



## College of Veterinarians of British Columbia

# *Practice Facility Accreditation Committee Policy: Change in Scope of Practice Accreditation*

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### **Preamble**

The Practice Facility Accreditation Committee (PFAC) recognizes that a practice may wish to change its scope since initial accreditation. Such changes may include:

- the addition of an ambulatory (housecall) service,
- a change in the types of animals seen,
- an expansion of the range of services provided, etc.

The following provisions in the CVBC Bylaws, Part 3 – Accreditation and Naming apply:

- 3.6... *the Designated Registrant has the following responsibilities:*
- (9) *to promptly inform the registrar, who will convey to the committee any of the following respecting a practice or facility:*
- (a) *a substantial change in scope of practice,*

3.18(1) *The committee may direct that the practice or facility be inspected by an inspector to ascertain if it meets the accreditation standards.*

### **Policy**

If the change in scope of practice occurs within a calendar year of the facility's last inspection and the cost for the inspector to travel to the facility is not prohibitive, then any inspection for the purposes of accrediting a change in scope of practice will be considered part of the earlier inspection and will be conducted at no charge to the Designated Registrant.

If it has been longer than a calendar year since the facility was last inspected, then any inspection for the purposes of accrediting a change in scope of practice will be done for a fee – to be determined by the Registrar on the basis of the nature of the inspection. Alternatively, the Designated Registrant may choose to have a full inspection of the entire facility conducted at this time so that the 5-year cycle begins anew.

## **Exceptional & Extenuating Circumstances regarding scope of accreditation**

The Committee does not have authority to exempt a registrant from the requirement to practice from an appropriately-accredited veterinary facility. However, Council feels that it is in the public interest for licensed veterinarians – who are working from accredited companion animal facilities, but do not have an accredited companion animal mobile component to their facility – to be able to attend to patients away from the facility in exceptional and extenuating circumstances where it is in the best interest of the patient, client or the public for the animal to not be brought to the facility. In such cases – where the service is not part of the regular practice, not advertised, and client consent for the provision of the service by the veterinarian without a certificate of accreditation has been obtained – the College may use its discretion and not sanction a veterinarian for practicing without an accredited mobile service<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> adapted, in part and with permission, from the College of Veterinarians of Ontario’s “Accreditation FAQ”