



AGENDA ITEM 7.5

TOPIC: Accreditation

Overview

Outlining the framework and expectations for facility accreditation allows for one of the fundamental roles of the College to be established and carried out. Sections 21 through 26 as well as several regulation-making authorities found in the *Veterinary Professionals Act, 2024* reflect the College's ongoing obligations in this area and the College seeks to modernize its approach in accordance with the new statutory framework.

Current Framework

Regulations for facility accreditation outlined in Regulation 1093 under the *Veterinarians Act* were last amended in 2022. These amendments were a first step towards the modernization of the profession and the intentions of these amendments have been set up to carry over closely into regulations under the *VPA*. The facility accreditation program is currently under the purview of the Legacy Council and associated Accreditation Committee.

What Will Change?

The introduction of the *Veterinary Professionals Act, 2024* does not necessitate many updates to the current provisions for facility accreditation found under the *Veterinarians Act*. However, there are a number of mainly administrative amendments that may further clarify the role of the program and assist with ensuring it is implemented smoothly. These are not substantive, but are meaningful to the interpretation and implementation of the regulations.

Concept

A draft concept has been developed to support the College's work in this area and to outline the specific supplementary components that are required in Regulation to ensure clear and defensible language related to facility accreditation that is focused on public protection. In particular, the concept speaks to the proposed inclusion of:

1. A formally recognized definition of "Holder of Certificate of Accreditation"

The concept proposes that Regulation language be developed that defines the "holder of certificate of accreditation" to provide more clarity that following application and issuance of the certificate, it is held by the facility director who made the application.



2. Proposed Ability to Grant Extensions in Writing

The concept proposes that Regulation language be developed to ensure unique situations where a facility director leaves the position do not lead to the unnecessary expiration of the certificate of accreditation. These scenarios do occur now and are not frequent. Allowing the Registrar to grant an extension in writing for a new facility director to be designated will support efficiency of process and allow for the continuance of the certificate of accreditation, limiting the disruption to providing care.

3. Clearly Requiring the Payment of Accreditation Fees

The concept proposes that Regulation language be developed that clearly requires the payment of accreditation fees as set out in the bylaws. This will allow for a greater understanding that should the fee not be paid, the certificate of accreditation will expire.

4. Carrying Over Language from Section 50 of Regulation 1093

The concept proposes that Regulation language be developed that contains all relevant sections in one location. Currently, regulatory language related to facility accreditation is found in two locations within Regulation 1093. These are sections 15-16 and section 50. Carrying over language from section 50 into the dedicated facility accreditation section will assist with transparency and clarity when interpreting and implementing the regulations.

Example Language

In effort of highlighting how few changes are being proposed, a draft version of potential facility accreditation regulation language developed by the College has been attached to this cover sheet as Appendix “A”.

This language is being shared with the Transition Council to help shape its understanding of the College’s proposed approach.

It is important to note that this draft language is not designed or intended to be viewed as the language that may eventually appear in a Regulation made under the *Veterinary Professionals Act, 2024*. Development of this language will be the responsibility of the legislative drafters of the provincial government and will be overseen by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness (OMAFRA).

Discussion

The draft concept and associated draft language related to facility accreditation is now being presented to Transition Council for its review and discussion related to next steps.



Options

Following discussion, Transition Council may elect to:

1. Direct that the draft concept be approved for submission to OMAFA as presented or amended;
2. Direct that the draft concept be returned to College Staff for further review and development; or
3. Other.

Attachments

1. Appendix A – Draft Version of Facility Accreditation Regulatory Language

FACILITY ACCREDITATION

DEFINITIONS

HOLDER OF CERTIFICATE OF ACCREDITATION MEANS THE VETERINARIAN MEMBER WHO HAS OBTAINED A CERTIFICATE OF ACCREDITATION THAT IS NOT EXPIRED OR REVOKED

10. (1) In order to obtain, maintain or renew a certificate of accreditation for a veterinary facility, other than a temporary facility, the owners of the veterinary facility or the partners in the practice conducted in or from the facility, as the case may be, shall designate a facility director. O. Reg. 260/22, s. 2.

