December 5, 2016

Marc Marin, DVM
President
College of Veterinarians of Ontario
2106 Gordon Street
Guelph, ON N1L 1G6

Dear Dr. Marin:

Re: Publicizing a Notice of Hearing

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the College’s consultation document on Publicizing a Notice of Hearing.

The consultation document was reviewed by the OVMA Board of Directors at its November meeting. The Board recognized that transparency is a priority for the College as it reviews the Veterinarians Act and that, in the public interest, the College needs to advise the public when Discipline hearings are taking place. However, the Board has serious concerns regarding the inclusion of hearing dates on the College’s public registry, on the grounds that including such information as part of a veterinarian’s formal record could lead the public to believe that the veterinarian has been found guilty before the College’s decision has been rendered.

OVMA therefore opposes the publication of hearing dates, names and allegations as part of the public registry. However, the association would not object to having information pertaining to upcoming hearings listed in a separate area of the CVO website.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to provide a response to this consultation. We hope this input is helpful. If you have any questions regarding this response, please contact OVMA’s Manager of Government and External Relations, John Stevens at jstevens@ovma.org or 800.670.1702, ext. 24.

Sincerely,

Christine Coghlan, DVM
President