



THE COLLEGE OF
VETERINARIANS
OF ONTARIO

UPDATE

Vol. 23 No. 1
ISSN 0821-6320

visit the CVO website at
www.cvo.org

March 2007

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President's Message



by **Arie Vreugdenhil, DVM**
President

It is my pleasure to address you as the President of your organization, the College of Veterinarians of Ontario (CVO).

CVO looks to the future confidently with a new registrar and dedicated, hard working councillors, committees and staff.

The College continues to fulfill its mission to protect the public by regulating and enhancing the veterinary profession in Ontario. This is accomplished through the efforts of all concerned.

Some of the challenges and opportunities facing the organization are:

- Registered Veterinary Technicians - the CVO will continue to work with the Ontario Association of Veterinary Technicians (OAVT), the Ontario Veterinary Medical Association (OVMA) and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) on the issues related to registered veterinary technicians;
- Ongoing review and drafting of policies and guidelines to assist the membership;
- Quality Assurance opportunities in addition to continuing to offer Medical Records Workshops will be explored;
- Legislative changes created by Bill 190 - follow up on changes and ensure that amendments to Ontario Regulation 1093 and the CVO By-laws are passed and circulated;
- VSTEP - continued support of the Veterinary Skills, Training and Enhancement Program in cooperation with OVMA and OVC.

I look forward to serving the CVO, the members and the public as President. My recent retirement will allow the time for commitments such as the recent graduation of the first class of VSTEP students in January which I was pleased to attend on behalf of the CVO with the registrar, Ms. Susan Carlyle.

Annual General Meeting



*(Above): attendees at the Annual General Meeting
(Right - from left to right): Ms. Christine Simpson,
Assistant Registrar, Ms. Susan Carlyle, Registrar,
and Dr. Michele Dutnall, Vice-President*

Twenty one members attended the CVO Annual General Meeting held at the College's office in Guelph, on January 31, 2007. Drs. David Alves and Grant Maxie acted as scrutineers and recorded the votes.

Vice-President welcomes members

Dr. **Michele Dutnall**, vice-president of CVO, welcomed members in attendance, introduced the new council for 2006/2007 and explained the voting procedure.

The members reviewed and accepted the minutes from the 2004/2005 Annual General Meeting and the 2005/2006 Report of Council. This report was included in the annual report, which was distributed with the December 2006 edition of *Update*.

Dr. Dutnall presented the audited financial statements for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006. The members approved these statements and approved the firm of BDO Dunwoody LLP, as auditors for the CVO for the fiscal year 2006/2007.

Question Period

Dr. Dutnall opened the floor to members to present any new business. No issues were raised.

In memoriam

Dr. Dutnall read the names of those members of the College who passed away during 2006, and asked members to pause for a moment of silence in remembrance.

She then offered congratulations to the members of the College who were granted Emeritus Status in 2006.

The meeting was declared adjourned.

2007 Student Soiree

Students of OVC 2007 were hosted by the CVO Councillors and staff at the annual Student Soiree held in the OVC cafeteria on January 31, 2007.

Those attending mixed and mingled as the students completed their “Soiree Passport” by identifying and meeting councillors and staff from the clues provided.



The evening was most enjoyable and allowed the graduating students and CVO Councillors time to become acquainted. The evening concluded with a draw for prizes.



Prize winners pose for a picture with the CVO Vice-President.

Pictured from left to right: **David Kirkham**, **Rachel Shanahan**, **Dr. Michele Dutnall**, CVO Vice-President, **Shaun Baines** and **Laine Misch**. (Absent: **Lynn Anderton**)

Council Bulletin

Council Meeting: January 31, 2007

- Reviewed and passed in principle the proposed amendments to the By-laws that had been previously circulated to the membership for comment.
 - Reviewed the draft Guideline: **Medical Records - Companion Animals** - to be amended and returned to Council.
 - Reviewed and amended the draft Position Statement: **Release of Medical Information (formerly Transfer of Medical Records)** and directed that in view of the extent of the amendments, it be re-circulated to stakeholders for review and comment.
 - Reviewed and accepted the Position Statement: **Steering** (*see enclosed with this issue of Update*).
 - Reviewed and accepted the Guideline: **Ordering, Performing and Interpreting Laboratory Tests in Veterinary Clinical Practice (formerly QA of Veterinary Laboratories)** (*see enclosed with this issue of Update*).
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CVO Designated as an Investigative Body

Industry Canada has designated the College of Veterinarians of Ontario as an investigative body. This means that an organization covered by the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (PIPEDA) can disclose personal information to the College without the consent of the affected individuals. This is important for such matters as Complaints Committee investigations.

