



THE COLLEGE OF
VETERINARIANS
OF ONTARIO

INFO SHEET

Career Map For Internationally Trained Veterinarians

INTRODUCTION

To practise veterinary medicine in Ontario you must obtain a licence from the College of Veterinarians of Ontario (CVO). The CVO sets all licensing requirements for veterinarians under the Veterinarians Act of 1989 and Ontario Regulation 1093. Veterinarians in Ontario work in private practices (animal clinics), laboratories, zoos, conservation areas and reserves, government and industry.

You can not practise veterinary medicine or call yourself a veterinarian without a licence, but you can help a veterinarian as a veterinary assistant or technician. A veterinary assistant or technician must work under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian. The Ontario Association of Veterinary Technicians (OAVT) offers Associate membership to those who have graduated from a technical school not approved by the Board of Directors of the OAVT or have been self-educated. For more information on becoming a veterinary assistant or technician contact the OAVT (see address at the end of the document).

April 2007

College of Veterinarians of Ontario
2106 Gordon Street
Guelph, Ontario
N1L 1G6

Phone: 519-824-5600 / 1-800-424-2856
Fax: 519-824-6497 / 1-888-662-9479
Website: www.cvo.org

Before You Immigrate to Canada

Before you come to Canada, you should write to the National Examining Board (NEB) for an applicant information guide. You must also send \$15 Canadian for this information in certified cheque or money order payable to the NEB. The NEB is a body set up by the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association and is responsible for the National Board Exams in Canada. The applicant guide contains an application form and explains how to become a veterinarian in Canada. The NEB address is at the end of this information.

The application process to get licensed in Ontario, including the writing of the exams and the clinical proficiency exam, takes more than one year to complete. In order to complete this process quickly, send your documents to the National Examining Board (see **Step 1** information) before you leave for Canada. The National Examining Board will evaluate your documents and, if they approve your application, they will inform you where and when to write the National Board Exams. These exams can only be written in North America. You must begin the examination process within two years of the date you were informed of your eligibility to write them. You have to complete the exams within a five year period. If you cannot do so, you will have to reapply and pay the fees again.

When You Arrive in Ontario

If you have not done so already, write to the National Examining Board and request an applicant information guide (see **Before You Immigrate to Canada** information). If you did not send your documents to the National Examining Board before you arrived in Canada, send them when you arrive.

The National Examining Board will evaluate your documents and, if they approve your application, they will inform you where and when to write the National Board Exams. These exams can only be completed in North America. After you pass the National Board Exams you can apply to the College of Veterinarians of Ontario for your licence to practise veterinary medicine in Ontario.

LICENCE APPLICATION PROCESS

Step 1 - Review and Evaluation of Documents by the National Examining Board

The National Examining Board reviews and evaluates all applications. The Registrar of the National Examining Board will compare your studies and training with Canadian studies and training. You can send your documents to the National Examining Board from overseas.

The National Examining Board accepts copies of your documents, but they must be certified by a Notary Public or Commissioner for Oaths or Affidavits. If these documents are not in English or French, it is necessary to provide certified translations.

Before you are considered for the exams, the National Examining Board must receive all of the following documents. If you do not send all the information on the list, your application will be incomplete and will not be accepted. Try to send all the information together. If this is not possible, attach a letter explaining that some of the information will be coming soon.

Please send:

- A completed application form obtained from the NEB
- A certified copy of your veterinary degree
- A certified translation of your degree (if not in English)
- Transcripts of courses taken for your veterinary degree
- Two letters of recommendation - one from a licensing body and one from a responsible citizen (for example, veterinarian, member of the clergy, bank manager or government official)
- Three recent passport size photographs (taken within 6 months)
- A certified photocopy of your birth certificate as proof of identity
- Application fee

If you do not pass the National Board Exams but you have a diploma from a recognized school and extraordinary educational qualifications in a speciality field of veterinary medicine, for example, certification recognition (Diplomate status) in a speciality from the Board of the American Veterinarian Medical Association, you may request that the CVO Registration Committee review your application. CVO will evaluate your documents and may consider you for a licence with conditions and limitations.

National Board Exam Changes

The National Board Exam process will be changing in May 2007 in the USA and January 2008 in Canada.