(2) The facility director shall be responsible for the oversight of the veterinary facility, including ensuring that the facility is operated in accordance with the Act, the regulations and the standards established by the Council under section 8 of the Act. O. Reg. 260/22, s. 2.

(3) The facility director shall ensure that their name and contact information are clearly and publicly displayed at the veterinary facility. O. Reg. 260/22, s. 2.

(4) For greater certainty, despite the designation of a facility director, each member practising in or from a veterinary facility is responsible for meeting the requirements set out in the Act and the regulations and the standards established by the Council under section 8 of the Act. O. Reg. 260/22, s. 2.

11. (1) A certificate of accreditation for a veterinary facility, other than a temporary facility, shall not be issued or renewed unless the veterinary facility and the applicant meet the applicable requirements set out in the Act and the regulations and the standards established by the Council under section 8 of the Act. O. Reg. 260/22, s. 2.

(2) The following requirements apply with respect to an application for the issuance or renewal of a certificate of accreditation for a veterinary facility, other than a temporary facility:

1. The application shall be submitted by the facility director to the College.
2. The applicant shall submit the application on a form provided by the Registrar.
3. The applicant must,
 - i. hold a general or restricted licence the conditions of which are consistent with the conditions of the certificate of accreditation that is being sought, and
 - ii. be engaged in the practice of veterinary medicine conducted in or from the veterinary facility in respect of which the application is being made.
4. With respect to an application for a renewal of a certificate of accreditation, the applicant must be in compliance with any terms, conditions and limitations as specified by the Registrar on the existing certificate of accreditation.
5. The applicant shall pay the fees set out in the by-laws and shall not be in default of any fees.
6. The applicant shall provide, on a form provided by the Registrar, a written undertaking that the applicant will,
 - i. be responsible for the oversight of the facility, including ensuring that the facility is operated in accordance with the Act, the regulations and the standards established by the Council under section 8 of the Act, and
 - ii. ensure that only members will have responsibility for and control over all of the clinical and professional aspects of the provision of services through the facility, including maintaining the standards of practice of the profession.
7. If the facility director is not an owner of the veterinary facility or a partner in the practice conducted in or from the facility that is the subject of the application, the application shall include a written attestation from the owners or partners, as the case may be, that the facility director is authorized to be the facility director and is authorized to provide the undertaking required under paragraph 6. O. Reg. 260/22, s. 2.

11.1 REVOKED: O. Reg. 260/22, s. 2.

12. (1) A certificate of accreditation expires five years after it is issued or renewed unless,

- (a) it expires at an earlier date pursuant to subsection (2); or
- (b) the Registrar issues or renews the certificate on condition that it expire at an earlier date. O. Reg. 260/22, s. 2.

(2) Unless the Registrar has granted an extension in writing, Aa certificate of accreditation shall expire before the period described in subsection (1) if any of the following events occurs:

1. A veterinary facility, or a stationary element of a facility with a mobile element, is relocated.
2. The veterinary facility no longer has a facility director.
3. The veterinary facility no longer has any members who would meet the requirements in paragraph 3 of subsection 11 (2).
4. The veterinary facility no longer has any members who have made an undertaking that would satisfy the requirements set out in paragraph 6 of subsection 11 (2). O. Reg. 260/22, s. 2.

5. The facility director has failed to pay the fees set out in the bylaws.

13. The holder of a certificate of accreditation shall immediately notify the College, in writing, if any of the following events occur:

1. Any change to the name of the veterinary facility.
2. Any change in the type of species treated in or from the facility.
3. Any change in the scope of veterinary services offered in or from the facility.
4. The relocation of the veterinary facility or of a stationary element of a facility with a mobile element.
5. Any change in the identity of the facility director.
6. The facility no longer has any members who would satisfy the requirements set out in paragraph 3 of subsection 11 (2). O. Reg. 260/22, s. 2.