This designation was granted on the basis that the College is conducting a public interest function that cannot be done effectively if individual consent is required.

Student Corner

by Tanya Fournier



The students at the OVC wasted no time upon returning to school in 2007. It has been a busy year in terms of events and programs and even with fewer than two months of the school year remaining, we still have plenty more on the way! Here are highlights of some past and upcoming events.

The annual fundraising initiative of the **OVC Fraternity** for the **United Way** collected the commendable sum of \$1327.27. The collected funds were used to buy toys for children in need during the holiday season. Congratulations to all for such an outstanding effort!

Students all throughout the University of Guelph are currently busy organizing for **College Royal**, one of the largest University Open House events in North America. The OVC is actively involved and will offer a multitude of events such as an anatomy dissection display, Teddy Bear Surgery, and an Old MacDonald Petting Farm. Other features include live animal shows, a chemistry magic show, and face painting. The open house provides people with a general idea of student involvement within the OVC and various other university departments. College Royal is a free event for the whole family, so please come and join us March 17-18. For more information, visit: <http://www.collegeroyal.uoguelph.ca>.

Challenge Cup may very well be one of the most anticipated hockey tournaments of the year at the OVC. Each phase may enter a men's and a women's team to compete against not only the other phases but also the professors and staff. The winning teams receive the greatest prize of all: bragging rights! The competitive exercise allows students and staff to play an energizing game; promoting interaction and teamwork while having lots of fun.

Global Vets is a program offered annually through the OVC to provide student veterinarians with a unique opportunity to investigate animal health care in developing countries. The participants strive to promote an international collaboration in animal health and welfare, agricultural development, and ecosystem health. Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Peru are just some of the countries most recently visited. The success of the program is made possible by the generous financial support of corporate and private sponsors. Global Vets participants look to practitioners for financial donations and advice with respect to planning their projects.



The above photo displays the participants in Global Vets from the past year. (*Bottom step L-R*): Michelle Oblak, Janet Sunstrum (*Second step L-R*) Amy Jewess, Kristen Brown, Elizabeth Sinclair (*Third step L-R*) Maria Pienkowski, Naomi Dicks (*Back row*) Lara Zahra (*Banister F-B*) Danika Neumann, Karlee Thomas, John Murray and Kim Andrews. (*Absent*) Danielle Julien.

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Student Corner

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International veterinary education does not end with Global Vets. The **International Veterinary Medicine Club (I.V.M.C.)** of the OVC has recently become the first Canadian Chapter of the International Veterinary Students' Association (I.V.S.A). The I.V.S.A. is a well-respected and world-renowned organization that has been actively involved in raising the overall standards of veterinary education for over fifty years. Their mandate involves increasing the international and inter-cultural exchange of knowledge and promoting the international application of veterinary skills and education, thereby benefiting animals and people from all over the world. By partnering with the I.V.S.A., the I.V.M.C. helps to arrange locations for international students to volunteer with a veterinarian in Canada.

Additionally, the association organizes workshops for visiting student groups from other nations. These exchange students are exposed to new and exciting opportunities that they are unlikely to encounter in their home country. To help ensure the continued success of the exchange program, the I.V.M.C. is looking for practical experience opportunities for international students, involving any aspect of veterinary medicine. If your clinic or organization would like to get involved with the program or would like to find out more information, please contact: ivsacanada@gmail.com.

The 21st annual **Student Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (S.C.V.M.A.) Symposium** is an event hosted by the OVC from January 16-19, 2008 and only comes to Guelph every four years. Currently, event planning and organization of many tours, wet-labs, hockey games, lectures in both French and English, and a closing Gala is under way. The goal of the symposium is to create links between students in veterinary schools across Canada through an educational medium.

With such a wide array of events and opportunities, I am astonished that we students are able to get any work done! In the meantime, it is with sadness that I must soon say goodbye to another excellent year as the **CVO Student Representative**. However, it gives me great pleasure to pass on this position and exceptional opportunity to another student veterinarian in the College. Elections for a new CVO Student Representative are forthcoming.

Enclosed with this issue of *Update*

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

- Position Statement on **Steering**
- Guideline on **Ordering, Performing and Interpreting Laboratory Tests in Veterinary Clinical Practice**

Both documents can also be found on the CVO website at www.cvo.org.

Conflict of Interest Regulations

It is said that the person who knows best whether there is a conflict of interest is the person who has it!

More and more, veterinary practice is evolving from a model of the single, neighborhood practitioner, to a model which includes practice while in the employ of corporate entities, governments, non-profit groups and multi-owner, multi-associate hospitals. The Regulations to the *Veterinarians Act* include a number of references to specific conflicts of interest, and members should understand and be aware of how they apply to the individual member's particular employment situation.

