



THE COLLEGE OF  
VETERINARIANS  
OF ONTARIO

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# INFO SHEET

## Registration with the College of Veterinarians of Ontario

### INTRODUCTION

The College of Veterinarians of Ontario (CVO) regulates the practice of veterinary medicine in Ontario to protect the public interest. The CVO is not a school or university and is financed in full by the licence fees of veterinarians in Ontario. Professional licensing is a provincial responsibility; there is **no national licence**. There is a reciprocity agreement between provinces that allows the mobility of general licensed veterinarians across Canada.

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To practise veterinary medicine in Ontario you must obtain a licence from the CVO. The CVO sets all licensing requirements for veterinarians in Ontario. Veterinarians work in private practices, universities, laboratories, federal and provincial government, and industry. You may not practise veterinary medicine or call yourself a veterinarian without a licence. If your work requires that you be a veterinarian, you require a licence.

TYPE	COMMENT
General	
Restricted	- restricted licence
General Non-Resident (GNR)	- working outside of Ontario
Academic	- teaching or research appointment at the Ontario Veterinary College
Educational	- enrolled in postgraduate studies in non-clinical areas at the Ontario Veterinary College
Postgraduate and Resident	- enrolled as an intern, resident or DVSc student at the Ontario Veterinary College
Public Service	- employed as a veterinarian by the Federal government
Short Term Licence	- visiting specialists, under 30 days—not for locum practitioners

### Registration Committee

The registrar, through the registration administrator, issues licenses to applicants who meet the licensing requirements dictated by the regulation. These applications are not reviewed by the registration committee.

Applicants whose applications do not meet the requirements of the regulation may seek exemptions and/or licenses with conditions and limitations. These are referred to the committee for review. The committee, when assessing applications for registration, endeavours to maintain standards of entry level competence that ensures both public protection and equitable access to the profession. The committee is also responsible for the CVO jurisprudence examination; administering and marking the exam are administrative functions performed by the registration administrator.

### Examinations:

Proof of passing the national board examination(s) is required: Basic & Clinical Sciences Exam (BCSE), North American Veterinary Licensing Exam (NAVLE) and/or Clinical Proficiency Exam (CPE).

Proof of passing the National Board Examination (Part A), the Clinical Competency Test (Part B) and the Clinical Proficiency Exam (Part C) prior to December, 2000 are also accepted.

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## Accredited Schools

Graduates of schools of veterinary medicine accredited by the Council on Education of the American Veterinary Medical Association (Canadian and United States colleges/universities, the University of Utrecht in the Netherlands, the Royal Veterinary College in England, the University of Dublin, the University of Glasgow, the University of Edinburgh in Scotland, Massey University in New Zealand, Murdoch, Sydney, and Melbourne Universities in Australia, Ross University in St. Kitts, and the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico in Mexico City) are required to take the NAVLE. If they fail the NAVLE more than once, they must also take the CPE.

## Unaccredited Schools

Graduates of acceptable unaccredited schools of veterinary medicine that are recognized by the World Health Organization are required to pass the BCSE, NAVLE and the CPE.

**The National Examining Board of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association in Ottawa**, administers the national board exams on behalf of the provinces and registration for the exams is made through the Manager of the National Examining Board. Following completion of the required national board exams you may apply for licensure to the licensing body in the province you wish to work. The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association is a national veterinary advocacy group, not a licensing body.

In Canada there is no expiration date on successful results of the national board exams.

## Foreign Trained Veterinarians

**Occupational Fact Sheet for Foreign Trained Veterinarians** is available on the CVO website ([www.cvo.org](http://www.cvo.org)) under Licensure of Veterinarians.

## Clinical Experience

After completion of the written portions of the national board examination (the BCSE & NAVLE), foreign-trained veterinarians (FTV) preparing for the Clinical Proficiency Exam are permitted to get practical experience under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian in Ontario, just as Ontario Veterinary College students (OVCS) are during the undergraduate curriculum. A supervision undertaking must be signed by both parties and submitted to the CVO.

The supervising veterinarian must be on the premises and is responsible for deciding, in each medical and/or surgical instance, what they can allow the FTV or OVCS to do.

It is anticipated as time goes by that the FTV or OVCS would become more capable and could complete some procedures with less and less supervision, but in all cases, the supervising veterinarian must be on the premises and must assume all responsibility for their actions. Policy changes re: FTV's getting practical experience are expected later in 2011.

## CVO Jurisprudence Exam

This exam is based on the provincial legislation: Veterinarians Act, Regulation 1093, Minimum Standards for Veterinary Facilities in Ontario, and By-laws. The legislation will be provided with the Exam Brochure and Application for licensure when a licensing package is requested. The CVO exam is available most business days at the CVO office, by appointment. Applications, fees and supporting documentation may be submitted at that time.

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## Membership/Licensure

The licence fee at the time of initial licensure is pro rated quarterly, but thereafter is payable annually by November 30<sup>th</sup> for the following year. A late payment penalty will be levied for failure to pay on time.

If you do not pay the annual fees and do not resign or apply for Emeritus Status, your licence will be terminated for non-payment of fees. Once your membership is terminated, you are no longer a member of the college, you are not entitled to practise veterinary medicine in Ontario and you may not use the title Dr. or DVM or hold yourself out as being a veterinarian. You remain accountable, however, to the college for your veterinary conduct and competence.

## Resignation

If you do not expect to practice veterinary medicine in Ontario again, you can choose to give up your membership and resign from the college. You no longer pay the annual fee. If in the future you decide to return to practice in Ontario, you will need to re-apply and meet the entry to practice requirements at that time.

Once you resign your membership, you are no longer a member of the college, you are not entitled to practise veterinary medicine in Ontario and you may not use the title Dr. or DVM or hold yourself out as being a veterinarian. You remain accountable, however, to the college for your veterinary conduct and competence.

## Emeritus Status (retired)

The college offers a retired class of membership for veterinarians who have been licensed for 25 years or more, are in good standing and have no previous discipline findings, and are permanently and completely retired from practice. Retired members no longer pay annual licence fees and remain on the register as emeritus status. They continue to receive college mailings, may attend and speak at meetings, but may not vote.

<sup>1</sup> National Examining Board - Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, 339 Booth Street, Ottawa, ON, K1R 7K1 (Tel) 613-236-1162 (Fax) 613-236-9681 or email mhollins@cvma-acmv.org

*INFO SHEETS of the College of Veterinarians of Ontario provide veterinarians and the public with information about the governance of veterinarians in Ontario or contain practice parameters and standards that should be considered by all Ontario veterinarians in the care of their patients, dealings with their clients and the welfare of their staff.*

*It is important to note that these INFO SHEETS may be used by the College or other bodies in determining whether appropriate standards of practice and professional activities have been maintained.*

*The College of Veterinarians of Ontario regulates veterinarians in Ontario in the public interest.*