



The College of  
Veterinarians of Ontario

### **College of Veterinarians lays provincial illegal practice charges against “Pet Heaven” and its Principals**

The College of Veterinarians of Ontario has laid charges under the *Veterinarians Act* (the Act) against “Pet Heaven” and its principals Shelley Greenberg-Blechman and Eric Blechman (the defendants). The charges, under subsection 11(1) of the Act, allege that the defendants engaged in the practice of veterinary medicine, and held themselves out as engaging in the practice of veterinary medicine, without being licensed under the Act.

The provincial offences trial in the Ontario Court of Justice started on February 5 and 6, 2009 and will continue on October 1 and 2, 2009.

In essence, the charges allege that the defendants represented to the public that they provided in home euthanasia services, and in fact provided in home euthanasia services, without being licensed under the Act. The defendants have denied the charges.

According to Martin Fischer, the College’s investigator: "The College supports the provision of in home euthanasia services by licensed veterinarians operating from accredited facilities or mobiles who have a veterinarian-client-patient relationship with their clients, and in fact there are over 40 veterinarians in the Toronto area who provide those services." He added, "These are not criminal charges but charges under the *Veterinarians Act* in Provincial Offences Court."

If convicted, the maximum fine against "Pet Heaven" under the Act is \$25,000 and \$15,000 against each of the Blechmans.

Under the Act, the College regulates the practice of veterinary medicine in Ontario by, among other things, licensing veterinarians, investigating complaints against veterinarians and prosecuting or seeking injunctions against non-licensed persons and companies.