

**The College of  
Veterinarians of Ontario**

## **Position Statement**

### **Delegating to Auxiliaries in Companion Animal Practice**

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.

## Position Statement

### Delegating to Auxiliaries in Companion Animal Practice

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<b>College Contact:</b>	Registrar
<b>Reference Materials:</b>	Position Statements, "General Principles of Delegation" & "Delegating to Auxiliaries in Food-Animal and Equine Practice." Replaces "Auxiliaries in Companion Animal Practice" and "Delegated Acts in Companion Animal Practice" (both March 28, 2001).

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## **Purpose**

The purpose of this position statement is to inform members about the College's interpretation of the provisions in the legislation relating to delegation and supervision of non-veterinarians, in the context of Companion Animal practice. It is intended to describe the appropriate upper limits of delegation.

## **Scope**

This position applies to members involved in companion animal practice who delegate tasks to auxiliaries in their employ. Different considerations apply to food-animal and equine practitioners and this position statement does not apply to them.

## **Background**

This position statement comprises and replaces two separate policy documents, "Delegated Acts in Companion Animal Practice" and "Auxiliaries in Companion Animal Practice," both of which were approved by Council and published on March 28, 2001. The combination of these two policy documents into one position statement does not change the meaning or application of the two previous policies, but only consolidates them for ease of reference. This document should be read with the "General Principles of Delegation" position statement (March 2008), which applies to veterinary practices of all types in Ontario

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### ***Restrictions***

Auxiliaries in companion animal practice are not permitted to diagnose, prognose, prescribe or perform major surgery.

### ***Informed consent***

Clients in companion animal practices should be informed that some delegated acts may be performed by appropriately trained auxiliaries.

## APPENDIX 1 - Relevant Legislation

### **Act**

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.

### **Regulation**

O. Reg. 1093 section 1 defines an auxiliary:

*“auxiliary” means a person involved in a member’s practice of veterinary medicine other than another member.*

Regarding a member’s responsibility when delegating to an auxiliary, O. Reg. 1093 19. states:

- 19.(1) *A member is responsible for the conduct of his or her auxiliaries and for the suitability and quality of the performance of their acts.*
- (2) *A member is guilty of professional misconduct if an auxiliary of the member does or omits to do anything that, if done or omitted by a member, would constitute professional misconduct.*
- (3) *A member properly supervises the performance of an auxiliary's task if the member,*
  - (a) is physically present on the premises when the task is performed, remains available for personal intervention if required and monitors the performance to determine that the task is properly carried out; or*
  - (b) if absent on account of an emergency or otherwise temporarily absent and the performance of the task does not require a member's attendance, has given general instructions for such an occasion and the member ascertains as soon as practicable after the task is performed that it was properly carried out.*
- (4) *A member may direct an auxiliary who is suitably qualified by education or experience to perform, under the supervision of a member, the tasks traditionally assigned to auxiliaries including flushing and infusion procedures in the course of embryo transfers after appropriate assessment by a member.*

As well, O. Reg. 1093 subsection 17.-(1) 30. states that professional misconduct includes:

*Failing to direct or supervise, or inadequately directing or supervising, an auxiliary.*