling, Ontario representing constituency #11. He is a small animal practitioner and is the owner of Stirling Veterinary Services and Belleway Veterinary Hospital.

Dr. Randy Graham is from Elora, Ontario representing constituency #6. He is currently working with Pfizer Animal Health.

Welcome to the CVO!

## Thoughts from the outgoing president...

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*Dr. Ed Doering*

This has been an interesting and challenging year. I am very thankful for the progress that has been made at CVO over the past year.

The College has continued its involvement with the bridging program for Internationally Trained Veterinarians, VSTEP. It has continued to support the Professionals Health Program for veterinarians who require specialized assistance. Council has reviewed and reflected upon the Quality Assurance Program to enable the College to improve and enhance its accountability to the public. Board Governance issues continue to be identified and addressed, enhancing the governance of the organization. Medical Records Workshops continue to be held throughout the province. The long awaited passage of Bill 190 (The Good Government Act) amended the *Veterinarians Act* and created significant changes to Ontario Regulation 1093 and the CVO By-laws, most notably an increased flexibility and scope in the by-law making

authority. Council has approved these amendments as well as amendments to the *Minimum Standards for Veterinary Facilities in Ontario* (Remote Area Companion Animal Mobiles and Specialty Animal Hospitals).

Meanwhile the many core activities of CVO continued to be done effectively and efficiently with little fanfare while Council conducted a search for a new Registrar. Council, committee members and staff have had an extremely busy and productive year dealing with complaints, discipline, changes in legislation, new policies etc. Council continues to conduct its business in the interests of the public, the membership of the College and our stakeholders. The College remains responsive to the constantly changing face of the profession and the expectations placed upon its members to uphold the standards of practice in companion, equine and food producing animal practice, as well as the various roles of veterinarians in government and industry.

I would like to take this opportunity to give my special thanks to the loyal staff members who have given of themselves tirelessly to serve the public, the membership and the College committees. Staff have proven themselves to be dedicated, professional, compassionate and deserving of our thanks. Their co-operative and cheerful assistance has made the work of Council enjoyable. CVO staff have produced organized, detailed and meticulous background information to assist in the work of Council and committees. To all staff members please accept our thanks on behalf of the council and its membership.

As I pass the presidential gavel to Dr. Arie Vreugdenhil, I would also like to express my gratitude to the members of Council and the Executive Committee for their support and co-operation throughout this past year. The College was blessed with your collective knowledge, your wisdom and your commitment to improve the CVO. Thank-you for your friendship and for all that you have done for CVO.

I wish Arie much success in his new role as President and Chair of the CVO. He has my full support and I look forward to my new role as Past Chair of Council.

# New President, Executive and Council



## New President

Dr. **Arie (Harry) Vreugdenhil**, CVO president for 2006/2007 is wearing the CVO President's Chain of Office, which Dr. **Ed Doering** passed to him after his election as president at the council meeting in November. Dr. Vreugdenhil presented Dr. Doering with a certificate of recognition for his year as President.

Dr. Vreugdenhil graduated from the Ontario Veterinary College in 1973. After graduation he moved to Dunnville where he was a partner in the Dunnville Veterinary Clinic and practiced veterinary medicine for more than 33 years before retiring in June 2006.

## Executive Committee for 2006/2007

*(Front row, from left): Dr. Ed Doering, Dr. Harry Vreugdenhil and Dr. Michele Dutnall.  
(Back row, from left): Dr. David Kerr and Mr. Doug Walper.*



## CVO Council for 2006/2007



*(Front row, from left): Dr. Alma Conn, Dr. David Kerr, Dr. Ed Doering, Dr. Harry Vreugdenhil, Dr. Michele Dutnall and Mr. Doug Walper. (Back row, from left): Ms. Tanya Fournier, Dr. Al Thompson, Dr. Clare Craig, Dr. Grant Maxie, Mr. Mike Buis, Dr. Randy Graham, Mr. Don Stobo, Dr. Jim Christian, Dr. Tim Arthur and Dr. Beverly Baxter. (Absent): Dr. James Clark and Mr. James Williams.*

## Ketamine Dispensing Issue Resolved

In August, 2005, Health Canada changed the regulations under the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* to classify Ketamine as a controlled substance.

Ketamine is a highly effective drug for use in immobilizing wildlife, as well as domestic and companion animals. Under its previous classification, Ketamine could be dispensed by veterinarians for use in free-ranging wildlife, in accordance with the College's Policy on Dispensing to Free-ranging Wildlife. However, as a result of this change, the drug became unavailable for this purpose. Specific concerns began to be raised about the impact this would have on the province's Bear Wise program, which included immobilization and relocation of nuisance and problem black bears, as an alternative to shooting them.