Section 42 of the Regulations, the conflict of interest rules, are designed to ensure that veterinarians, as licensed professionals, engage in practice under conditions where they are fully responsible for the decisions that they make in the course of dealing with their clients and caring for their pets, without influence by non-veterinarians. These decisions must be made ethically, and with honesty and integrity.

Some examples of specific conflicts of interest are:

1. A veterinarian is employed by a humane society and is under the direction of a non-veterinary manager or board of directors.
2. An arrangement with the landlord of the property on which a clinic is located where the amount of the lease is based on the monthly income of the clinic.
3. A veterinarian is presented with an animal by a client who recently purchased the animal from another of the veterinarian's clients.
4. A veterinarian works for a company which provides reproductive services to livestock producers, but does not provide day to day care to those producer's animals.

In each case the veterinarian has a responsibility to be aware of the conflict of interest, and where permitted by the regulations, make the necessary declarations or enter into an appropriate contractual agreement in order to ensure the informed consent of the parties involved. A conflict of interest does not necessarily require a member to refuse to provide veterinary services. Instead, it confers a duty on the veterinarian to ensure that the parties are aware of any conflict or potential conflict, and obtain the parties' agreement to engage the veterinarian within the appropriate parameters.

However, some situations require the veterinarian to conduct their affairs in a particular way. In example #1, the veterinarian is required by the regulations to have a written contract which provides that the veterinarian is responsible for all decisions relating to the quality and promotion of the member's professional services and the health of the animals under their care. In example #2, any lease on the property must be for a set fee, and cannot be based on income.

In both of these cases, the rules are intended to ensure that veterinarians engage in practice with the best interests of the animals and/or their clients in mind, and not in order to satisfy pressure from a non-veterinarian third party.

Understanding and avoiding conflicts of interest is essential to fair, ethical practice.

For information or assistance with respect to potential conflicts of interest, members can contact the CVO at 1-800-424-2856.

Complaints Case

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.

Responsibility for After Hours Service...

Dr. X, from the ABC Veterinary Services, attended the farm of Ms. Owner to vaccinate two horses (Horse 1 and Horse 2) and to geld Horse 2. The surgery was uneventful.

A month later, Ms. Owner contacted the ABC Veterinary Services advising Dr. A that Horse 2 had cut his ear on a wire fence. Ms. Owner relayed the location of her farm and Dr. A stated that she might not be able to attend the emergency as the farm was over an hour away. Dr. A conferred by telephone with Dr. X, who was on a farm call elsewhere. Approximately 40 minutes later, Dr. A called Ms. Owner and confirmed she was unable to attend her farm due to the distance. Ms. Owner obtained service that night from Dr. B of XYZ Veterinary Services.

In the letter of complaint received by the College, Ms. Owner alleged, among other things, the following:

1. Dr. X failed to perform a thorough examination of Ms. Owner's horses (i.e., he neglected to bring a stethoscope to the barn and, therefore, did not check the respiratory system of the animals).
2. Drs. X and A refused to attend Ms. Owner's farm to provide

emergency service claiming that they had decided that they could not compromise their other clients by attending at Ms. Owner's farm to deal with the injury to her horse. Ms. Owner, however, believed that she was one of their clients and was also upset because they compromised her horse further when they took 40 minutes to make the decision that they were not going to provide her with emergency service.

The Committee reviewed medical records of the ABC Veterinary Services, written submissions from Ms. Owner, Dr. X and Dr. A, as well as written submissions and medical records from Dr. B of XYZ Veterinary Services.

Reasons for Decision

Ms. Owner alleged that Dr. X performed a less than thorough examination of her horses because he did not bring his stethoscope to the barn. Dr. X acknowledged that on reaching Ms. Owner's barn, which was 100 metres from where he could park his truck, he realized he had forgotten his stethoscope.

After reviewing the medical records pertaining to the visit, the Committee believed that Dr. X

performed a thorough enough examination of the horses to establish their health status for the purpose of administering a vaccination. The Committee felt, however, that a physical examination prior to administering a general anaesthetic should include auscultation of the animal's heart and lungs with a stethoscope, to check for any detectable cardio-respiratory abnormalities that could potentially cause complications with anesthesia. Dr. X's acknowledgement that he did not check Horse 2's chest with a stethoscope supports the view that a thorough enough examination was not performed before this animal was anaesthetized for surgery. The Committee had concerns with Dr. X's omission in this regard.

Ms. Owner alleged that neither Dr. A nor Dr. X would make an emergency call to her farm when she phoned to report that Horse 2 had cut his ear on a wire fence. When Ms. Owner first called, she was told by Dr. A that she would have to consult with Dr. X to ascertain whether or not the farm was within the practice's range for provision of out of hours service. After 40 minutes Dr. A called Ms. Owner to tell her they could not

compromise other clients of the practice by traveling the one hour distance to Ms. Owner's farm.

