



## NewsHound

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## Revised companion animal practice guide now available

On April 3, the province amended the list of essential workplaces that can remain open during the COVID-19 pandemic. One of those amendments was indicating that veterinary practices should be providing urgent care only. Over the past few days, OVMA has been contacted by countless members seeking additional guidance as to what constitutes "urgent care." To assist members in that regard, OVMA has worked with Dr. Scott Weese to develop an urgent care decision tree to help veterinarians make decisions about what constitutes urgent care. OVMA has also revised its [Companion Animal Practice Guide to Elective and Essential Services](#) to more clearly answer some common member questions such as, "Should spays and neuters be postponed?" The revised guide, which includes the decision tree for determining what constitutes urgent care, can be found on OVMA's [Coronavirus FAQ web page](#).

When reviewing the guide, members are reminded that it's just that – a guide. There are always exceptions to every rule. At the end of the day, veterinarians are expected to use their professional judgement to determine the best course of action in each situation. Practices that exercise sound judgement and ensure that they're not unnecessarily jeopardizing the safety of staff and clients need not worry about running afoul of the province's essential workplace requirements.

## Sale of pet food and medications

The list of essential workplaces also includes businesses that sell pet and animal supplies, if they "provide them to the customer only through an alternative method of sale such as curbside pickup or delivery, except in exceptional circumstances." This means that veterinary practices can continue to provide clients with pet food and medications if they use the methods of sale set out above.

To assist practices in this regard, OVMA's myVETstore wanted to make it easier for veterinary clients to purchase parasiticides through their practice's web store during the current pandemic. To that end, myVETstore has now set up a new category called Rx

Para, which includes all flea, tick and heartworm products. Instead of having to set up a prescription for each client, the practice can simply check a box to make any/all products browsable by all practice clients, just as they do for therapeutic diets. If a client clicks on *healthcare>flea tick and heartworm*, all browsable products will be shown. They can also find the product by typing in the name in the search box.

Practices will still have to:

- Verify that the product is appropriate for the patient
- Ensure that CVO's [requirements regarding prescribing and dispensing](#) are met
- Dispense the product in an acceptable manner (curbside pickup or home delivery)

In all instances, practices will have the ability to control and approve the dispensing of pharmaceutical products to their clients.

If you need help modifying this category for your practice, contact MyVETstore's support at [help@myvetstore.ca](mailto:help@myvetstore.ca).

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## Antimicrobial reporting deadline extended

Health Canada's Veterinary Drug Directorate is extending the deadline for antimicrobial sales reporting for manufacturers, importers and compounders until June 30.

If you have questions about reporting requirements, email the Veterinary Drugs Directorate at [hc.vasr-vavr.sc@canada.ca](mailto:hc.vasr-vavr.sc@canada.ca) or visit the Veterinary Antimicrobial Sales Reporting [web page](#) for more information.

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## Webinar: You Matter - Taking Care of Yourself During the Pandemic

OVMA will host a webinar featuring Dr. Colleen Best on Thursday, **April 9 at noon called You Matter -Taking Care of Yourself During the Pandemic**. The webinar is brought to you by Hills Pet Nutrition.

Whether you're working in clinic or isolated at home, the uncertainty and stress can be overwhelming. In this 45-minute webinar, Dr. Best will provide practical strategies and tools for taking care of yourself and coping with the uncertainty of the pandemic. She'll share how to:

- Explore and practice techniques that help reduce worry and anxiety by focusing on the present.
- Address the value and importance of social connection and discuss tools that can support it in the current environment.
- Use gratitude to change your perspective, as well as to foster a sense of hope and safety.

Dr. Best, PhD, DVM, is a consultant and educator focused on non-technical competencies, including veterinarian-client communication, veterinary team performance, wellness and

resilience. She's a certified compassion fatigue professional and is also trained in mental health first aid and suicide intervention.

For those who can't attend, the webinar will be recorded and made available to OVMA members.

[Join the webinar.](#) (Password: 067442)

Join by iPhone one-tap:

Canada: +16475580588 (949848862#) or +17789072071 (949848862#)

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

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Webinar ID: 949 848 862



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