In October, 2005, the College, along with representatives from Health Canada, OMNR and representatives of zoo and wildlife veterinarians held a teleconference to try to lay the groundwork for a resolution of the problem. It was stressed at this meeting that the regulation change was made by Health Canada and, while supported by the College, also meant that the College could not permit veterinarians to practice in contravention of it. Additionally, there was a discussion of the value that OMNR places on relationships that had been developed with local veterinarians who had an interest in wildlife rehabilitation and problem wildlife relocation.

As a result of that meeting, a working group consisting of OMNR, Health Canada and representatives of wildlife groups was formed in order to examine whether there was a legal means for this drug to continue to be provided to wildlife control personnel.

In April, 2006, the College was advised that the working group had reached agreement on a short term plan which includes:

- Designated wildlife staff at designated sites have been authorized by Health Canada to purchase identified quantities of Ketamine directly from a designated supplier under the authority of Experimental Studies Certificates (exemption to use a controlled substance for scientific purposes).
- A standing Minister's order was developed, which allowed designated positions within the OMNR to purchase Schedule F veterinary drugs for use on wildlife directly from manufacturers/suppliers. This does not replace their interest and intent to develop local veterinarian/wildlife (VW) professional relationships wherever possible, but it is intended to ensure local offices have the required access to the appropriate Schedule F veterinary drugs where the local VW relationship does not exist.
- OMNR, Bear Wise has amended its chemical immobilization protocol for black bears and its guidelines for use of chemical immobilization drugs on problem free-ranging wildlife to conform to the new requirements for the acquisition, storage and use of Ketamine.
- A plan to work collaboratively with key stakeholders to address an effective long term strategy to ensure wildlife professionals have the appropriate access to required veterinary drugs for wildlife.

## Council Meeting: September 27, 2006

- Received reports from the **Statutory Committees**, the **Quality Assurance Committee** and the **VSTEP Leadership Board**.
- Discussed and approved the Budget for 2006-2007.
- Reviewed and endorsed sections of a **Quality Assurance Plan** and returned sections of the Plan for further work-up based on Council's discussions.
- Amended and approved a **draft By-law amendment** and directed staff to circulate it to members for comment (*circulated with the September/October issue of Update*).
- Approved an addition to Title 10.1 and an amendment to Title 10, Clause 4.7, of the *Minimum Standards for Veterinary Facilities in Ontario* (Bulk Supplies of Drugs in Base and Mobile Unit) (*see page 13*).
- Approved the addition of Title 12, Specialty Animal Hospital, Ophthalmology and Dentistry to the *Minimum Standards for Veterinary Facilities in Ontario*; approved the consequential amendments to Ontario Regulation 1093 and the CVO By-laws (*see page 13*).
- Agreed to the continuation of the **student representative position on Council**, as an observer without voting privileges.
- Appointed **Deputy Returning Officers** for the election to be held in Constituency #6 on October 3, 2006.
- Moved that the Council of the College assumes the responsibility for **Board Governance**.
- Amended and approved the **Guideline : Facility Designations** (*enclosed with this issue of Update*).
- Reviewed and approved, unchanged, the **Position Statement : Licensure of Veterinarians in Emergency Situations** (*see CVO website [www.cvo.org](http://www.cvo.org)*).
- Reviewed and approved, unchanged, the **Position Statement : Delegating to Auxiliaries in Food Animal and Equine Practice** (*see CVO website at [www.cvo.org](http://www.cvo.org)*).

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## Council Meeting: November 8, 2006

- Elected and appointed the Executive Committee for 2006-2007.
- Appointed the Statutory Committees, Quality Assurance Advisory Committee and CVO representatives to the OVC VTH Advisory Board, the Professionals Health Program Advisory Board and the National Examining Board for 2006-2007.
- Reviewed the draft Position Statement : **Granting Exemptions to the Self-Contained Requirement for Veterinary Facilities** and returned it to the Accreditation Committee for further work-up.
- Amended and approved the Position Statement : **Terminating the Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship** (*enclosed with this issue of Update*).
- Approved proposed amendments to **Part III (Drugs)**, subsection 23.(2), 28.(1) and clause 33.(2)(c) and revocation of sections 29. and 30. of **Ontario Regulation 1093** (*see page 13*).
- Passed a Council policy that all members sitting on CVO committees are at all times in good standing (*see page 7*).