The Committee believed there was an obligation by the ABC Veterinary Services to provide out of hours service to Ms. Owner insofar as her horses had been treated one month prior by Dr. X, unless Ms. Owner had been previously informed that no out of hours service would be provided and consented to this arrangement. Neither Dr. X nor Dr. A denied Ms. Owner's claim that when she first established herself as a client she was told she would be able to receive both routine and out of hours service despite her farm being one hour away. In their submissions, the Committee found the accounts of Dr. X and Dr. A regarding telephone conversations to be at variance.

The Committee believed that as the acknowledged on-call veterinarian available at the time, it was Dr. A's responsibility to establish that Ms. Owner was a client whose animals had been recently treated by the practice, and as such, to recognize her professional obligation to attend the emergency. The Committee was concerned that Dr. A did not appear to recognize her professional obligation in this regard. Ms.

Owner was placed in a difficult position to suddenly have to find a new veterinarian to attend her injured horse, particularly as there would have been no obligation for another veterinarian to respond to an out of hours emergency for someone whose animals he/she has not treated before.

Decision

The Committee had some concerns with the conduct of Dr. A and Dr. X. The Committee advised Dr. X of the Committee's concern regarding his conduct as it relates to ensuring that, prior to administering a general anaesthetic to a horse, he performs a physical examination which includes auscultation of the animal's heart and lungs with a stethoscope.

The Committee advised Dr. A of the Committee's concern regarding her conduct as it relates to ensuring that when she is the on-call veterinarian and receives a call regarding an ill or injured animal, she makes efforts to establish whether the animal has been recently or regularly treated by the practice. If this is the case, there is an obligation for her to provide service in accordance with O. Reg. 1093, 20 (1) and (2), unless it is clear that the client has been previously informed that no out of hours service would be made

available and has consented to this level of service, in accordance with College's Council Policy.

Ontario Regulation 1093 states:

20. (1) A member is responsible for providing reasonably prompt services outside of regular practice hours if the services are medically necessary for animals that he or she has recently treated or that he or she treats regularly.

(2) The services required under subsection (1) may be provided by the member or an associate or by referral to another member who has agreed to cover the referring member's practice.

Policy of the Council of the College of Veterinarians of Ontario states:

It is the policy of the council of the College of Veterinarians of Ontario that O. Reg. 1093 s. 20 will be interpreted on a case by case basis. Veterinarians shall provide the best afterhours care for their clients that they can arrange, given their particular circumstances. Client informed consent must include the level to which the member will provide after-hours coverage.

Updates (November 11, 2006 - February 1, 2007)

*The College welcomed the following new registrants between November 11, 2006 and February 1, 2007.
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. Mohinder Bangar	G	Dr. Patricia Danko	G	Dr. Erin Leonard	E
Dr. Pankaj Bassi	G	Dr. Adam Haight	G	Dr. Gagandeep Sachdeva	G
Dr. Ramin Behdjani	G	Dr. Claire Jardine	G	Dr. Adrienne Thomson	G
Dr. Aboubaker Bouzid	PS	Dr. Jennifer Jobin	G	Dr. Modest Vengust	R
Dr. Kuldeep Chattha	E	Dr. Parminder Kauldhar	G	Dr. Catherine Went	G

The following is a list of new corporations:

New Corporations

Allandale Veterinary Hospital Professional Corporation

Animal Hospital of Stoney Creek Professional Corporation

Arnprior Animal Hospital Professional Corporation

Beaverdale Veterinary Clinic Professional Corporation

Belleway Veterinary Hospital Professional Corporation

Briarwood Animal Hospital Professional Corporation

Buller Hylands Veterinary Professional Corporation

Caslick Veterinary Professional Corporation

Churchill Meadows Animal Hospital Professional Corporation

de Haan Veterinary Professional Corporation

Dr. Larry Yelen Professional Corporation

Eglinton Animal Hospital Professional Corporation

Emeryville Animal Hospital Professional Corporation

Finnigan Veterinary Professional Corporation

Gateway Pet Hospital Professional Corporation

Haliburton Veterinary Professional Corporation

Hall Equine Services Professional Corporation

Hertel Veterinary Professional Corporation

Huntsville Animal Hospital Professional Corporation

King City Veterinary Professional Corporation

Knill Veterinary Professional Corporation

Mississippi Veterinary Professional Corporation

Pine Valley Animal Hospital Professional Corporation

Pyne Hills Veterinary Hospital Professional Corporation

Ransberry Veterinary Professional Corporation

Salloway Equine Professional Corporation

Sauble Beach Veterinary Professional Corporation

Suitor Veterinary Professional Corporation

Vandenbrink Veterinary Professional Corporation

Wimmers Veterinary Professional Corporation

Updates (November 11, 2006 - February 1, 2007)

