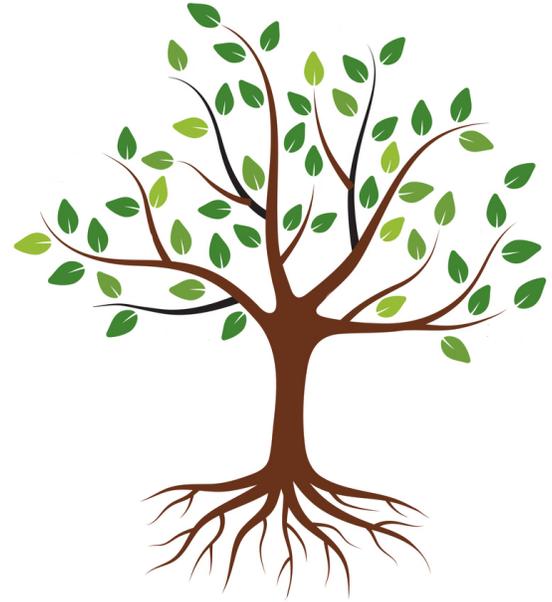


# Understanding the difference between Act, Regulation and Policy



The oversight of the practice of veterinary medicine is currently under review in Ontario. During this vital modernization period, it is important to understand the key differences between an Act, Regulation, and Policy. One way to think of it is to picture a tree; its roots and main base are an Act, the branches are regulation, and the leaves are policy.



**Just like a tree, the Act must first create its base before it can grow further.**



## Act

**The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs**

Elements:

- Definition of veterinary medicine
- Outline of authorized activities and exceptions
- Council composition
- Investigations and hearings



## Regulation

**The Ministry and the College**

Elements:

- Further detail on authorized activities and exemptions
- Licensing of veterinarians and veterinary technicians
- Quality assurance program
- Professional misconduct



## Policy

**The College**

Elements:

- By-laws
  - Council election process
  - Committee composition
- Practice standards
- Facility accreditation standards

If you have any questions, please contact the College of Veterinarians of Ontario at [inquiries@cvo.org](mailto:inquiries@cvo.org)