## *Student Corner*

by Tanya Fournier



September has passed and a new school year at the Ontario Veterinary College has begun. For some, this marks the beginning of their veterinary career, while for others, it provides the opportunity to utilize their clinical knowledge at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

I extend a warm welcome to the OVC Class of 2010! It is great to see so many enthusiastic new faces entering the college, ready to take on the multitude of tasks and challenges that lie before them. This year's class consists of 110 students, 21 are male and 89 are female. As you may be aware, each OVC class must choose a mascot to represent it across the four years. The class of 2010 have decided on the "Crimson Cross".

On September 23rd, the Phase I students were welcomed into the DVM program at "The Profession Welcomes You" annual ceremony. Many individuals, including the College of Veterinarians of Ontario Registrar, Ms. **Susan Carlyle**, delivered congratulatory speeches.



*group photo of Phase I students*

I am pleased to inform you that at the September 27th Council meeting, a motion was passed to keep the **OVC Student Representative** position. Following this year, a new student representative will be elected by the OVC student body to fulfill a two-year term on council. This student must also be entering Phase II of the DVM program. Remuneration is currently under discussion.

Duties will continue to include:

- Attending and actively participating in all Council meetings as non-voting observer
- Updating the OVC student body on the Council minutes
- Informing the profession on CVO's involvement with the students at OVC and creating a closer link between the practising veterinarians, the CVO, and the student body via articles written in *UPDATE*
- Representing the voice of the students and gathering necessary current curriculum information
- Creating awareness of CVO issues, policies, and procedures at the OVC

With each new student representative comes new ideas and suggestions promoting a link between the CVO, the membership and the OVC students. This position will enhance the veterinary profession through an early understanding of self-regulation and the great importance it plays in the life of a professional.

# Annual General Meeting / Council Policy

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## ***CVO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING***

***Wednesday, January 31, 2007  
at the  
College of Veterinarians of Ontario  
2106 Gordon Street, Guelph, Ontario***

***Coffee and Refreshments: 3:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
Meeting Convenes: 3:30 p.m.***

***To register call the CVO office by January 17, 2007  
(519) 824-5600 / (800) 424-2856***

*The meeting agenda will include consideration of the report of the CVO Council, acceptance of the financial statements and the appointment of auditors.*

*Members who wish to receive a copy of the minutes from last year's AGM may contact the CVO office with their request. A limited number of copies will be available at the meeting.*

## **Council Policy**

While non-councillors have, in the past, been appointed to various statutory committees, The Good Government Bill, now permits members who are not councillors to be appointed to the Discipline Committee.

On November 8, 2006 Council passed a policy confirming that all members sitting on CVO committees must at all times be in good standing.

# Complaints Case

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Complaints cases are designed as an educational tool to help Ontario veterinarians and the public gain a better understanding of the current trends observed by the College's Complaints Committee. The cases are an edited version of some of the cases dealt with by the Committee. The law does not allow for either the veterinarian or the complainant to be identified.

## When a Client Requests Euthanasia...

Mr. and Mrs. A presented their ten-year-old, male neutered cat, Sam, to Dr. X of the ABC Animal Hospital due to weight loss. Dr. X diagnosed diabetes mellitus. Mr. and Mrs. A elected not to initiate insulin therapy at that time, and took their cat home.

Mr. A returned to the ABC Animal Hospital where Sam was examined by Dr. Z. Dr. Z diagnosed diabetic ketoacidosis and provided Mr. A with a written estimate of recommended treatment. Mr. A signed the estimate and Sam was admitted for hospitalization. Sam was discharged four days later.

Two days later, Mr. and Mrs. A brought their cat back to the ABC Animal Hospital requesting that he be euthanized. Dr. X convinced them not to proceed and Sam was taken home. The next day Mrs. A returned to the clinic and requested Sam be euthanized. Again, Dr. X tried to dissuade them, but eventually agreed to carry out the euthanasia.

In the letter of complaint received by the College, Mr. and Mrs. A alleged, among other things, the following:

1. Dr. X behaved in an unprofessional manner when she failed to accept Mr. and Mrs. A's wishes to have Sam euthanized. Instead, Mr. and Mrs. A were met with strong resistance, which made their tough decision more distressing.

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***“Dr. X  
acknowledged that  
again she tried to  
change Mrs. A's  
mind.”***

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The Committee reviewed the written submissions from Mr. and Mrs. A, Dr. X and Dr. Z, as well as the medical records of the ABC Animal Hospital.

