



Council Meeting Highlights

Council Meeting: June 21, 2023
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The College Council met at the Guelph office for its one-day June meeting. Council meets next on September 25 & 26, 2023. The public is welcome to attend Council proceedings in-person or to watch via the livestream.

Council highlights and replays from policy discussions are available on the College website. The following items were considered by Council in June.

Proposed Accreditation Standards: The College Council is continuing work to move forward with a new model for the accreditation of veterinary facilities. This new model, approved in 2017, brings a modern, flexible and responsive approach to accreditation and inspection. Extensive work, research and consultation has gone into developing the new accreditation standards. In the new model, every veterinary practice will need to meeting Essential Standards. As well, there are Additional Scope of Services Standards that apply to a practice based on the services they provide. At the June meeting, Council considered the revisions to the standards based on the input received during the public consultation period. Council decided to consult with facility directors on the revised version of the standards. A replay of Council's discussion on the proposed accreditation standards is available on the College website.

Strategic Plan: Council received an update on the early accomplishments in its new strategic plan, Strategy 2026. The plan outlines focus for the next three years on legislative reform, access to veterinary services, innovation and technology, One Health, and focusing regulation on people. Strategy 2026 is now available on the College website. Also, the final report on Strategy 2023 was reviewed and is now posted on the College website. Visit cvo.org/strategy2026 for information on Strategy 2026 and the report on Strategy 2023.

Veterinary Dentistry: Council continued its discussions on veterinary dentistry, considering potential revisions to the practice standard and whether the new proposed facility accreditation model should comment on dental radiographic equipment. Council decided that dental radiographic equipment is not necessary as a requirement but is recommended. A replay of Council's discussion on veterinary dentistry is available on the College website.

Veterinary Acupuncture Risk Analysis: In Ontario, inserting a needle below the dermis of an animal, including veterinary acupuncture, is considered veterinary medicine. Since, 2016, Council has been considering the need for clarity related to the regulatory oversight of veterinary acupuncture. College staff has been provided research to support Council's work in this area, including a risk analysis document which was reviewed at the June meeting. Council decided to move forward with development of a position statement related to veterinary acupuncture. A replay of Council's discussion on veterinary acupuncture is available on the College website.

Peer Advisory Conversation – Research Project Proposal: The Peer Advisory Conversation is currently a voluntary program and will remain so until a mandatory Quality Assurance Program is in legislation. Through the conversation, veterinarians find support in delivering quality care and service, including tips for managing risk areas, insight into practice standards and requirements, and suggestions for continuing professional development. Council considered a proposal for a research project looking at whether new graduate veterinarians who participate in the conversation benefit from the support of a peer to identify learning needs. The project could support new graduates in gaining confidence in their practice, engage veterinarians in quality assurance programs and raise awareness of the importance of lifelong learning in a veterinarian's career. Following discussion, Council approved the research project.

Proposed By-Law Changes: In other policy work, the College Council reviewed proposed changes to the College By-Laws. One proposed change revises the procedure for breaking a tie among candidates seeking election to the Executive Committee. The change would provide an opportunity for two remaining candidates to give a short speech to Council, followed by another vote. If the tie continues, the process would be repeated an additional time before resolving the tie by lot. The second proposed changes to the By-Laws would be removal of the meeting of members. In 2021, the *Corporations Act* was revised and the College was no longer required to hold an annual meeting of members. The Annual General Meeting is noted in the College By-Laws; the proposed revision is to clean up the By-Laws so they are consistent with the provincial legislation. The College Council approved both changes to the By-Laws to be circulated for consultation.