Preamble

As members of a self-regulated profession who serve the public and society, veterinarians earn and maintain the public trust through engagement in principle-guided ethical practice. Veterinarians hold themselves, their colleagues, and their profession to a high standard of ethical conduct, reflecting the core values and principles of the profession. The College and the public have the reasonable expectation that the care and service provided by veterinarians reflects these values.

Core Values

Core values are the foundation for ethical care and service in veterinary medicine. Core values guide veterinarians in the delivery of ethical care and service and are the foundation from which ethical principles are derived.

COMPASSION

A veterinarian acts with compassion when he/she:
- Acts with empathy and humanity while balancing understandings of the interests of the animal, client, public, and environmental health and well-being.

TRUSTWORTHINESS

A veterinarian demonstrates trustworthiness when she/he:
- Is honest, reliable and competent.
TRANSPARENCY
A veterinarian fosters transparency when he/she:

- Is truthful, accountable, and communicative in a manner that promotes and protects professional relationships with clients, colleagues, and the public.
- Presents treatment options in a clear unbiased manner, ensuring the client fully understands the information presented.

COMPETENCE
A veterinarian promotes competence when he/she:

- Engages in the ongoing, reflective application of related knowledge, skills, and attitudes that are expressed in professional behaviour related to the delivery of quality care and service and the advancement of veterinary medicine, animal welfare, and public health and safety.

PROFESSIONALISM
A veterinarian demonstrates professionalism when he/she:
- Adheres to legislated requirements and standards of practice.
- Reflects the values and principles of the profession in his/her behaviour and attitudes.
- Demonstrates dependable, respectful and collaborative care with clients, colleagues, and peers.
- Maintains appropriate and dignified boundaries in the client relationship and all professional interactions.

RESPECT
A veterinarian is respectful when he/she:

- Demonstrates respect for a client’s autonomy, choice, time, financial resources, privacy and right to confidentiality.
- Demonstrates respect for public safety and the environment.

College publications contain practice parameters and standards which should be considered by all Ontario veterinarians in the care of their patients and in the practice of the profession. College publications are developed in consultation with the profession and describe current professional expectations. It is important to note that these College publications may be used by the College or other bodies in determining whether appropriate standards of practice and professional responsibilities have been maintained. The College encourages you to refer to the website (www.cvo.org) to ensure you are referring to the most recent version of any document.