- (1) Clinical Science Exam
- (2) CPE
- (3) NAVLE

Step 2 - National Board Exams

All foreign-trained applicants must write the National Board Exams. The exams are offered in December and April of every year. You may have to write two exams, depending on your training (see **Note** information at the end of Step 2). The exams can be written in English or, if you are in Quebec, in French. You must begin the examination process within two years of the date you were informed of your eligibility to write them. You have to complete the exams within a five year period. If you cannot do so, you will have to reapply and pay the fees again.

You will need to pass a language proficiency test in order to get your licence in Ontario (see **Language Proficiency Test**). Please note, effective August 11, 2001 it is required that you pass a language proficiency test before the National Board Exams. Applicants who do not have good working knowledge of English or French as used in veterinary practice in Canada, generally have difficulty passing the National Board Exams.

The National Board Exams have two components. The North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE) is an eight-hour computer-assisted exam with 360 multiple choice questions. Approximately 10% of the NAVLE exam will include some questions that use pictures or graphs, for example a photograph, radiograph, or chart. It is administered at Sylvan Technology Centres. There are over 300 in North America, operated by Sylvan Prometric.

Information on the locations will be provided when you register for the exam. Beginning in November, 2000, the NAVLE will be offered during a four-week period in November/December and during a two week period in April. The North American Veterinary Licensing Examination replaces both Parts A and B of the National Examining Board Examinations (offered for the last time in April 2000). After November 2000 the NAVLE will be the only written exam for veterinary licensing in Canada and the United States. After you pass the NAVLE, you can take the Clinical Proficiency Examination (CPE). It is offered four times per year to a limited number of applicants at the four veterinary schools in Canada. In this part of the exam, there are nine sections of clinical work that require three to four hours each. This part of the exam takes four days to complete. It is a hands-on exam where you must treat animals. Your communication skills will also be judged during this test. The Clinical Proficiency Exam is offered four times a year at the Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph.

If you fail the NAVLE you may rewrite the full exam. If you fail 3 or less of the 9 sections in the CPE, you may reapply to retake those sections and complete them within one year. If you fail 4 or more sections of the CPE, you must retake the entire CPE exam after a one year waiting period. During this year, it is strongly recommended that you do further training and upgrading. You have the right to appeal your score on the exams to the NEB.

Note: Applicants who graduated from a School of Veterinary Medicine that has been accredited by the Council on Education of the American Veterinary Medical Association **do not** have to take the CPE unless they fail the NAVLE more than once. (Accredited schools are Canadian and United States colleges/universities, the University of Utrecht in the Netherlands, the Royal Veterinary College in England, the University of Glasgow, University of Edinburgh in Scotland, Massey University in New Zealand, Murdoch University and University of Sydney in Australia.)

Step 3 - The Provincial Licence and Exam

After you pass all of the National Board Exams and receive your exam marks, you can apply to the College of Veterinarians of Ontario for a licence. To apply for a licence, you must phone, write, fax or go to CVO in Guelph, Ontario to request a licensure application package. The package contains an application form, the exam brochure and the Ontario legislation for veterinary medicine. Once you have the application, you must go in person to the CVO to present the documents listed below and write the Ontario Provincial Qualifying Exam. You may submit your licence application, documents and fees for licensing when you come to write this exam.

The information you sent to the National Examining Board is **not** forwarded to the CVO so you must bring the following documents:

- Your original veterinary degree and certified translation
- Letters from the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association indicating your marks on the National Board Exams
- The results of a language proficiency test (see the **Language Proficiency Test** information)
- A letter from your previous licensing bodies showing proof of licensure in good standing (You should obtain this before leaving your country of origin if possible.)
- Your original landed immigrant papers or work visa or Canadian citizenship
- The application form and fees required
- A recent passport size photograph (within 6 months)

The College of Veterinarians of Ontario administers the **Ontario Provincial Qualifying Exam**. The exam takes two hours to write and is made up of true/false questions. It tests your knowledge of Ontario's provincial veterinary laws and ethical issues. You may take the exam at any time during the year by making an appointment with the CVO. The legislation for you to study is included in the application package.