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

New Facilities

Algonquin East Animal Clinic

Category: Companion Animal Hospital, and
Companion Animal Mobile

Director: Dr. Ann Rankin-Burkart

Castlemore Veterinary House Call Services

Category: Companion Animal Mobile

Director: Dr. Amanjot S. Kahlon

Greater Toronto Veterinary Mobile Services

Category: Companion Animal Mobile

Director: Dr. Gurinder Bala

Hollybank Animal Hospital

Category: Companion Animal Hospital

Director: Dr. Sandi Rosely

McLevin Veterinary Mobile Services

Category: Companion Animal Mobile

Director: Dr. Jasdip Dhillon

Sandhu Veterinary Mobile Services

Category: Companion Animal Mobile

Director: Dr. Gurcharan Sandhu

Shannondale Pet Hospital

Category: Companion Animal Hospital

Director: Dr. Teresa Wasilewicz

Thames Mobile Veterinary Services

Category: Companion Animal Mobile

Director: Dr. Susan Fussell

Closed Facilities

Dr. David Charles Gay

Springmount Veterinary Services

Relocated Facilities

Cumberland Veterinary Hospital

Dr. J. Bert Loggan

Nassagaweya Equine Services

North Park Veterinary Hospital

Upper Canada Animal Hospital

Updates (November 11, 2006 - February 1, 2007)

The following veterinarians are no longer licensed in Ontario:

Dr. Bianca Bauer	Dr. Rachel Giesel	Dr. Julia Morris
Dr. Sarah Boston	Dr. Christopher Good	Dr. K. Romany Pinto
Dr. Nicholas Brebner	Dr. Heather Gunn-McQuillan	Dr. Bronwyn Rutland
Dr. Henry Burns	Dr. James G. Hall	Dr. Ajay Sharma
Dr. Isabelle Caron	Dr. Felicia Hayes	Dr. Hanif Sukhiani
Dr. Arthur Ceballos	Dr. Sandy Jameson	Dr. Cajup Sulko
Dr. Safi Chand	Dr. Lisa Martin	Dr. Martin Thibeault
Dr. Sally Cleland	Dr. Iain MacColl	
Dr. Susan Emerson	Dr. Joanna Milan	

*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.*

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.

Adams, Donald (OVC 1950)

Devereux, Randall Johnson (OVC 1940)

Kern, Stefan (Austria 1939)

Pauly, Klaus Gerhard (Munich 1955)

Radostits, Otto (OVC 1959)

St. John, Kim (OVC 1979)

Product Endorsements via Internet Link

Members are reminded that internet advertising is considered global advertising and is subject to the Holding Out regulations. Consequently, having internet links either from your website to a product website, or from the product website to yours may constitute an endorsement of that product, which is contrary to the regulations.

Similarly, product websites which offer a "Find a Veterinarian" feature, which provides members of the public with contact information for veterinarians who use that product, place the veterinarian at risk of being in contravention of the regulations which prohibit steering.

see article on opposite page: "Advertising - You're Responsible"

Advertising - You're Responsible

Advertising has one purpose - to sell products or services. As a result, advertising companies go to great lengths to get their client's message out and are experienced in using descriptive and extravagant language to accomplish this. Unfortunately, when that client is a veterinarian, the advertising company's good intentions and creative promotion can result in the veterinarian running afoul of CVO's regulations.

Whether it is a simple advertisement, or a human interest story, the writer's job is to get the viewer's attention. There are a number of regulations which govern professional advertising by veterinarians, but the underlying principle that all members must remember is: Even if you didn't say it, you're responsible for it.

The College has recently dealt with a number of members who have purchased a particular piece of equipment for their clinics. After the sale, the company sends a press release to the local media advising that the clinic has made the purchase, and how valuable this piece of equipment is going to be to the veterinarian, their clients and their patients.

Always on the lookout for a good human interest story, the local media often decides to conduct an interview of the veterinarian/purchaser, and publishes an article proclaiming that 'XYZ Veterinary Clinic has just purchased the latest, greatest, state-of-the-art, modern, painless piece of equipment known to veterinary medicine'. What a boon for the veterinarian - until he or she finds out that he/she has inadvertently violated the College's advertising regulations by allowing the use of non-verifiable or comparative language, or mentioning a product by name. The veterinarian didn't say it - the company said it - the media said it. Unfortunately, according to the regulations, the veterinarian is still responsible. Contraventions of the advertising regulations could result in a disciplinary finding, with all of the penalties that entails.

