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Heartworm testing during the pandemic

Many veterinarians have questions about how to handle heartworm testing during the COVID-19 pandemic. To address those questions, Dr. Andrew Peregrine and Dr. Scott Weese have provided some guidance regarding heartworm testing and prescribing heartworm preventives. [Read their recommendations.](#)

Province extends closure of non-essential workplaces

The Ontario government announced today that it is extending the closure of non-essential workplaces, outdoor amenities in parks and recreational areas, public places, and bars and restaurants until May 6. The extension does not affect veterinary practices, which remain classified as essential workplaces.

Two pet cats in New York test positive for COVID-19

Two pet cats in New York have reportedly tested positive for SARS-CoV-2. Both had owners who were COVID-19 positive. Both cats had mild upper respiratory tract disease and are expected to recover fully. For more information, visit Dr. Scott Weese's [Worms & Germs Blog](#).

Webinar tomorrow: Telemedicine During the Pandemic and Beyond

OVMA will host a webinar April 24 at noon called Telemedicine During the Pandemic and Beyond. The webinar will be presented by Dr. Sharon Quinn from [Smart.Vet](#), along with Terra Shastri, OVMA's director of business development and strategic initiatives, and Darren Osborne, OVMA's director of economic research.

Spring is usually the busiest time for most veterinary practices but with the pandemic, clinic teams have been forced to adopt new ways to continue patient care. Telemedicine can provide a valuable solution for practices, clients and patients. This 45-minute webinar will highlight:

- What clinic teams are doing now using telemedicine.
- Lessons learned from using telemedicine.
- Why you should charge for virtual consults (and how to do it).
- How to continue using telemedicine moving forward.

The webinar will be recorded and made available for OVMA members on the OVMA website.

[Join the webinar](#) (password: 7234)

Join with iPhone one-tap:

Canada: +15873281099 (91440343734#) or +16473744685 (91440343734#)

Join by telephone (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

Canada: +1.587.328.1099 or +1.647.374.4685 or +1.647.558.0588 or +1.778.907.2071 or +1.438.809.7799

Webinar ID: 914 4034 3734

New federal funding programs announced for students

On April 22, the federal government announced new programs to support students who have been impacted by COVID-19:

Canada Student Response Benefit

The Canada Student Response Benefit (CSRB) is designed for post-secondary students who aren't eligible for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit. Eligible students will receive \$1,250 per month from May to August. Students with a disability, or those who are taking care of someone during this time, will receive \$1,750 per month. As the application process is not open yet, all payments will be made retroactive to May 1, 2020. Students who are working and earning less than \$1,000 per month can also apply for the CSRB. Applications for the CSRB will be made through the Canadian Revenue Agency.

Canada Student Service Grant

Students who are volunteering specifically with programs to combat COVID-19 or are providing support during this pandemic will be eligible for a Canada Student Service Grant. Eligible students will receive between \$1,000-\$5,000 through this program. Details on criteria and the application process have not yet been released.

Grants and fellowships

The federal government also announced \$291 million to go toward extending scholarships, fellowships and grants for student researchers and graduate students for three to four months. Grants for students not in a research setting will be doubled for the 2020-2021 academic year.

Canada Summer Jobs Program

The Canada Summer Jobs Program is a pre-existing program that provides summer job opportunities for students to develop skills and obtain work experience. Employers who were approved for the program will be eligible to receive a wage subsidy reimbursement of up to 100 per cent of the province's hourly wage. Employers can also offer part-time placements through this program that previously required full-time hours. Employers that have applied for and received Canada Summer Jobs funding should contact their grant representative to discuss changes to the job and application status during COVID-19.

As an extension of the Canada Summer Jobs Program, the federal government is creating almost 70,000 jobs for students in essential sectors for frontline work during this pandemic.

Canadian Student Loans Program

As already announced, the federal government has implemented the following changes to Canadian student loans effective from March 30 to September 30, 2020:

- Suspension of repayments of Canada student loans and apprentice loans (no payments are required during this time and pre-authorized debits will be stopped).
- No interest will accrue on student and apprentice loans.

Note: The federal government of Canada will need to pass legislation to make these programs available. OVMA will continue to provide updates on all programs as it become available.

If you have questions about eligibility, contact Brandi Deimling at bdeimling@ovma.org. For assistance with budgeting/financial issues and keeping yourself afloat during this time, contact Darren Osborne (dosborne@ovma.org) or Dr. Chris Doherty (cdoherly@ovma.org).

Webinar recording: personal finances

A recording of yesterday's webinar about how to keep your personal finances afloat during the pandemic is available to members.

This 45-minute webinar highlights what government programs are available to individuals and explores methods and strategies that individuals can employ to minimize their expenses, keep cash flow for essentials and maintain income as much as possible.

[Watch the webinar.](#)



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