



NewsHound

Your Veterinary News Source.



COVID-19 updates and information

Government support for businesses and employees

Yesterday's NewsHound included highlights from the federal government's \$82 billion COVID-19 Economic Response Plan. The plan includes provisions to assist both individuals and businesses during the pandemic. [View the plan details.](#)

Practice survey

Different veterinary practices are approaching the current pandemic very differently. Some practices have closed their doors, while others are staying open but implementing stringent safety protocols to protect staff and clients. OVMA believes it would be helpful for practices to know what other practices are doing in this regard. To that end, a survey is being sent to members in private practice, asking how their practice is approaching the current situation. If you receive a survey invite, please take a few minutes to complete it. OVMA will repeat the survey at regular intervals to see if practices' approaches are changing over time, and the results will be published in NewsHound.

Fill out the survey [here](#).

Flea/tick/heartworm protocol to protect your patients and your practice

The latest COVID-19 projections suggest the pandemic could last months, not weeks. It's almost certain to last through much, if not all, of the 2020 flea/tick/heartworm season. Despite the current pandemic, there are still many ways that veterinary practices can ensure that their patients are protected during the coming parasite season. To assist practices in this regard, OVMA is developing some options for practices to consider when crafting a flea/tick/heartworm strategy that takes the current pandemic into account. Keep an eye out for those tips in tomorrow's NewsHound.

Offering personal protective equipment and ventilators to human health-care facilities

OVMA has received several enquiries from members seeking an organized way to offer personal protective equipment (PPE) and ventilators to human health-care facilities in need of those supplies and equipment.

OVMA is making enquiries with the Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care to determine if there's a systematic way to approach such a transfer of resources. In the meantime, practices wishing to donate resources to human health-care facilities should first ensure they have sufficient resources available to meet their own anticipated needs, keeping in mind that masks are in particularly short supply until at least the summer. If a practice determines that it has excess resources, you may wish to reach out to local hospitals, nursing homes or other health-care facilities to determine if they need supplies or equipment.

Farley Foundation funding applications

To ensure applications are processed as quickly as possible, clinics submitting Farley Foundation funding requests must email completed application forms to Victoria Hickey at vhickey@ovma.org. At this time, the Farley Foundation will be unable to process applications sent through fax.

OVMA office is now virtual

These continue to be unprecedented and challenging times for everyone. The environment continues to change very quickly and like you, we're doing our best to navigate the situation surrounding COVID-19 as it evolves.

The health and safety of the OVMA team and our members remains incredibly important. With that in mind, OVMA has closed its physical office and staff will be working remotely until further notice. We hope that by proactively taking this step, we are playing a meaningful role in slowing the spread and damage caused by COVID-19.

Even though the office is closed, you can still reach all OVMA staff the same way you normally would by phone or email. You can find a complete staff directory and contact information [here](#).

During the COVID-19 crisis, OVMA will continue to update members on the latest developments via NewsHound. OVMA is also constantly adding to its resources to assist members during the outbreak, which can be found on our website's [Coronavirus FAQ](#) page.

As we continue to work through these uncertain times together, please don't forget to take care of your own physical and mental health and support those around you. Mental health and other support services are available to members and their immediate family members through OVMA's [Member Assistance Program](#), and resiliency and mental well-being resources are available to all practice staff at i-matter.ca.

Stay healthy!



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