### **Reasons for Decision**

Mr. A alleged that Dr. X behaved in an unprofessional manner when she failed to accept his family's decision to have Sam euthanized. Mr. A submitted that although his family was distressed by Dr. X's unexpected strong resistance to their request for euthanasia, they accepted waiting one more day and took Sam home. The submissions concluded that Mrs. A returned to the hospital the next day insisting that euthanasia be performed. Dr. X acknowledged that again she tried to change Mrs. A's mind.

The Committee had strong concerns with Dr. X's acknowledged conduct, particularly when Mrs. A returned for the second time requesting to have their sick, diabetic cat put to sleep. The Committee believed that Dr. X should have respected Mr. and Mrs. A's decision and not persisted in trying to convince them otherwise. Dr. X's actions in this regard demonstrated a significant lack of compassion for Sam's owners and would have exacerbated

her clients' distress in an already difficult situation.

The Committee noted that Sam had developed liver and kidney dysfunction as complications of his diabetes. Follow up tests performed indicated that there were still significant abnormalities. The Committee was therefore concerned with Dr. X's decision to remove Sam from IV fluid therapy and discharge him, particularly since he had developed an upper respiratory infection and was not eating well in the hospital. The Committee believed that the continued intravenous fluid support was warranted, and questioned Dr. X's professional judgement in this regard.

The Committee also noted that according to the medical records an abscess was noted over Sam's eye and a culture and sensitivity test was performed. There were no results for this test documented in the medical records. The Committee reminded Dr. X of her obligation to

document diagnostic test results in the medical records, and referred her to O.Reg. 1093 s. 22.(1)(7) which states:

*22. (1) The records required in respect of each companion animal shall contain the following information:*

*7. Particulars of each assessment, including any laboratory investigations, performed or ordered by the member and the results of each assessment.*

#### **Decision**

The Committee weighed all of the information before it and the options available to it and noted they had some concerns with the conduct of Dr. X.

It was the decision of the Committee that the actions and conduct of Dr. X did not warrant a referral to the Discipline Committee for determinations of allegations of professional misconduct or serious neglect. The Committee decided, in

the interest of the public and to hopefully ensure that such an incident does not recur, to exercise its authority under section 24(2) (c) and take the following action:

Dr. X was advised by the Committee of their concerns regarding her conduct as it related to ensuring that she refrain from making unreasonable efforts to dissuade her clients from having euthanasia carried out when a client requested this for their pet; and ensuring that she documents all diagnostic test results in the medical record in accordance with O.Reg. 1093 s. 22(1)(7). The Committee also advised Dr. X of its concerns regarding discharging her patient despite his evident need for ongoing intravenous fluid therapy.

Dr. X is cautioned to consider this carefully and take any necessary action related to this advice to ensure that such a situation does not recur.

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## **Enclosed with this issue of *Update***

You will find enclosed with this issue of *Update*:

- ⇒ Guideline on **Facility Designations** which has been approved by Council. The Guideline is also posted on the CVO website at **www.cvo.org**.
- ⇒ Position Statement on **Terminating the Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship** which has been approved by Council. The Position Statement is also posted on the CVO website at **www.cvo.org**
- ⇒ **CVO Annual Report 2006**

## Updates (August 2, 2006 - November 10, 2006)

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*The College welcomed the following new registrants between August 2, 2006 and November 10, 2006. The list also indicates licence type as follows:*

*G = General    GNR = General Non-Resident    E = Educational    R = Restricted    A = Academic  
PGR = Postgraduate and Resident Licence    PS = Public Service*

Dr. Camilla Amundsen	G	Dr. Jennifer Hess	G	Dr. Felipe Reggeti	A
Dr. Fernanda Castillo	E	Dr. Katharine Hope	G	Dr. Monika Ronowicz	G
Dr. Tara Chapman	G	Dr. Paula Katavolos	E	Dr. Siva Sivapiragasam	G
Dr. Petru Cristea	G	Dr. Maya Kummrow	E	Dr. Margaret Snouffer	G
Dr. Gurpartap Dabhia	G	Dr. Naseer Malik	G	Dr. Cyril P. Stephen	PGR
Dr. Puran Das	G	Dr. Mary-Anne Maloney	G	Dr. Christopher Stesco	G
Dr. Jerome D'Astous	G	Dr. Ravi Nallandigal	G	Dr. Attila Stewart	G
Dr. Michael Ellison	G	Dr. Linnea Newman	R	Dr. Andrea Wernham	R
Dr. Mara Gerriets	G	Dr. Atul Pakhawala	G		
Dr. Sukhdeepak Gill	G	Dr. Horatiu Petrut	G		

