



Legacy Council Meeting Highlights

Legacy Council Meeting: March 16, 2026 cvo.org/Council

The Legacy Council met in-person on March 16, 2026. The public is welcome to watch Council via the livestream; please contact the College to attend in-person. Council highlights, minutes, and replays from policy discussions are available at cvo.org/Council. The Legacy Council considered the following items in March:

Position Statement: Responsible Prescribing of Antimicrobial Drugs in Animal Health Care Through Antimicrobial Stewardship: The Legacy Council reviewed a revised version of its position on veterinary stewardship of antimicrobial drugs. The revised position recognizes that the College sees antimicrobial stewardship as a core professional responsibility, central to animal welfare and public protection. Veterinarians are encouraged to incorporate stewardship into their daily practice.

The College Council has been demonstrating its commitment to antimicrobial stewardship and the responsible use of antimicrobials in animals for several years. In October 2017, Council established a position on antimicrobial resistance. The revised position statement helps the public and veterinarians understand the College's opinion on the use of antimicrobials, emphasizing the societal duty of veterinarians to act as stewards with respect to the prudent and responsible use of antimicrobial drugs.

A replay of the Legacy Council's discussion on antimicrobial stewardship is available on the College website. As well, the revised position statement is also available.

Antimicrobial Stewardship - Accreditation Standards for Veterinary Facilities in Ontario: The Legacy Council reviewed proposed revisions to the accreditation standards that integrate antimicrobial stewardship (AMS). The proposed revisions include identifying specific elements—such as protocols, documentation practices, and staff training components—that would define stewardship obligations in veterinary facilities. The intention is to ensure the accreditation standards strengthen responsible antimicrobial use across accredited veterinary facilities and reinforce the profession's commitment to safeguarding animal and public health. Following discussion, the Legacy Council approved a plan to incorporate a written policy on AMS into the standards and include principles of AMS in medical record-keeping and in a written policy for dealing with infectious and zoonotic cases, and overall infection control. The revised standards will be circulated for consultation.

Revisions to the Accreditation Standards for Veterinary Facilities in Ontario: The Legacy Council considered minor amendments to the accreditation standards, which were implemented in 2023. Feedback indicates the standards are performing as intended, however College staff have identified opportunities to improve clarity, strengthen terminology and address minor operational issues. The revised standards will be circulated for consultation. A replay of the Legacy Council's discussion on accreditation standards is available on the website.

Value of Remedial Assessments: Since 2019, the College has been conducting assessments before and after ordered remediation. This was intended to ensure the remedial activities improved the practice of the veterinarian involved and reduced the identified risk. The College has been reviewing these assessments since 2020 and has found 93 percent of remedial undertakings are successfully completed on the first attempt. Of those that were unsuccessful, the majority went on to do further remediation, and one veterinarian chose to resign their licence. Following discussion, the Legacy Council decided to continue post-remedial assessments and continue to study unsuccessful remediation. A replay of the Legacy Council's discussion on the value of remedial assessments is available on the College website.