

**The College
of Veterinarians of Ontario**

Position Statement

Congenital Deafness Screening Programs for Companion Animals

Position Statement

Congenital Deafness Screening Programs for Companion Animals

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College Contact:	Accreditation Coordinator, Deputy Registrar or Registrar
Reference Materials:	

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE #
PURPOSE	1
SCOPE	1
RELEVANT LEGISLATION	1
Certificate Of Accreditation Required	1
Practice Standards	1
Medical Records	2
COLLEGE POSITION	2
APPENDIX A - REQUIRED ELEMENTS OF THE COMPANION ANIMAL	
MEDICAL RECORD	4
APPENDIX B – CONGENITAL DEAFNESS SCREENING PROGRAM	5

Purpose

This position statement describes the circumstances under which members are permitted to conduct screening programs for the assessment of congenital deafness in companion animals in or from a non-accredited facility.

Scope

This position statement applies to members wishing to conduct congenital deafness screening programs either on their own or further to a request from an outside agency. Typically these programs are held when a number of animals are congregated for another purpose, such as a show.

Relevant Legislation

The *Veterinarians Act* R.S.O. 1990, Chapter V.3 is the profession specific Act which governs the practice of veterinarians in Ontario.

Certificate of Accreditation Required

Section 15 of the Act describes the requirement for a certificate of accreditation:

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

Ontario Regulation 1093 is the regulation made under the Veterinarians Act.

Practice Standards

Subsection 17.-(1) of Ontario Regulation 1093 describes professional misconduct as including:

- 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).**
- 41. Treating an animal receiving veterinary services from another member who did not refer the animal without advising the client that such uncoordinated veterinary services may place the animal at risk except if the treatment is done in accordance with subsection 33 (1.1).**

Medical Records

Subsection 22.-(1) of Ontario Regulation 1093 describes the required elements of the companion animal medical record, which appear at Appendix A.

College Position

Properly conducted screening programs serve an important function in the public interest that might justify a decision by the College to refrain from fully enforcing rules that would otherwise apply. However, to ensure that the screening program is going to be properly conducted, prior College approval must be obtained for it to agree to waive full enforcement of the rules. In addition, the waiver applies only to the rules described below and only to the extent specified.

Approved congenital deafness screening programs need not be performed from an accredited veterinary facility. The medical records required shall be maintained in a systematic manner by the members organizing the program and may be limited to:

1. A reasonable identification of the examined animal;
2. The owner's name, address and telephone numbers; and
3. The date and results of the evaluation.

There is no requirement that any member performing such an evaluation:

1. Notify the previous member treating the animal.
2. Obtain the relevant historical information.
3. Advise the client regarding any risks of uncoordinated care.

Members wishing to conduct a congenital deafness screening program must ensure that:

- A. A diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine in Neurology (ACVIMn) conducts all of the evaluations.
- B. An application has been made to and approved by the College at least seven days prior to the scheduled date of the program. (See Appendix B)
- C. No sedation or anaesthetic agents are administered to the animal being evaluated to facilitate the examination and no other drugs are prescribed, administered or dispensed to or for the animal.

- D. The custodian of each evaluated animal is provided with an examination form signed by the specialist who performed the evaluation.
- E. All professional fees collected as part of the program must be paid directly to the veterinarian conducting the program. Professional fees are not to be paid to an outside agency, such as the one that requested the screening program. None of this precludes the donation of any or all of the proceeds collected to a third party.

APPENDIX A - REQUIRED ELEMENTS OF THE COMPANION ANIMAL MEDICAL RECORD

1. Patient identification, including species, age and sex.
2. The client's name, address and telephone numbers.
3. If the client is likely to be absent from his or her address while the animal is confined with the member, the name, address and telephone number of a person to be contacted in case of an emergency.
4. Date of each time that the member sees the animal.
5. A history of the animal's health, including a record of vaccinations.
6. The animal's current weight.
7. Particulars of each assessment, including any laboratory investigations, performed or ordered by the member and the results of each assessment.
8. A note of any professional advice given regarding the animal and an indication of when and to whom such advice was given if other than to the client.
9. All medical or surgical treatments and procedures used, dispensed, prescribed or performed by or at the direction of the member, including the name, strength, dose and quantity of any drugs.
 - 9.1 One of the following with respect to each surgical treatment:
 - i. The written consent to the surgical treatment signed by or on behalf of the owner of the animal.
 - ii. A note that the owner of the animal or a person on the owner's behalf consented orally to the surgical treatment, and the reason why the consent was not in writing.
 - iii. A note that neither the owner of the animal nor anyone on the owner's behalf was available to consent to the surgical treatment, and the reason why, in the member's opinion, it was medically advisable to conduct the surgical treatment.
10. A copy of all reports prepared by the member in respect of the animal.
11. A final assessment of the animal.
12. The fees and charges, showing separately those for drugs and those for advice or other services.
13. Any additional records required by this Regulation.

APPENDIX B – CONGENITAL DEAFNESS SCREENING PROGRAM

COLLEGE OF VETERINARIANS OF ONTARIO

CONGENITAL DEAFNESS SCREENING PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION FORM

Applying Member's Name: _____

Applying Member's Address: _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

I hereby apply to conduct a congenital deafness screening program as per the following timetable:

Location	Date	Time

The evaluations will be conducted by (check the appropriate box):

Applying Member who is a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine in Neurology.

Dr. _____, who is a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine in Neurology.

I am a licensed member of the College of Veterinarians of Ontario and agree to abide by the College's position statement on Congenital Deafness Screening Programs and all other relevant legislation including that on holding out (advertising).

Signed:

_____ Date: _____

Member of the College of Veterinarians of Ontario

Return this form to:

College of Veterinarians of Ontario, 2106 Gordon Street, Guelph, ON, N1L 1G6
Telephone: (519) 824-5600, (800) 424-2856 Fax: (519) 824-6497, (888) 662-9479

Office Use Only

Date received: _____

Authorized by: _____

Confirmation sent by: _____