



POSITION STATEMENT

Licensure of Veterinarians in Emergency Situations

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Related Topics:	foreign animal disease outbreak
Legislative References:	<u><i>Veterinarians Act, 1989</i></u> section 11. and O. Reg. 1093 section 8 (see Appendix).
College Contact:	Registration Administrator
References:	“Temporary Emergency Facilities”—CVO Position Statement; “General Principles of Delegation”—CVO Position Statement

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.

Purpose

This position statement has been developed to facilitate the licensure of veterinarians from outside of Ontario in the event of an emergency situation.

Scope

This position statement will apply to unlicensed veterinarians who are seeking licensure in Ontario to assist in the management of an emergency situation.

Background

No one may practice veterinary medicine in Ontario without holding a licence issued by the College. Applicants may be licenced for a short term and a special purpose, under the supervision of a veterinarian who holds an unrestricted general licence in Ontario. The “special purpose” may be determined via

- an appointment at the Ontario Veterinary College,
- an invitation by a regional academy or group of members with a special interest, or
- with the consent of the College.

Applications that meet all requirements for this type of licence are processed by CVO staff.¹ This document confirms that the College considers “assisting in a declared emergency” to be a special purpose for which a Short-Term Licence is appropriate, and outlines the process.

College Position

In the event of an emergency situation that has been confirmed by a federal or provincial government body, the College gives its consent for the Registrar to process applications for short-term licences under clause 8(1)(c) of Reg. 1093. The Registrar is therefore authorized, on behalf of the College, to issue a short-term licence to applicants in these circumstances, who are directed by a federal or provincial government body, under supervision by a veterinarian with a general licence,² to perform specific veterinary services solely for the short-term, special purpose of dealing with the emergency situation.

The Registrar is also authorized to develop forms for confirming the appropriate information from the relevant federal or provincial government body, including the undertaking that requires signatures of the supervisor and the applicant. If applicants are or have been licensed in another jurisdiction, the Registrar will require evidence of good standing in that jurisdiction for the purpose of issuing the licence.

¹ Applicants for this type of licence are not required to pass the National Examining Board examinations or the CVO exam.

² Levels of supervision are defined by the CVO as follows:

- **Immediate Supervision:** the member is within sight or hearing of the auxiliary.
- **Direct Supervision:** the member is on the same premises as the auxiliary but not necessarily within sight or hearing.
- **Indirect Supervision:** the member will communicate with auxiliaries in such a way and using the appropriate means so as to provide proper assessment of animal(s) and direction to auxiliaries; further, the member must be accessible in a timely and appropriate manner while the delegated task is being performed.

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.

Section 11. of the Act states:

No person shall engage in the practice of veterinary medicine or, hold himself, herself or itself out as engaging in the practice of veterinary medicine unless the person is the holder of a licence.

Regulation

Section 8. of O. Reg 1093 describes the requirements for the issuing of a short-term licence.

8. (1) The requirements for the issuing of a short-term licence are that the applicant,

(a) has earned a basic degree from an accredited veterinary school or an acceptable unaccredited veterinary school;

(b) provides a document from a member holding a general licence without conditions that evidences the member's undertaking to supervise the applicant and to be responsible for continuing after the licensee leaves Ontario any veterinary care started in Ontario by the licensee; and

(c) is appointed by the Ontario Veterinary College of the University of Guelph, a regional academy of veterinary medicine in Ontario or a recognized group of members with special veterinary interest, or has the consent of the College, to perform specific veterinary services solely for a short-term, special purpose.

(2) A holder of a short-term licence may engage in the practice of veterinary medicine only under the supervision of the member whose undertaking has been given under clause (1) (b) and to the extent required by the appointment or consent under clause (1) (c).

(3) A short-term licence terminates on the earliest of,

(a) the day the appointment or consent under clause (1) (c) is terminated;

(b) the day the licensee leaves Ontario; and

(c) thirty days after the licence is issued.