*The following is a list of new corporations:*

### New Corporations

Beechmount Animal Hospital Professional Corporation  
 Bellbrae Animal Hospital Professional Corporation  
 Brimley-Lawrence Animal Clinic Professional Corporation  
 Broadview Veterinary Professional Corporation  
 Central Cat Hospital Professional Corporation  
 Chapel Hill Veterinary Clinic Professional Corporation  
 Dr. Kim Murphy Professional Corporation  
 Eglinton-Hwy 10 Veterinary Professional Corporation  
 Lincoln Veterinary Services Professional Corporation  
 LeGallais Veterinary Hospital Professional Corporation  
 Loyalist Veterinary Hospital Professional Corporation

Moore Swine Services Professional Corporation  
 Napanee Veterinary Professional Corporation  
 Nykamp Veterinary Professional Corporation  
 Paterson Veterinary Professional Corporation  
 Peterborough West Animal Hospital Professional Corporation  
 Rankin-Burkart Veterinary Professional Corporation  
 Riverdale Veterinary Professional Corporation  
 Stewart Veterinary Professional Corporation  
 Verma Veterinary Professional Corporation  
 Webb Veterinary Professional Corporation  
 Whelan Veterinary Professional Corporation  
 Windsor Veterinary Professional Corporation

# Updates (August 2, 2006 - November 10, 2006)

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*The following is a list of new, closed and relocated veterinary facilities:*

## **New Facilities**

### **Clinique Veterinaire de Hull**

Category: Equine Mobile

Director: Dr. Jeff Kader

### **Cookstown Equine Services**

Category: Equine Mobile

Director: Dr. Liana Jackson

### **Milton Equine Hospital**

Category: Equine Clinic

Director: Dr. Marc Desjardins

### **Nottawasaga Veterinary Services**

Category: Companion Animal Office, Food  
Producing Animal Mobile

Director: Dr. Mark Gallagher

### **Peterborough West Animal Hospital**

Category: Companion Animal Hospital

Director: Dr. Scott Sargent

### **Summeridge Animal Clinic**

Category: Companion Animal Hospital

Director: Dr. Helene Bouchard

### **Wasaga Beach Veterinary Services**

Category: Companion Animal Hospital,  
Companion Animal Mobile

Director: Dr. Susan Andrus

### **Welland Spay-Neuter Veterinary Clinic**

Category: Companion Animal Spay-Neuter  
Clinic

Director: Dr. Manmohan Multani

## **Closed Facilities**

Calvete Equine Veterinary Services

Donald E. Fishman D.V.M.

Dr. Milan's Pet Mobile

Holmes Veterinary Clinic

Rubin Animal Mobile Services

**Correction:** in the September/October 2006 issue of *Update*, Tower Drive Animal Clinic was inadvertently included. Tower Drive Animal Clinic remains open. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

## **Relocated Facilities**

DeLuna Equine Veterinary Services

Dr. Doctor's Veterinary House Call Services

Dr. Greener's Mobile Veterinary Services

Lisa Street Veterinary House Call Services  
(previously Fairhill Veterinary Mobile Services)

Port Rowan Veterinary Services

Robert Yantho, Veterinarian

Thames Road Veterinary Clinic

Wilson Street Veterinary Clinic

## Updates (August 2, 2006 - November 10, 2006)

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*The following veterinarians are no longer licensed in Ontario:*

Dr. Muthafar Al-Haddawi  
Dr. Nicholas Bachand  
Dr. Oscar Calvete  
Dr. Ronaldo da Costa  
Dr. Alex Estrada

Dr. Kathy Maurice  
Dr. Hernan Ortegon  
Dr. Carli Ricka  
Dr. Jason Ricka  
Dr. Adrian Solano

*If you note any errors in the preceding lists or believe someone may be practising without a licence, please contact Ms. **Karen Gamble** at extension 2228 or e-mail [kgamble@cvo.org](mailto:kgamble@cvo.org).*

### *In Memoriam*

*The council and staff of the CVO were saddened to learn of the following deaths and extend sincere sympathy to their families and friends. In memory of deceased members, the CVO contributes an annual grant to the Ontario Veterinary College Alumni Trust.*

**Colgate**, Forbes Robert (OVC 1941)  
**Easton**, Kenneth (OVC 1958)  
**Eros**, Julia (OVC 1958)  
**Iwasaki**, Murray K. (OVC 1973)  
**Korol**, Walter (Germany 1947)

**Lobsinger**, Leonard (OVC 1938)  
**Smith**, Harold Mackenzie (Mac) (OVC 1948)  
**Wall**, Patrick Bruce (OVC 1966)  
**Wolf**, Lori Ellen (California 1987)

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### **OVMA Conference January 25 - 27, 2007**

The Ontario Veterinary Medical Association is holding its annual conference and trade show at the Westin Harbour Castle Hotel in Toronto, Ontario. The conference program will feature concurrent sessions on bovine, equine, small animals, public health, practice management and hospital personnel. Special registration fees for out-of-province delegates.