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY TEST

If you come from a country where English or French is not the official language, you must pass an English or French proficiency test. This test must be written before you can write the Ontario Provincial Qualifying Exam. The CVO will accept one of the following English proficiency tests and scores:

- Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), with a minimum score of 550 on the written test or a minimum score of 213 on the computer-based test, and the Test of Spoken English (TSE) with a minimum score of 50.
- Michigan English Language Assessment Battery (MELAB) with a minimum score of 85.
- International English Language Testing System (IELTS) with an overall score of 6.5.
- Canadian Academic English Language (CAEL) Assessment with a minimum score of 60.

You must bring your scores with you when you apply to the College of Veterinarians. You may take these tests in Canada or they may be written before you come to Canada. For more information on these tests, see addresses listed at the end of this document.

LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION

The employment outlook for veterinarians in Ontario is fair and should remain stable into the near future. Your success in finding employment will depend on the place where you are searching for work. Large urban centres have a high concentration of veterinarians and a very competitive market. Opportunities for employment are better if you are willing to work outside the cities in smaller towns. Generally, unemployment for veterinarians is lower than the national average and the average income is higher than the national average.

There are about 3,000 veterinarians licensed to practise veterinary medicine in Ontario. About 125 veterinarians are added to this number each year. For more information on labour market conditions for veterinarians in Ontario see *Ontario Job Futures* on the Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC) Website, www.on.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca. If you are already in Ontario, this information is also available at public libraries or HRDC Employment Resource Centres in your community.

The College of Veterinarians of Ontario (CVO) does not provide information on employment as a veterinarian in Ontario. The CVO is not an employment service. If you are looking for a job as a veterinary assistant or technician, you can review the classified section of the *Canadian Veterinary Journal*, a publication of the CVMA (see address at the end of this document).

You can also see a listing of jobs in the Veterinary Classifieds, a publication of the Ontario Veterinary Medical Association (OVMA) at their Website, www.ovma.org, or you can order the publication by contacting them directly (see address at the end of this document). The OVMA is the professional association for veterinarians in Ontario. The association is not an employment service either, but it does provide useful information and support to members. Membership in the association is voluntary.

ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

A detailed list of books available for study purposes is provided in the National Examining Board applicant guide. You can gain access to these materials by contacting the library of the Ontario Veterinary College at the University of Guelph (see address at the end of this document).

Sample examinations are offered at a cost from approx. \$100.00 US (each) from the Professional Examination Service in New York, NY (see address at the end of this document).

The CVO understands that foreign-trained veterinary graduates need to gain practical experience before attempting the Clinical Proficiency Exam, of the National Board Exam. To obtain this experience, foreign-trained veterinary graduates in Ontario could work under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian.

Before a foreign-trained veterinary graduate is employed, the employer may want to check with the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association that he/she has completed the North American Veterinary Licensing Exam. This request must be made in writing by the foreign-trained veterinary graduate to the CVMA. A list of practices that are willing to hire/mentor foreign-trained veterinarians before they complete the National Board Exam is being prepared by CVMA and will be available shortly.

COSTS AND FEES (in Canadian dollars)	
<i>National Fees (payable to CVMA) (includes 6% Goods & Services Tax)</i>	
Review and evaluation of documents	\$ 397.50
<i>National Board Exam Fees (payable to CVMA)</i>	
North American Veterinary Licensing Exam	\$ 874.50
Clinical Proficiency Exam.....	\$6,890.00
<i>Provincial Fees (payable to CVO) (does not include 6% Goods & Services Tax)</i>	
Initial Registration Fee	\$ 50.00
Application Fee.....	\$ 50.00 (non refundable)
Ontario Provincial Qualifying Exam Fee	\$ 100.00
Annual Licence Fee (after you are licensed)	\$ 675.00
(The licence fee is pro-rated from the date you register with CVO to year end)	

The CVMA fees for the review and evaluation of your documents can be submitted **before** you arrive in Canada with your application package to the National Examining Board, of CVMA.