Here are some simple suggestions to ensure that you don't find yourself in violation:

1. Contrary to the statement of Marshall McLuhan, in veterinary advertising, the medium is not the message. The CVO regulates content, not methods of advertising. Members can advertise on TV, print media, radio, Internet, bus shelters, wherever they choose, so long as the advertising medium is not exclusive.
2. Keep in mind that you are responsible for any information communicated to the public in the form of an advertisement, "advertorial" or human interest story.
3. Insist that you are provided an opportunity to review the advertisement before it goes public. In the case of an interview, journalists are reluctant to permit their subject to have editorial control of the article. However, since you will be held responsible by the College for improper statements made about you, or your practice, you have an interest in ensuring that the journalist is aware of the damage to your professional standing that could result.
4. Ensure that equipment salespersons know that you will be held responsible for any advertisement or press release issued by the company. Ask them to review any potential advertisements with the College. Or, as above, insist that you be given an opportunity to review the advertisement, and contact the College for assistance.

The College is happy to preview any advertisement or article, to ensure that the member is not in contravention of the regulations. Advertising inquiries can usually be responded to within one business day.

*see note on opposite page entitled
"Product Endorsements via Internet Links"*

For assistance, contact:

Martin Fischer, Investigations and Advertising
(Toll-free Ontario): 1-800-424-2856 x2238 (Fax): 1-888-662-9479
E-mail: mfischer@cvo.org

Veterinary Reserve

Canadian Veterinary Reserve

Ottawa, November 28, 2006 - The Honourable Chuck Strahl, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food and Minister for the Canadian Wheat Board, and Dr. Paul Boutet, President of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA), announced that a pool of private sector veterinarians will be established to assist governments in responding to animal health emergencies such as disease outbreaks or natural disasters.

The Canadian Veterinary Reserve (CVR), a joint initiative of the CVMA and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), will supplement existing response capabilities of federal and provincial governments. It will also provide Canada with additional flexibility to increase its support for international animal disease control efforts.

“Canada’s new government is strengthening its ability to respond to infectious animal diseases such as avian influenza which have the potential to exact an enormous toll in animal health and social and economic costs,” said Minister Strahl. “We are pleased to be working with the CVMA to ensure that Canada has the surge capacity to respond to prolonged or multiple disease outbreaks, and to increase our contribution to international efforts to address disease occurrences at source as part of an enhanced prevention effort.”

The CVMA has created an Interim Advisory Board of animal and public health stakeholders to provide advice and guidance on the administration and training of the CVR over the next six months.

A recruitment campaign will be rolled out by the CVMA at the national and provincial level in the coming weeks. For the initial group, orientation and training will begin early in 2007. A reserve of 100 to 150 personnel is the initial target with a view to grow the reserve to 300 to 500 personnel over five years.

The ability of the CVR to respond to other declared emergencies, nationally or internationally, such as the flooding and damages associated with Hurricane Katrina in the United States, will also be incorporated into the program.

“I believe that veterinary practitioners will seek to join the CVR as an opportunity to contribute their skills and knowledge in these types of disasters. This service will provide significant benefits to Canadian society in general and it will minimize the suffering of many of the affected animals in particular,” said Dr. Boutet.

The US, UK, Australia, the European Union and other countries have also established similar veterinary reserves, models which Canada is considering and adapting in the development of the Canadian Veterinary Reserve.

Note: Veterinarians interested in participating in the Reserve must be licensed. Those considering retirement should contact the CVO to discuss eligibility for the Reserve.

Two Important Changes to the Regulations

In June of 2004, the Lieutenant-Governor in Council approved several changes to the regulations. Two of these changes were made to address very specific needs which were not being met by the previous regulations. However, it is apparent from recent inquiries directed to the CVO, that there remains some confusion. We hope that this article can help.

Emergency Prescriptions

The new regulations incorporated changes to Sections 26 and 33 of the drug regulations. The regulations were amended to allow veterinarians to dispense a drug, (not including controlled substances, ketamine or a targeted drug), pursuant to an oral or written prescription from another veterinarian.

However, this would only be permitted under very specific situations where the primary veterinarian is not readily available, such as where the animal is out of town (e.g., at the family cottage or on a family holiday) and medication has either run out or was forgotten at home.

Additionally, it must not be reasonably possible for the client to obtain the drug from a prescribing member or a pharmacy. It must be necessary, in the interests of the animal, to administer or dispense the drug without the delay that would be associated with returning to the prescribing member. The veterinarian must make a reasonable effort to discuss the matter with the

original treating veterinarian and the veterinarian must conduct a sufficient assessment of the animal's circumstances, which may not require a physical examination in every case, to ascertain that it is unlikely that there has been a material change in the circumstances since the prescription was given by the original veterinarian.

