



## **OVMA responds to CVO's consultation on the new Veterinarians Act**

In July, the College of Veterinarians of Ontario (CVO) released a comprehensive consultation document outlining several proposed changes to the Veterinarians Act. Over the summer, OVMA staff and committees conducted a thorough review of the document, and solicited input on the proposed changes from association members. On Sept. 27, the OVMA Board of Directors met to discuss the document, review input from association members, staff and committees, and formulate a response to CVO.

The Board found many areas where the proposed changes represent an improvement to the current Act. For example, the new Act would:

- Create an updated definition of what constitutes veterinary medicine, which would help to protect the profession from incursions by non-veterinarians.
- Increase the fines imposed on non-veterinarians practicing veterinary medicine without a license.
- Simplify CVO's investigations processes, which currently involve both CVO's Complaints Committee and Executive Committee, into one, easier-to-understand investigations and resolutions process.
- Enable CVO to dismiss complaints that are frivolous and vexatious at intake, rather than occupying veterinarians' time and emotional energy to deal with those complaints.
- Formally recognize veterinary technicians as licensed professionals.

There are also some proposals in the consultation document that are of concern to OVMA, such as:

- Expanding CVO's public register to include notice of upcoming discipline hearings.
- Mandating a Quality Assurance (QA) Program without providing details as to what that program will entail.
- The proposed ability for the QA Committee to refer veterinarians to the Investigations and Resolutions Committee for investigation.

OVMA has brought these and other areas of concern to CVO's attention, and will continue to lobby for changes needed to address those concerns in the months ahead.

Review the consultation document, "**Achieving a Modern Approach to the Regulation of Veterinary Medicine in Ontario.**"

Review **OVMA's formal response.**

If you have any questions regarding reform to the *Veterinarians Act*, contact OVMA's Manager of Government and External Relations, John Stevens at [jstevens@ovma.org](mailto:jstevens@ovma.org).

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## **Save the date! OVMA Conference & Tradeshow is Jan. 25-27, 2018**



Don't miss out on Canada's largest veterinary conference and tradeshow, featuring world-class speakers, a wide variety of continuing education opportunities, and an extensive tradeshow featuring the latest veterinary products and services.

**The 2018 OVMA Conference & Tradeshow takes place Jan. 25-27, 2018, at the Westin Harbour Castle in Toronto.**

Whether you're a practice owner, associate, manager or veterinary technician, the conference features a variety of educational sessions to pique your interest, from scientific and clinical topics to fine-tuning the client experience and improving communication.

To register, send your completed registration form (found in the Program) by email ([info@ovma.org](mailto:info@ovma.org)), by fax (1-877-482-5941) or by mail. Online registration will be available the first week of November.

A block of rooms at the Westin Harbour Castle has been set aside at a discounted rate for OVMA conference delegates. **Book your room online.**

See the **2018 OVMA Conference & Tradeshow Program** or visit the **OVMA website** to learn more about the conference. We hope to see you there!

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## **2018 OVMA Student Symposium**

Jan. 24, 2018

1 p.m.-5 p.m.

Pier 2/3 Room, Westin Harbour Castle, Toronto, ON

Led by Darren Osborne and Dr. Chris Doherty of the OVMA Economics Department, this **free** pre-conference session is designed specifically for veterinary students. Learn about employment contracts, personal finance and how to excel at your first job after graduation.

Registration for this session and the full three-day 2018 OVMA Conference qualifies as an OVC Phase 4 rotation. To register, contact Dr. Chris Doherty at [cdoherty@ovma.org](mailto:cdoherty@ovma.org).

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## There's still time to participate in Bravecto Fundraise for Farley Month

During the month of October, veterinary clinics across Ontario hold fundraising events for the **Farley Foundation**. Last year, the campaign was record-breaking, raising more than \$273,000 to help subsidize the cost of veterinary care for people and pets in need.

There's still time to take part! Order your **free campaign kit**, which includes donor gifts—this year's new giveaway item is a cute Farley Foundation bandana that will allow your clients and their pets to proudly show their support. Share your fundraising efforts on Instagram with the hashtag **#friendoffarley** (and be sure to **follow us!**).



Top fundraisers also win valuable prizes, including staff lunches and free registration to the 2018 OVMA Conference and Trade Show.

**Register today!**

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## Economic Survey – deadline extended!

We've had a great response so far to the 2017 Economic Survey, so we're extending the deadline! Complete your survey and send it in by Nov. 3 to receive a valuable, personalized benchmark report.

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## Register now for the next JumpStart! Boot Camps

Sign up for the next **JumpStart! Bootcamps**:

**Dec. 7, Milton:** 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the OVMA office.

**Jan. 24, Toronto:** 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Westin Harbour Castle.



This popular workshop is designed to equip veterinary staff with the tools to provide the ultimate client experience while also meeting hospital objectives. Sessions fill up quickly, so reserve your spot today!

For more information or to register, contact Terra Shastri at [tshastri@ovma.org](mailto:tshastri@ovma.org) or call 1.800.670.1702, ext. 28. These sessions are generously sponsored by Vetoquinol and Idexx.



## Contact

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