The National Board Exam fees should be submitted only when you arrive in Ontario. The Provincial fees are submitted to the College of Veterinarians of Ontario at the time of licensing.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

National Voluntary Body

The Registrar, National Examining Board
Canadian Veterinary Medical Association
(CVMA)
339 Booth Street
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
K1R 7K1
Telephone: (613) 236-1162
Toll free in Canada: 1-800-567-2862
Fax: (613) 236-9681
E-mail: mhollins@cvma-acmv.org
Website: www.cvma-acmv.org

Provincial Regulatory Body

Ms. Susan J. Carlyle, Registrar
College of Veterinarians of Ontario (CVO)
2106 Gordon Street
Guelph, Ontario, Canada
N1L 1G6
Telephone: (519) 824-5600
Toll free telephone in Ontario: 1-800-424-2856
Fax: (519) 824-6497
Toll free fax in Ontario: 1-888-662-9479
E-mail: kgamble@cvo.org
Website: www.cvo.org

Veterinary School in Ontario

Office of the Dean
Ontario Veterinary College (OVC)
University of Guelph
Guelph, Ontario, Canada
N1G 2W1
Telephone: (519) 823-8800
Fax: (519) 837-3230
E-mail: info@ovcnet.uoguelph.ca
Website: www.ovcnet.uoguelph.ca

Sample copies of the NAVLE

National Board Examination Committee
P.O. Box 1356
Bismarck, North Dakota 58502
USA
Telephone: (701) 224-0332
Fax: (701) 224-0435
E-mail: mail@nbec.org
Website practice exam: www.nbec.org

Voluntary Association for Veterinarians

Ontario Veterinary Medical Association
(OVMA)
420 Bronte Street South, Suite 205
Milton, Ontario, Canada
L9T 0H9
Telephone: (905) 875-0756
Toll free number in Ontario: 1-800-670-1702
Fax: (905) 875-0958
E-mail: info@ovma.org
Website: www.ovma.org

Voluntary Association for Veterinary Technicians

Ontario Association of Veterinary Technicians
P.O. Box 833
Guelph, Ontario, Canada
N1H 6L8
Telephone: (519) 836-4910
Fax: (519) 836-3638
E-mail: oavt@oavt.org
Website: www.oavt.org

Immigrant Settlement in Ontario

Ontario Council of Agencies Serving
Immigrants (OCASI)
Telephone: (416) 322-4950
Fax: (416) 322-8084
E-mail: generalmail@ocasi.org
Website: <http://www.ocasi.org/>

Government contact about accessing professions and trades in Ontario

Government of Ontario
Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities
Access to Professions & Trades Unit
Tel: (416) 314-7541
Fax: (416) 326-6265
E-mail: aptinfo@edu.gov.on.ca
Website: www.equalopportunity.on.ca

English Language Proficiency Tests

TOEFL/TSE Services
P.O. Box 6151
Princeton, New Jersey 08547-6151
USA
Telephone: (609) 771-7100
Fax: (609) 771-7500
TTY: (609) 734-9362
E-mail: toefl@ets.org
Website: www.toefl.org

Canadian Academic English Language (CAEL)
Assessment
School of Linguistics & Applied Language
Studies
Carleton University
220 Paterson Hall
1125 Colonel By Drive
Ottawa, Ontario K1S 5B6
Tel.: (613) 520-2600 ext.2271
Fax: (613) 520-7872
E-mail: cael@carleton.ca
Website: www.cael.ca