For further information, contact **Christine Neziol**, Delegate Coordinator, Ontario Veterinary Medical Association, 245 Commercial Street, Milton, Ontario, L9T 2J3, telephone (905) 875-0756, fax (905) 875-0958 or email [cneziol@ovma.org](mailto:cneziol@ovma.org).

## **Amendments to the *Minimum Standards for Veterinary Facilities in Ontario***

Council approved the following amendments to the *Minimum Standards for Veterinary Facilities in Ontario* on September 27, 2006.

Council of the College of Veterinarians of Ontario accepted the recommendation of the accreditation committee of the addition to Title 10.1 'Bulk supplies of drugs are kept in the base unit, and the mobile unit need only contain drugs sufficient for the reasonably expected daily need' and approves the amendment to Clause 4.7 of Title 10 'Bulk supplies of drugs are kept in the base unit, and the mobile unit need only contain drugs sufficient for the reasonably expected daily need'.

Council of the College of Veterinarians of Ontario accepted the recommendation of the accreditation committee of the addition of Title 12, Specialty Animal Hospital, Ophthalmology and Dentistry, to the *Minimum Standards for Veterinary Facilities in Ontario*; Council approves the consequential amendments to Ontario Regulation 1093 and the CVO By-laws.

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### **Proposed Regulation Amendments** (these will be forwarded to Cabinet for approval)

The Council of the College of Veterinarians of Ontario approved the following proposed amendments on November 8, 2006. The purpose of these amendments is to update Regulation 1093 to be consistent with drug schedule references now in place in Ontario (*additions underlined - strike thru deleted*).

#### **Part III - DRUGS**

23. (2) In this Part, ~~except for sections 29 and 30~~, a reference to Schedule A, B, C, D or E is a reference to such Schedule established by Ontario Regulation 297/96 made under the Drug and Pharmacies Regulation Act. O. Reg. 161/04, s. 12 (4).

28. (1) A member who dispenses a controlled substance, ketamine or a targeted drug shall keep a controlled substances register in which is entered,

~~29. (0.1), (1) (a) (b) (c) (d), (2), (3), (4), (5);~~

~~30. (1), (1.1), (2), (3), (4)~~

33. (2) (c) send through the mail, except by a form of mail that provides proof of delivery, a controlled substance, ketamine or a targeted drug or a drug referred to in Schedule D or E;

## What to do if a client could be abusing drugs prescribed for their pet?

Veterinarians have the unique privilege among medical professionals in Ontario of being able to both prescribe and dispense drugs to their patients. Along with that privilege comes the serious responsibility of ensuring that those drugs are dispensed in an appropriate manner.

In its brochure “**Abuse and Diversion of Controlled Substances: A Guide for Health Professionals**”, Health Canada describes the most common methods of drug diversion, those being:

- Prescription forgery (the most common method)
- Telephone fraud
- Drug seeking (visiting various physicians, dentists or veterinarians and describing the same or similar symptoms with the intent of obtaining a prescription for a narcotic or controlled substance)
- Indiscriminate prescribing
- Theft: either by employees or clients left unattended
- Fraudulent orders (by employees)

Any of these methods of drug diversion could happen in a veterinary practice. It is incumbent on members to be aware of the possibility of diversion when they are dispensing controlled substances.

Below are examples of reasons that have been given to veterinarians by individuals who are seeking either to obtain a controlled drug, or a replacement or refill of a prescription prior to the time it would have been necessary, if taken in accordance with the prescribed dosage. While not every instance will indicate a problem with a drug abuser, members need to be aware of the potential for abuse, and have a responsibility to deal with it on a professional level.

1. I took a couple of pills myself because I was upset. I won't do it again.
2. My dog/cat is afraid of thunderstorms.
3. I doubled up the dose because it wasn't working.
4. I read up on this, and I know that this is the preferred drug for treating my dog's condition.
5. I lost the last bottle of pills.
6. I accidentally dropped them in the toilet.
7. My child/friend/spouse stole them from me.
8. I forgot the pills at the cottage.
9. You have to give them to me. Don't you care about my animals? What kind of vet are you?
10. I started giving them to my other dog, too, because he was showing the same symptoms.

