



ONTARIO VETERINARY
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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July 4, 2012

Board Report

This is a synopsis of the discussions and decisions made at a meeting of the OVMA Board of Directors on June 20, 2012. Members may request a complete copy of the meeting minutes and are encouraged to provide comments and/or feedback to their Director. The Board Report comes to you from your local representative and/or Director:

Pain Management Proposal

OVMA has been approached by veterinarians advocating for the introduction of a minimum standard for companion animal pain management in Ontario.

OVMA's Small Animal Issues Committee (SAIC) met by conference call to discuss this issue. The SAIC recommended to the Board that OVMA lobby CVO to implement a minimum standard for pain management in companion animals. The Board supported the recommendation, and OVMA will write to CVO asking the College to develop such a minimum standard in consultation with OVMA.

Quality Assurance

OVMA had written to CVO expressing an interest in a collaborative approach to the development of a quality assurance strategy for veterinary medicine in Ontario.

A letter from CVO acknowledging OVMA's role in discussion and planning of Quality Assurance was presented to the Board. This issue will be discussed in further detail during the upcoming CVO/OVMA Liaison Meeting in June.

Strategic Planning Report

The Board was asked to approve and implement the recommended activities and expenditures presented in the Strategic Planning Report.

The Board approved and instructed staff to implement the activities and expenditures as presented.

CVMA Proposal to Regulatory Bodies

The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) sent a proposal to all provincial veterinary regulatory bodies regarding the establishment of a more formal relationship between CVMA and those organizations.

Under the proposal, the Colleges would collect partial CVMA membership dues from all Ontario veterinarians to help pay for what that association has identified as "services to the profession." OVMA has an interest in any discussion that might result in mandatory membership in a veterinary organization other than CVO, but has thus far not participated in any formal discussions between CVMA and the provincial regulatory bodies on the matter. CVO copied OVMA on a letter to CVMA, declining support of CVMA's proposal. That correspondence was shared with OVMA. The Board directed that OVMA write CVMA in support of the position taken by CVO.

Shelter Euthanasia

A significant percentage of euthanasia in Canadian animal shelters are performed using T-61 or carbon monoxide chambers due to the fact that these agencies are not permitted to possess controlled substances under current government regulations.

The Canadian Federation of Humane Societies (CFHS) is seeking to enable shelters to use more humane methods of euthanasia. That would likely necessitate allowing shelters to possess and use certain controlled substances. CFHS is seeking support from relevant stakeholders for a process to consider the feasibility of moving forward with some form of limited licensure for shelters so that they could use the required euthanasia agents. The Board supported the proposal in principal, and agreed to participate in discussions as this issue moves forward.

Equine Pre-Purchase Exam

Equine Canada would like to engage the veterinary community to discuss concerns regarding an apparent increase in the number of horse sales being cancelled by the prospective purchaser as a result of the results of the pre-purchase examination. Equine Canada would like to have formal participation by OVMA on a working committee that will look at the issues involved and work towards solutions.

The Board appointed Dr. Michael Corradini to participate in Equine Canada's review of equine pre-purchase examinations.

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Government Relations Update

Mr. John Stevens provided an update on Government Relations activities.

Pit Bull Update: OVMA has been an active participant in the debate over Bill 16, a Private Member's Bill that aims to repeal the pit bull ban in Ontario. In April, a delegation from OVMA addressed the Standing Committee on Regulations and Private Bills to share OVMA's long-standing position in opposition to breed specific legislation (BSL). The Bill is currently awaiting Third Reading in the Legislature, and OVMA also wrote an open letter to the Premier and Leaders of the Ontario PC and NDP Parties, encouraging them to work together to pass the Bill.

Minister Meeting: In March, OVMA met with OMAFRA Minister Ted McMeekin to discuss a variety of issues, including the OMAFRA-funded OVMA Study of the Future Demand for Bovine Veterinary Services, the Animal Health Act, the OSPCA and horse racing.

CVO Consultations: CVO has released three items available for consultation since the February Board meeting, including Granting Exemptions to Self-Contained Requirements, Release of Medical Information, and Quality Assurance. OVMA's Small Animal Issues Committee had no suggested changes for these statements.

Horse Racing: In March, the province announced plans to end the Slots at Racetracks Program. Although OVMA lobbied the government to reconsider this decision, it seemed that the cancellation of the program was pre-determined long before the issue became public. OVMA immediately issued a statement expressing concern with the decision. OVMA met with multiple MPPs, and worked alongside the Ontario Association of Equine Practitioners and the Ontario Horse Racing Industry Association in their lobbying efforts.

Animal Health Act Submission: When the provincial government passed the Animal Health Act in 2009, it provided the province with broad and enabling framework for the protection and promotion of animal health in Ontario. To build upon the existing legislative framework, OMAFRA has presented a discussion paper for public review and comment. The discussion paper features two distinct proposals, including:

- A regulation for the reporting of hazards (such as animal diseases); and
- A regulation for the compensation of losses incurred as a result of the use of certain powers under the Animal Health Act.

OVMA's Large Animal Issues Committee met with the Deputy Chief Veterinarian of Ontario via conference call to discuss the paper. OVMA has provided the Ministry with an official submission in response to the proposal.

Farley Foundation Report

The foundation has currently assisted 358 pets and pet owners in need in 2012, compared to the 290 assisted during the same period last year. The foundation has disbursed approximately \$198,000 to help people and pets in need for the current fiscal year (September 1, 2011 to present), compared to \$194,000 for the same period the previous year. The breakdown of pet owners is as follows;

246 ODSP; 40 CPP; 40 GIS; 30 Ontario Works; 2 Senior Residence—Extendicare.

The breakdown of pets assisted is as follows: 232 dogs; 119 cats; and 7 other.

The foundation has raised \$486,318 so far this fiscal year, up from \$448,500 at this time a year ago.

Simple Sound Solution Proposal

Several years ago, OVMA retained the services of Nancy Morris to deliver Time Management Training to association staff. Ms. Morris has approached OVMA regarding an offer of a daily micro learning service to OVMA members called Simple Sound Solutions.

The Board decided not to proceed with member service, as proposed.

Member Tribute

Former OVMA President Dr. Jim Hysen sadly lost his battle with cancer in June. The Board decided that OVMA would recognize Dr. Hysen's involvement with OVMA through the creation of an honorary Ride for Farley Award in his name. The particulars of the award will be determined by the Farley Board of Directors.

Board Agenda Packages

OVMA currently prints and couriers all Board agenda packages at a cost of \$5,175 per year. The Board was surveyed to determine whether members were interested in receiving agenda packages in electronic form. Based on the positive survey results, the Board directed staff to gather more information about options for moving to the electronic distribution of Board packages.



Comments? Questions? Call OVMA at 1.800.670.1702 or speak with your local OVMA representative.