TEMPORARY FACILITIES

14. (1) A certificate of accreditation for a temporary facility shall not be issued unless the temporary facility and the applicant meet the applicable requirements set out in the Act and the regulations and the standards established by the Council under section 8 of the Act. O. Reg. 260/22, s. 2.

(2) The following requirements apply with respect to an application for a certificate of accreditation for a temporary facility:

1. The application shall be submitted by the applicant to the College.
2. The applicant shall submit the application on a form provided by the Registrar.
3. The applicant must,
 - i. hold a general or restricted licence the conditions of which are consistent with the conditions of the certificate of accreditation that is being sought, and
 - ii. be engaged in the practice of veterinary medicine conducted in or from the temporary facility. O. Reg. 260/22, s. 2.

CERTIFICATES OF ACCREDITATION

15. (1) A certificate of accreditation for a veterinary facility, including a temporary facility, issued by the Registrar must include the facility name, location, any terms, conditions or limitations and the date of expiry of the certificate. O. Reg. 260/22, s. 2.

(2) A certificate of accreditation for a veterinary facility, including a temporary facility, limits the veterinary practice in or from the facility to the veterinary services specified in the certificate and for the period of time specified in the certificate which, in the case of a temporary facility, shall be no longer than 30 days. O. Reg. 260/22, s. 2.

(3) The holder of a certificate of accreditation,

- (a) in the case of a veterinary facility other than a temporary or mobile facility, shall ensure that the certificate of accreditation is posted visibly in the veterinary facility; or
- (b) in the case of a temporary or a mobile facility, shall make the certificate of accreditation available to any person for review upon request. O. Reg. 260/22, s. 2.

(24) A holder of a certificate of accreditation who meets the requirements of section 11 is eligible for a renewal of the certificate if an application for the renewal is submitted not earlier than five months and not later than three months before the expiry of the certificate. R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 1093, s. 50 (2); O. Reg. 260/22, s. 7 (1).

(~~35~~) If an application for renewal is not submitted in the time specified under subsection (~~24~~) and the certificate of accreditation expires, the holder of the certificate must submit a new application. R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 1093, s. 50 (3).

(~~46~~) Upon receipt of an application for renewal, the Registrar shall promptly cause an inspection ~~under subsection (1) of the facility~~ to be carried out. R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 1093, s. 50 (4).

(~~57~~) If a holder of a certificate of accreditation applies in accordance with subsection (~~24~~), and the inspection does not occur one month or more before the expiry of the certificate of accreditation, the certificate of accreditation remains valid,

- (a) until the Registrar renews the certificate of accreditation; or
- (b) where the Registrar refuses to renew the certificate of accreditation, until the Accreditation Committee decides the disposition of the application. R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 1093, s. 50 (5).

(~~68~~) If a member applies for a certificate of accreditation and complies with section 11, the Registrar shall promptly cause an inspection to be carried out in order to determine if the veterinary facility meets the qualifications, requirements and applicable standards under the Act and the accreditation standards ~~established under subsection 8 (1) of the Act~~. R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 1093, s. 50 (6); O. Reg. 260/22, s. 7 (2).

TRANSITION

15.1 (1) A certificate of accreditation that was in force immediately before the day this section comes into force is continued and is subject to the same terms, conditions and limitations that were in effect immediately before that day. O. Reg. 260/22, s. 2.

(2) For greater certainty, the continuation of the certificate of accreditation does not change the status of a hearing or review related to the certificate of accreditation, or any associated deadlines, if the hearing or review was commenced but not concluded before the day this section comes into force. O. Reg. 260/22, s. 2.

(3) A certificate of accreditation that is continued under subsection (1) shall expire in accordance with the rules that were in effect immediately before the day this section comes into force. O. Reg. 260/22, s. 2.

15.2 Despite section 11, an application for the issuance or renewal of a certificate of accreditation that was submitted before the day section 11 comes into force shall be determined in accordance with this Regulation as it read immediately before that day. O. Reg. 260/22, s. 2.