So, what steps should a veterinarian take when they suspect that a client is abusing the drugs that were prescribed for their animal?

First, if necessary, protect yourself and your staff. If the client becomes abusive or threatening, call the police and have them removed. The College has a position statement on Terminating the Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship which is enclosed with this issue of *Update*.

Secondly - STOP prescribing them! A client does not have the right to demand drugs from a practitioner. It is the practitioner's responsibility to only dispense a drug where they believe, on adequate information, that the drug is appropriate for the treatment of a medical condition in the animal. It is the practitioner's call as to whether a drug will be dispensed and what specific drug will be dispensed, not the client's.

*continued on next page...*

## Membership Renewals

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Thirdly, if necessary, attempt to find an alternative to the drug. Is there a non-controlled alternative that the animal can be treated with? If there is no alternative drug, is there a way to limit the dispensing (administration of the drug at the clinic, dispense very limited quantities or single doses)?

Finally, if you suspect a serious problem of drug abuse in a client, it would be permissible under the *Veterinarians Act* to call the police, a family member of the client, or anyone else who can appropriately help to deal with the problem. It is not a breach of confidentiality to report an instance of drug abuse if it is intended to prevent, or contribute information for the treatment of a disease or physical injury of a person. However, since many veterinarians are

covered by the *Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act*, you should ensure that the disclosure is done in accordance with those provisions, where applicable, (relating to disclosure without client consent where there is a breach of the law or an emergency affecting the health or safety of a person).<sup>1</sup>

For further information contact:

Health Canada

Telephone: 613-954-1541

Email: [OCS-BSC@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:OCS-BSC@hc-sc.gc.ca)

<sup>1</sup> For further information see the Federal Privacy Legislation (PIPEDA) - Guide and Checklist on the College's website at [www.cvo.org](http://www.cvo.org).

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## Membership Renewals 2007

The annual membership renewal forms were mailed in mid-October. If you have not received your form, please contact Ms. **Karen Gamble** at the CVO to avoid the \$100 late payment penalty or cancellation of your licence for non-payment.

Remember to complete the annual renewal form and continuing education form and return the renewal form with your fee payment.

# Medical Records Workshops

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In October the College held seven interactive medical records workshops. They were held in Timmins, Oshawa, Cornwall, Guelph, Kitchener, Chatham and Guelph. A total of 222 participants registered for the workshops.



**Medical Records  
Workshops Facilitators**

*(Left to right): Dr. Marc Marin, Dr. Jim Christian,  
Dr. Susan Sabatini and Dr. Lois Valli*



*(Right): Dr. Susan Kilborn*

Hats off to Dr. Jim Christian and Dr. Lois Valli who both did a wonderful job facilitating their first workshops in Chatham and Toronto. The other workshops were once again effectively facilitated by the remaining facilitators; Dr. Marc Marin for Timmins, Dr. Susan Kilborn for Cornwall and Dr. Susan Sabatini for Oshawa, Guelph and Kitchener.



## Medical Records Workshops

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A second round of workshops will be held in February / March in **Owen Sound, Orillia, Brampton, Brantford, Lindsay, Perth, Stratford** and **Burlington**. Work on the logistics for these workshops is underway and invitations will be mailed to all veterinarians in the district of the workshop January 2007. Register early as these events fill up quickly.

### Reminder...

There are always unavoidable absences at workshops but we would like to remind everyone that we often have waiting lists for these events. We would appreciate as much notice as possible for cancellations so that we may attempt to get a replacement for that spot.



**Anita Stephenson**, Quality Assurance Coordinator, is always on hand at the workshops. Anita has returned from a workshop with several interesting questions from participants that need further clarification.

To further improve communication, future answers to these questions will be available to all members on the CVO website, [www.cvo.org](http://www.cvo.org), under the FAQ section.

# Discipline Hearing

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## Summary of Recent Discipline Hearing

### Discipline Hearings

The *Veterinarians Act*, section 31.-(1) “Where the Discipline Committee finds a member or former member of the College guilty of professional misconduct or serious neglect, the registrar shall publish the finding...” The name of the member who is subject of the hearing may, or may not, be included depending on the decision of the Discipline Committee panel. Information revealing the names of the witnesses and clients has been removed.