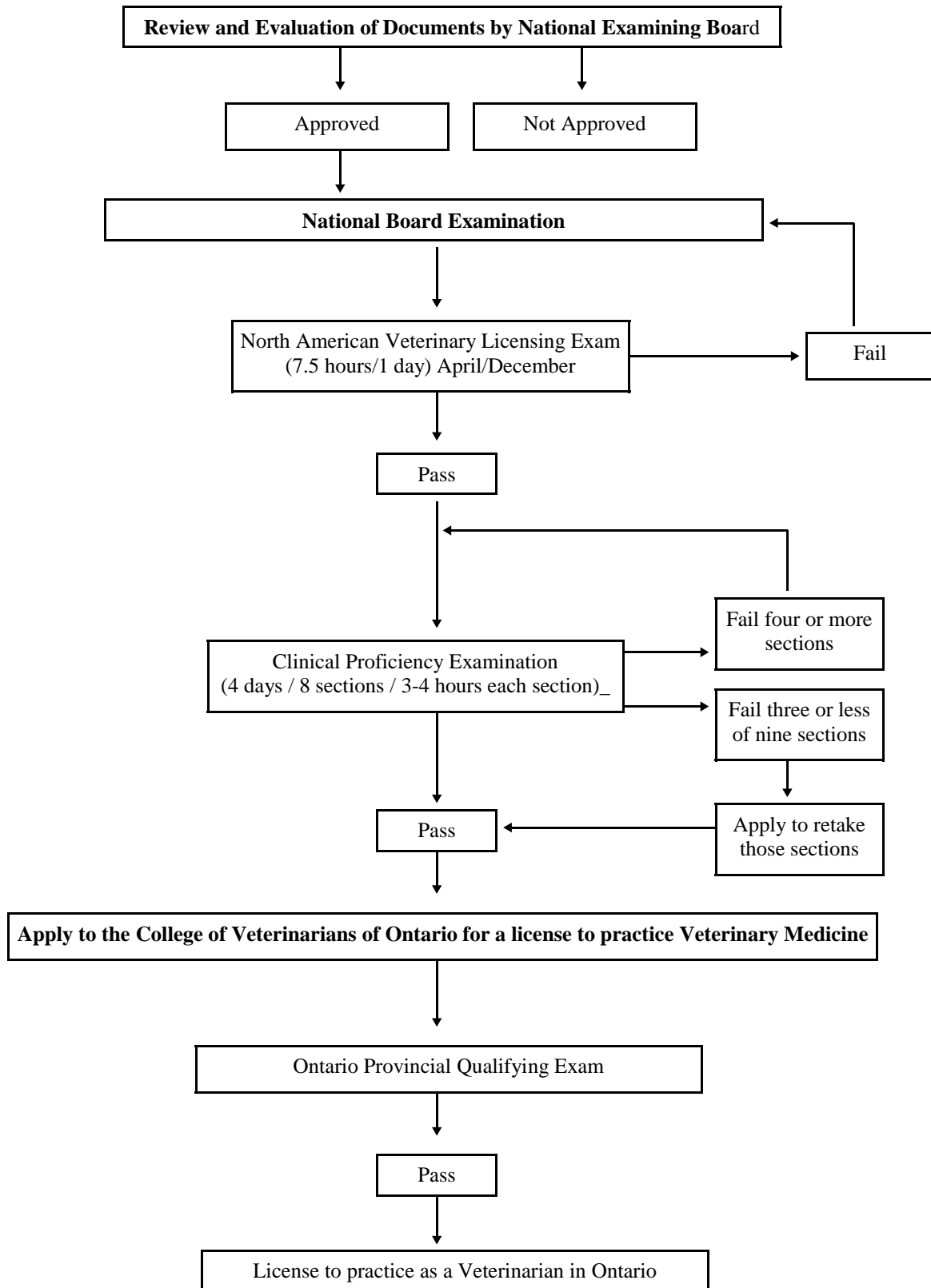
International English Language Testing
Services (IELTS)

In Ontario:
IELTS Test Centre
Sherley Loucks
Conestoga College
299 Doon Valley Drive
Kitchener, Ontario N2G 4M4
Telephone: (519) 748-5220, ext. 603
Fax: (519) 748-3505
E-mail: sloucks@conestoga.on.ca
Website: www.conestoga.on.ca

International:
IELTS Subject Officer
University of Cambridge
Local Examinations Syndicate
1 Hills Road
Cambridge CB1 2EU UK
Telephone: 01223 553311
Fax: 01223 460278
E-mail: charge.n@ucles.org.uk
Website: www.europa-pages.ca.uk/uk/exams_english.html

MELAB Testing
English Language Institute
3020 North University Building
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1057
TEL: (734) 763-3452 or (734) 764-2416
FAX: (734) 763-0369
E-mail: melabelium@umich.edu
Website: www.umich.edu

ADMISSION PROCESS



This document was developed in collaboration with the Access to Professions and Trades Unit, Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities in September 1997 and revised in December 2000. Requirements may have changed by the time you apply. Please contact the College of Veterinarians of Ontario before completing your application.

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