



THE COLLEGE OF  
VETERINARIANS  
OF ONTARIO

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# INFO SHEET

## Council of CVO

### INTRODUCTION

The Council is the governing body, or Board of Directors, for the CVO, and its composition and powers are established in the Veterinarians Act. Council's stewardship role includes setting strategic directions, making policy decisions, and ensuring financial soundness of the CVO. Decisions focus on the public interest, not on member advocacy.

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The Council is composed of 13 veterinarians and 4 public (non-veterinarian) members. The veterinarian members are elected by their peers and bring their understanding of the profession, from the perspective of the setting in which they practise, to the Council table. The public members are appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council and bring the public perspective to Council decisions.

Councillors can expect to attend 5 regular council meetings per year. As well they will be appointed to at least one other committee with varying time commitments. They are encouraged to attend the Members' Forum and Annual General Meeting as well as attending regional association meetings and special interest group meetings within their constituency. Councillors are paid a per diem for all meeting days and are reimbursed for expenses.

Councillors are elected or appointed for a three year term. Two consecutive three year terms may be served.

The CVO is the regulatory body for the veterinary profession in Ontario and was established by the Ontario government, through legislation entitled the *Veterinarians Act, 1989*.

The CVO replaced the Ontario Veterinary Association, which dated back to 1874. Among other things, the College is involved in licensure of veterinarians, facility accreditation and complaints and discipline of veterinarians.

The CVO determines the criteria for becoming licensed as a veterinarian and the standards of practice that must be met to maintain that designation. Only those approximately 3200 individuals who are licensed by the CVO can call themselves veterinarians and practice veterinary medicine in Ontario.

The CVO regularly inspects and accredits all veterinary facilities to ensure that compliance with the minimum standards is maintained. Only those approximately 1100 facilities that are CVO accredited may be open to the public.

The CVO investigates and adjudicates complaints against veterinarians and disciplines veterinarians when necessary. The CVO is responsible for prosecuting non-veterinarians who attempt to practice veterinary medicine.