Decisions may be obtained, in full, by contacting Ms. **Rose Robinson**, coordinator for Complaints and Discipline, at extension 2227 or email [robinson@cvo.org](mailto:robinson@cvo.org).

### Dr. Clare Maine (*Rockwood*)

On May 17, 2006 the Discipline Committee met to hear and consider allegations of professional misconduct against Dr. Clare Maine.

Dr. Maine pleaded guilty to the following allegations: Dr. Maine engaged in professional misconduct when she violated sub-section 17.(1) of Ontario Regulation 1093 paragraphs 2 (*failing to maintain the standard of practice of the profession*), 8 (*making a misrepresentation to a client or prospective client*), 30 (*failing to direct or supervise, or inadequately directing or supervising, an auxiliary*), and 44 (*an act or omission relevant to the practice of veterinary medicine that, having regard to the circumstances, would be regarded by members as disgraceful, dishonourable or unprofessional*) by:

- Failing to advise of a mandibular fracture
- Failing to treat fracture appropriately

### Decision:

The Discipline Committee accepted Dr. Maine’s guilty plea and the following joint submission as to penalty.

1. Dr. Maine be reprimanded by the Discipline Committee.

2. Dr. Maine’s licence to practice veterinary medicine has a permanent condition and limitation prohibiting from practicing dentistry and that she be prohibited from supervising an auxiliary or anyone else in the performance or practice of dentistry.
3. Dr. Maine’s licence to practice veterinary medicine will be suspended for a period of six months. The first three months of the suspension will commence on November 1, 2006. The second three months of the suspension will be suspended provided that, by October 1, 2007, Dr. Maine successfully completes, to the satisfaction of the Registrar, the following:
  - (a) Dr. Maine will actively participate in a series of two, eight hour mentoring sessions with a veterinarian to be appointed by the Registrar, which sessions will address the issues identified in the Agreed Statement of Facts, following which Dr. Maine will write a paper on these issues, including what she learned from the sessions, which paper will not be less than 2,500 words and include reference to not less than five separate recognized academic sources; and
  - (b) A peer review of medical records, which will consist of a monitor, to be appointed by the Registrar, attending at Dr. Maine’s clinic to

# Discipline Hearing

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review Dr. Maine's charts for one day each month between but including February 1, 2007 and August, 2007. Following each attendance at Dr. Maine's clinic, the monitor will report his or her findings to the Registrar within one week of the monitor's attendance. The Registrar will forthwith provide to Dr. Maine a copy of the monitor's reports following receipt of these reports and advise Dr. Maine whether the reports are satisfactory to the Registrar.

4. The Discipline Committee ordered that if Dr. Maine fails to satisfy any of the conditions contained in subparagraphs 3(a) and (b) by October 1, 2007, Dr. Maine's licence to practice veterinary medicine will be suspended for an additional three months from November 1, 2007 until January 31, 2008.
5. The Discipline Committee ordered that it is a condition and limitation on Dr. Maine's licence to practice veterinary medicine that during any periods of suspension that are served as a result of the Order, Dr. Maine cannot employ anyone, whether a locum or otherwise, to perform veterinary services. While Dr. Maine may lease, licence or rent her veterinary medicine practice to another member of the College of Veterinarians of Ontario, Dr. Maine is not permitted to benefit in any way from the veterinary medicine practice during any period of suspension, either directly or indirectly.
6. The Discipline Committee ordered that any information received by the Registrar as a result of the Order may be referred to the Executive Committee of the College for any action that it may determine to be appropriate in the circumstances, including a further referral of specified allegations to the Discipline Committee.
7. The Discipline Committee ordered that Dr. Maine will pay all of the expenses associated with the implementation and enforcement of the Order, including the monitoring and mentoring arrangements described herein, except that the costs of mentoring as provided for in paragraph 3(a) will be capped at \$3,000.00.
8. The Discipline Committee ordered that Dr. Maine will pay a fine in the amount of \$3,500.00 within sixty days of the date of the Order.
9. The Discipline Committee ordered that Dr. Maine will pay costs to the College in the amount of \$2,000.00 within sixty days of the date of the Order.
10. The Discipline Committee ordered that its findings and the penalty shall be placed on the College register and that they be published in accordance with the *Veterinarians Act* and Ontario Regulation 1093, including the member's name.

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## **CVO e-news**

Have you signed up for the CVO electronic newsletter? To sign up go to the CVO website ([www.cvo.org](http://www.cvo.org)).

## **Professionals Health Program**

Confidential toll-free line:

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[www.phpoma.org](http://www.phpoma.org)

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