Consultation: Expanded Public Register

Veterinarians Act: Legislative Reform – What do you think?

What is the concept?

To expand the information included on the Public Register to improve overall transparency and assist the public to make informed decisions related to veterinary care choices.

Watch a video presentation by Jan Robinson, College Registrar and Chief Executive Officer, outlining the concept.

Why is the College considering changes to this concept?

In accordance with the Veterinarians Act, the College currently provides a narrow listing of information on the Public Register. This is particularly noticeable in the areas of complaints and discipline. The College of Veterinarians of Ontario is perhaps the only regulatory college in Ontario that cannot publish a notice of hearing, including the member’s name and allegations, prior to the hearing.

Providing additional information on the Public Register would increase transparency in College activities.

Currently the Public Register provides the following information about individual veterinarians:

- Name, including any former names
- Licence Status which may be active, suspended, resigned, resigned emeritus, deceased, expired or cancelled
- Primary Practice Location: address, work telephone number, patient group, patient type, languages spoken
- Current Licence Information: licence class and status, any conditions and limitations that may exist on the licence, expiration date for licence
- Veterinarian Details: professional activities, including the practice type and focus
- Undergraduate Veterinary Degree: when and where the licensed member obtained the degree
- Licence History: date licence was first issued and any changes to type or status since licence was issued
- Hearings: any past hearings are listed with the decisions

Currently the Public Register provides the following information about individual veterinary facilities:
• Name
• Facility Accreditation Status which may be active, closed, expired, temporarily closed or suspended
• Location: address, telephone number
• Name of Director
• Currently Accredited Facilities: facility type, expiration date for current Certificate of Accreditation, any conditions and limitations that may exist on the certificate
• Accreditation History: practice opening date

What is proposed?

Additional key items will be added to the Public Register:

• Notice of hearings and member allegations prior to a hearing, inclusive of the date(s) of the hearing
• Undertakings
• Outcomes of facility accreditation inspection
• Criminal charges reported on annual licence renewal
• Convictions reported on annual licence renewal
• Bail conditions reported on annual licence renewal

What are the benefits?

Significant benefits include:

• Serving the public interest by allowing for greater public protection
• Maintaining the public’s confidence and trust that self-regulation is effective
• Enhancing the public’s ability to make informed decisions
• Strengthening the regulator’s accountability

In the proposed concept, the College will be attentive to ensuring only appropriate information is included on the Public Register, striking a balance between transparency and public protection and the fairness and privacy of licensed members.

Next steps:

All perspectives shared during the legislative reform consultations will be compiled into a report and shared with the College Council. The report will also be available online.

Please note: This is not a final consultation. Legislative reform discussions are in the early stages. The College and Council welcome your feedback on the initial concepts.