

Professionals Health Program

The Professionals Health Program
is supported by:
Ontario Veterinary Medical Association.

Funding for the program is generously
provided by:
College of Veterinarians of Ontario

The program is administered by:
Ontario Medical Association
Physician Health Program
Dr. M. Kaufmann, Director

A confidential resource for veterinarians seeking
information about substance abuse issues.

Confidential Toll-Free Line:
1-800-851-6606



The Professionals Health Program

Serving the needs of veterinarians at risk of, or
suffering from substance use disorders.

Providing prompt intervention, referral to
treatment, monitoring and advocacy. This
service is provided by maintaining the highest
standards of quality, confidentiality,
responsibility and accountability to Ontario
veterinarians.

**A confidential resource
for veterinarians seeking
information about
substance abuse issues.**

Confidential Toll-Free Line:
1-800-851-6606

If you think you may
have a problem....
OR
If a veterinarian you
care about is impaired...
...Help is available!

The Problem

It's an unfortunate fact of life that some veterinarians will experience problems with alcohol or drugs during their medical careers. If left untreated, these problems can cause impairment, financial handicap, erosion of personal and family well-being — even loss of life.

How Do I Recognize a Problem?

Signs and symptoms of substance abuse include:

- Personality change
- Loss of efficiency and reliability
- Client and staff complaints about changing attitude or behaviour
- Increased sick time and time away from work
- Excessive time at work
- Mood swings, anxiety, depression, suicidal thoughts or gestures
- Indecision
- Increasing personal and professional isolation
- Physical deterioration
- Unpredictable work habits and patterns
- Memory loss
- Heavy "wastage" of drugs
- Alcohol on the breath

Inappropriate clinical judgement and treatment errors are late stage observations.

The Solution

The Professionals Health Program is a new service available to Ontario veterinarians.

When a veterinarian, or a concerned colleague, friend or family member calls a toll-free number, the veterinarian will receive prompt, professional and confidential counsel and support for drug and alcohol related problems.

Veterinarians are trained as skilled and compassionate healers, but may fail to receive the same services for themselves during times of need. Consequently, many feel helpless when coping with substance abuse that affects their colleagues and themselves.

Untreated veterinarians may suffer needlessly and may put themselves, their families and their patients at risk.

The Ontario veterinary profession accepts a duty to provide a program that will identify, confront, rehabilitate and monitor veterinarians suffering from substance use disorders, and to advocate on their behalf as they return safely to the practice of veterinary medicine.

The veterinarian, when in recovery, can bring to his or her profession a high level of quality medical care and humanity.

The Professionals Health Program offers a variety of comprehensive services:

- Preliminary assessment
- Intervention coordination
- Referral for counselling and clinical services
- Recovery monitoring
- Case management
- Advocacy

The program is administered by the Ontario Medical Association. Program staff respect privacy and maintain confidentiality to the greatest possible degree. Names of referral sources are also held in confidence when requested.

If you are a veterinarian with a drug or alcohol problem, or if you know a veterinarian who needs help in dealing with substance abuse, simply call the confidential Professionals Health Program phone number at:

1-800-851-6606