



POSITION STATEMENT

Companion Animal Mobiles Serving Multiple Clients in One Location

Approved by Council:	March 24, 2010
Publication Date:	April 2010 (website); June 2010 (<i>Update</i>)
To Be Reviewed by:	March 2015
Key Words:	accreditation, companion animal mobile
Related Topics:	
Legislative References:	<i>Veterinarians Act R.S.O. 1990</i> , Sections 8, 15, and 17 (see Appendix 1). <i>Minimum Standards for Veterinary Facilities</i> , Title 4.
College Contact:	Registrar
Replaces:	“Provision of Veterinary Services to First Nations Reserves” (March 23, 2003), “Provision of Pro Bono Veterinary Services to Homeless Population (March 23, 2003), and “Companion Animal Mobile Service Locations” (January 29, 1997).

College publications contain practice parameters and standards which should be considered by all Ontario veterinarians in the care of their patients and in the practice of the profession. College publications are developed in consultation with the profession and describe current professional expectations. It is important to note that these College publications may be used by the College or other bodies in determining whether appropriate standards of practice and professional responsibilities have been maintained.

Purpose

This Position Statement is intended to rationalize three separate but connected policy documents in one publication, in order to clearly stipulate the College's position on the acceptable locations for providing services from Companion Animal Mobile facilities in Ontario.

Scope

This Position Statement applies to all veterinarians operating accredited companion animal mobile facilities.

Background

Accredited Companion Animal (CA) Mobile facilities allow veterinarians to provide services to individual clients in their private residences or places of business. The CA Mobile is not to be used to offer services in public spaces, such as parking lots or lobbies, and Council passed a policy clarifying this position for members in 1997 ("Companion Animal Mobile Services Locations.")

Afterwards, the College of Veterinarians received several queries each year from members asking whether or not they are permitted to offer services in communal facilities or centres both to:

- (a) populations lacking regular veterinary care that are not sufficiently remote to allow services from a Remote Area Companion Animal Mobile¹ facility; and
- (b) individuals lacking access to private residential space.

Council therefore created two policies in 2003 to address these specific populations; veterinarians wishing to provide services in these circumstances have been required to contact the CVO to provide details and to obtain permission to proceed.²

The CVO has not changed its position regarding the provision of these services; rather, through this Position Statement, it sets out instructions for members about the process to be followed from this point forward, and expands the potential situations and client communities that may be covered by this Position Statement to include individuals who are significantly restricted for a variety of reasons in their ability to seek veterinary care in clinics or in their places of business or residence.

¹ Title 4.1 in the *Minimum Standards for Veterinary Facilities in Ontario* permits Remote Area Companion Animal Mobiles to provide services to populations of fewer than 7,000 people and at least 100 km from an unaffiliated accredited companion animal hospital in "remote units" that may be set up in communal facilities.

² These policies were the "Provision of Veterinary Services to First Nations Reserves" and "Provision of Pro Bono Veterinary Services to Homeless Populations."

Position Statement

General

Veterinarians with Companion Animal Mobile facilities accredited in Ontario are permitted to provide veterinary services to a client at that client's residence or place of business. It is the position of the College that the CA Mobile certificate of accreditation does not permit the provision of services to groups of clients in a common location. This interpretation—that CA Mobiles shall provide services only in clients' residences or places of business—is, in effect, a minimum standard for CA Mobiles.

Application to Serve Multiple Clients

Council acknowledges that there are some circumstances under which veterinarians might wish to provide services to groups of individuals who would otherwise not have access to basic veterinary services.

Examples of such situations include those where

1. there is no place of residence or place of work at which a veterinarian could provide the services;
2. there is an identified public-health³ or domesticated-animal health risk⁴ if services were not provided;
3. significant public-education and/or health benefits will result.⁵

Since providing such a service does breach the general position of the College, veterinarians who wish to offer services to groups using accredited Companion Animal Mobile facilities are required to submit the **Application for Serving Multiple Clients in One Location** (Appendix 2) at least four weeks in advance of the planned event, to first obtain permission from the College. All other policy, applicable legislation, and minimum standards pertaining to CA Mobiles apply and must be upheld by the veterinarian offering the services.

³ Rabies, ringworm, hookworm, and ticks are some of the zoonotic issues that may impact public health.

⁴ Rabies, heartworm, and FeLV are some examples of diseases that may affect local domesticated animals.

⁵ Eventually Council may decide to require an application for a "Temporary Facility" certificate for the provision of these services, which will require the establishment of a new category in the *Minimum Standards for Veterinary Facilities in Ontario*.

APPENDIX 1

Relevant Legislation

The *Veterinarians Act, 1989*, is the profession specific *Act* which governs the practice of veterinarians in Ontario. O. Reg. 1093 is the regulation under that *Act*. The *Minimum Standards for Veterinary Facilities* are established by the Council of the CVO under the authority of the Regulation.

Veterinarians Act

Section 8: The Council may establish standards for veterinary facilities not inconsistent with this Act and the regulations which must be met in order to qualify for the issuance or renewal of a certificate of accreditation or any class thereof.

Section 15: No person shall establish or operate a veterinary facility except under and in accordance with a certificate of accreditation.

Section 17: The Accreditation Committee may exempt an applicant or veterinary facility from compliance with any qualification, requirement or standard for a certificate of accreditation.

APPENDIX 2

Application for Providing Services to Multiple Clients from an Accredited Companion Animal Mobile Facility

Veterinarian's Name: _____ Licence No.: _____

Name of Accredited CA Mobile Facility: _____

Name/Description of Person and Department, Agency, etc, that has requested the service:

Name: _____ Position: _____ Agency: _____

Location where services will be provided: _____

Type of Services to be provided: _____

Estimated number of clients to be served: _____

Estimated number of animals to be seen: _____

Date of proposed service provision: _____

I, _____ (name), currently licensed with the College of Veterinarians of Ontario, hereby confirm that

- the above-named community has expressed a need for and interest in obtaining services from my CA mobile at the specified location;
- I will provide only those services allowed to be performed under a certificate of accreditation for CA Mobiles;
- the premise used for the provision of service will have phone and water access;
- I will meet all practice standards and professional conduct requirements as set out in the *Veterinarians Act*, Regulation 1093, the *Minimum Standards*, and College publications;
- I will not solicit clients of other veterinarians or steer clients to specific veterinarians, and will limit advertising this event to the target population;
- I will maintain records as required under Regulation 1093;
- Payments collected, if any, will be made directly to me by the client/agent of the client.

I have attached additional documentation and background information supporting this application (required).

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please submit this form to the Accreditation Coordinator, CVO [fax: 1-888-662-9479]