As well, the quantity of the drug dispensed can be no more than would reasonably enable the client to return to the prescribing member for future prescriptions or quantities of drugs. The dispensing member is required to make a written record of the transaction. This regulation change is intended to allow veterinarians, who are approached by non-clients, to provide assistance in these very specific circumstances where the animal is at risk due to an unforeseen circumstance and where the primary veterinarian is not readily available due to distance.

This regulation is not intended to facilitate dispensing of drugs simply for client convenience. For example, it is not intended to permit a client who chooses to use the services of a veterinarian who practices some distance from the client's residence to obtain drugs for their animal from a veterinarian who practices closer to the client's residence, but is not the regular veterinarian of the client.

Abandoned Animals

A regulation change was implemented to assist veterinarians

who find themselves in a situation where a client has presented an animal for treatment, but who does not then return to claim their animal, essentially abandoning it.

Subsection 17 (1.1) was added to allow veterinarians to deal with a live animal that has not been claimed by the client within 10 days of the completion of an in-hospital treatment or convalescence or an auxiliary service, by transferring the animal to an animal shelter or a third party.

This regulation can only be utilized if the client has agreed to the transfer in writing, (which requires that this is included in the consent signed by the owner), that the member has attempted to contact the client at least 5 times by at least 2 different methods, such as telephone and mail, and has documented the attempts, and the member has attempted to contact any emergency contact person identified by the client.

This allows for a fair, reasonable and humane method for dealing with abandoned animals where the client's prior consent has been obtained. Members are strongly advised to incorporate this information into their intake consent forms, in order to reduce the financial and emotional stress which can result from having to continue to provide care for an animal which the owner refuses to redeem from the veterinary clinic.

CVO Staff



CVO Staff: *Front row, seated (from left): Christine Simpson, Brian Redpath, Susan Carlyle, Second row: standing (from left): Martin Fischer, DJ Vandongen, Chris Lana-Sarrate, Karen Gamble, Rose Robinson, Beth Ready, Anita Stephenson. Absent from photo: Louise Hamilton, Don Huston*

Ms. Susan J. Carlyle (Registrar)

- responsible for planning, coordinating and directing the overall management administration of the CVO, including financial, complaints, registration, accreditation and discipline proceedings

Mr. Martin Fischer (Investigator)

- conducts all investigations related to Registrar's Investigations and cases of alleged unlawful practice
- answers inquiries from members concerning College policies and regulations
- reviews member advertising and assists in finance and building management

Ms. Karen Gamble (Coordinator for Registration and Incorporation)

- answers inquiries regarding licence requirements, and the registration process
- collects and records annual licence form information and fee revenues
- processes applications for professional corporation names, prepares the certificates of authorization

- maintains the registration and professional corporation databases
- prepares material for registration appeals to the Health Professionals Appeal and Review Board

Ms. Louise Hamilton (Accreditation Coordinator)

- handles the facility inspection process and is the contact person for the accreditation inspectors
- processes inspection forms, name applications and prepares certificates of accreditation
- coordinates information for the accreditation committee and prepares material for the Health Professionals Appeal and Review Board
- maintains the accreditation database

Mr. Don Huston (Accreditation Inspector)

- responsible for scheduling and inspecting veterinary facilities in Ontario to ensure that the minimum standards are met
- prepares and submits reports to the accreditation coordinator, attends accreditation committee meetings and provides any information the committee may require regarding his inspections

Ms. Chris Lana-Sarrate (Assistant Coordinator)

- assists the Complaints Coordinator with general correspondence
- provides general office support, maintains the administration files and is the backup receptionist

Ms. Beth Ready (Coordinator to Executive and Member Communication)

- produces the College newsletter, *Update*, and provides support to the editor
- maintains and updates the College website
- co-ordinates the executive committee activities and meetings

Mr. Brian Redpath (Accreditation Inspector)

- responsible for scheduling and inspecting veterinary facilities in Ontario to ensure that the minimum standards are met
- prepares and submits reports to the accreditation coordinator, attends accreditation committee meetings and provides any information the committee may require regarding his inspections

Ms. Rose Robinson (Coordinator for Complaints and Discipline)

- manages telephone inquiries and processes written complaints from the public and veterinarians
- prepares all related information for the complaints committee
- provides administrative support for discipline hearings and prepares material for the Health Professions Appeal and Review Board

Ms. Christine Simpson (Assistant Registrar)

- provides support to the registrar in her daily responsibilities and assists with correspondence and research
- manages the human resources of the CVO, and co-ordinates the policy process and council meetings
- oversees the operations of the office

Ms. Anita Stephenson (Quality Assurance Coordinator)

- assists in the research, development and implementation of various QA program components
- consults and communicates with committees and CVO members as it relates to QA, organizes and coordinates a variety of meetings and workshops
- responsible for the development and maintenance of QA related databases and is the CVO Electronic Records Management Administrator

Ms. Donna-Jean (DJ) Vandongen (General Coordinator)

- provides general office support that includes back-up for program coordinators, set-up for meetings, issuing purchase orders, ordering all supplies and maintenance of the automated telephone system

Discipline Hearing

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.

Dr. Tibby Hunt (South Wales, New York State)

On November 20, 2006 the Discipline Committee met to hear and consider allegations of professional misconduct against Dr. Tibby Hunt.

Dr. Hunt pleaded guilty to the following allegations: Dr. Hunt engaged in professional misconduct when she violated sub-section 17.(1) of Ontario Regulation 1093 paragraphs 1 (*an act or omission inconsistent with the Act or the regulation - section 15 and 19 of Ontario regulation 1093*), 2 (*failing to maintain the standard of practice of the profession*), 30 (*failing to direct or supervise, or inadequately directing or supervising, an auxiliary*), 31 (*permitting, counseling or assisting any person, other than a member, to practice, or to attempt to practice, veterinary medicine*), 32 (*permitting, advising or assisting any person, other than a member, to perform any act or function which should properly be performed by a member*), and 40 (*treating an animal receiving veterinary services from another member without notifying the other member and obtaining the relevant historical information as soon as practicable except if the treatment is done in accordance with subsection 33 (1.1) of the regulation*). The particulars of the allegations involved the following:

- Conduct toward another veterinarian
- Inappropriately invoicing clients

- Failing to involve other treating veterinarian
- Inappropriate record-keeping
- Failing to practice from an accredited equine mobile

Decision

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

1. Dr. Hunt be reprimanded by the Discipline Committee.
2. Dr. Hunt’s licence to practice veterinary medicine will be suspended for a period of one month. However, this suspension shall itself be suspended provided that, by February 20, 2007, Dr. Hunt successfully completes a research paper, to the satisfaction of the Registrar, focusing on proper communication as between licensed veterinarians in Ontario, auxiliaries and clients. The body of the paper must be at least 1,500 words and contain at least 10 references to applicable provisions of the Veterinarians Act and the regulations there under, as well as to College policies and position statements relating to these issues. The paper shall be reviewed by an independent expert at Dr. Hunt’s expense for purposes of assisting the Registrar to determine whether the paper is satisfactory.

continued on next page

X-ray Machine Notice

3. In order to satisfy the requirements referred to in paragraph 2, the College must receive the research paper, or any revised versions should any previous versions not be to the Registrar's satisfaction, by no later than February 9, 2007.
4. In the event that Dr. Hunt fails to successfully complete the research paper referred to in paragraph 2, Dr. Hunt's licence to practice veterinary medicine shall be suspended on a date fixed by the Registrar, although such date shall be no later than March 1, 2007.
5. Dr. Hunt will pay costs to the College in the amount of \$7,500.00 by December 20, 2007.
6. The finding in this matter shall be recorded in the Register maintained under Section 19 of the Act and the members name shall be included in the College's publication as provided in Section 31(2).

Dental X-ray Machine

The Radiation Protection Bureau, Health Canada, has provided the following information on a new portable dental x-ray machine.

There is a new type of battery operated, hand held dental x-ray machine that is being marketed. This machine is not allowed to be imported into Canada. The Ministry of Labour, Radiation Protection Service, will issue a stop use order if encountered at any workplace in Ontario.

The NOMAD portable dental x-ray unit is not compliant with the requirements of Radiation Emitting Devices (RED) Act and Part II of the Radiation Emitting Devices Regulations (dental x-ray equipment). The manufacturer has not yet indicated how they will be addressing the issues of non-compliance; therefore, under the RED Act, this device cannot be imported, sold or leased into Canada.

For further information contact:
Consumer and Clinical Radiation Protection Bureau
Ottawa, ON
613-954-9584

CVO e-news

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

Professionals Health Program

Confidential toll-free line:

1-800-851-6606

www.phpoma.org

Update, the official publication of the College of Veterinarians of Ontario, is the principle means of communication between the College and its members. It is the primary means of informing the membership on regulatory issues, with the expectation that members will govern themselves accordingly. *Update* is charged with the responsibility of providing comprehensive, accurate and defensible information.

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editor: Ms. Susan J. Carlyle

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Publication mail agreement Number: 40583010