



College of Veterinarians of British Columbia

COUNCIL MEETING

Video Conference

Friday, October 23, 2020

Minutes of the Open Meeting

- Council Members:** Dr. Josh Waddington (President), Dr. Doris Leung (Vice President), Mr. Chris Finding (Treasurer), Ms. Lori Charvat, Mr. Gian Sihota, Dr. Michele Martin and Mr. Gary Kobayashi
- Regrets:** Dr. Jane Mancell
- Staff:** Dr. Jane Pritchard (Interim Registrar), Dr. Stacey Thomas (Deputy Registrar) and Ms. Rosalee Magcalas (Executive Assistant)

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Waddington at 10:05 a.m.

2. ROUTINE PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

2.1. Approval of the Open Agenda

Dr. Martin requested that a discussion on providing credit card-type registration cards to registrants be added to the Agenda.

MOTION: THAT the Open Agenda be approved with the power to add.

MOVED/SECONDED CARRIED

2.2. Discussion of Consent Agenda

MOTION: THAT the Open Consent Agenda be approved with items 2.3, 3.2, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4 and 4.6.

MOVED/SECONDED CARRIED

2.3. Minutes of the September 11, 2020 Open Meeting

Accepted and not discussed as per the Consent Agenda.

MOTION: THAT the Minutes of the September 11, 2020 Open Council meeting be approved as per the Consent Agenda

MOVED/SECONDED CARRIED

Direction: For the office to publish the approved September 11, 2020 minutes to the website.

3. REPORTS REQUIRING COUNCIL ACTION/DECISION/DISCUSSION

3.1 CCVR Guidance Document

Ever since the legalization of cannabis in Canada, there has been confusion amongst veterinarians regarding its use in animals. The Canadian Council of Veterinary Registrars (CCVR) has developed a guidance document and the CCVR adopted the final version at its July meeting, to be a resource for member jurisdictions to be shared with registrants. This is not to be taken as legislation, rather just to guide veterinarians in interpreting federal legislation and to use in conjunction with their best judgment. The office would like to get Council's approval to post this document on the website. Council queried if other jurisdictions had published this document and the Deputy Registrar is unsure but that the members of the CCVR were all supportive of it and planned to bring it to their own Councils for adoption.

A discussion ensued amongst Council that if something went wrong while a registrant was following these guidelines, could it come back to hurt us as a regulator, but it must be made clear that this is just a guide and must be applied in practice with common sense. Registrants are already seeking guidance from the College. The document summarized the meaning of federal legislation and reminds registrants of their limitations and responsibilities. If having this document posted causes more questions from registrants, it could be brought back to Council for a reinterpretation.

Council agrees that this guide should be posted on the CVBC website, preferably accompanied by links to additional reliable Canadian-based resources on cannabis in animals, and to frame the posting as something registrants may find helpful in speaking with clients regarding cannabis use for their pets.

MOTION: TO adopt the guidance document and post on the CVBC website.

MOVED/SECONDED **CARRIED**

Direction: For the office to publish the CCVR Guidance Document on its website and to also include in the Fall Newsletter to registrants.

3.2 Change of Chairs in the CCC

Accepted and not discussed as per the Consent Agenda.

MOTION: TO accept Dr. Sergije Prostran's resignation from the Continuing Competence Committee and as Chair of the Committee, effective immediately.

MOVED/SECONDED **CARRIED**

MOTION: TO accept Dr. Nick Kleider's appointment as Chair of the Continuing Competence Committee, effective immediately.

Direction: For the office to post this change to its website.

3.3 Personal Use Accounts – Working Group

The PUA working group will be meeting again next week. Dr. Pritchard is pleased with the quality of the discussion amongst the individuals involved in this group and feels that this is something that will be wrapped up soon. Discussions are currently focusing on ensuring that

registrants that have a PUA have an active class of registration (and therefore the privileges of practice), and that they treat only their own animals, not their neighbour's or extended family's pets as once a drug leaves the house, it is considered to be dispensed and this is something that should only be done through an accredited practice facility. The group is working towards drafting a policy, but a timeline cannot be predicted and there will be no push to get it moving faster, though the Interim Registrar reported that it is moving faster than she expected. Once the first draft has been completed, it will be sent out to registrants for a 45-day consultation and after requested changes are made, it will be brought to Council for their input.

When this topic was first approached, it was very contentious with many registrants displeased with the way PUAs were being limited. Dr. Pritchard reports that the feelings have calmed as the members of the group are being listened to and spoken to respectfully with discussions kept within the parameters of what is expected of them in this process. While there may still be some issues with the final policy, the registrants that are participating (most are the ones that had issues with the change) now have a better understanding of why this policy is needed and the change to the PUAs that must be implemented.

3.4 PFAC Temporary Policy – Virtual Reaccreditation Inspections (new version as approved by PFAC Oct 14)

A first version of this policy was brought before Council at its September 11th meeting and sent back to PFAC for development of a clear definition of what would be considered a 'substantive' renovation. The Deputy Registrar, in working to develop a definition, reconsidered the overall approach of the policy and ultimately presented PFAC with an alternative version that contemplates virtual inspections as the primary route, while empowering the committee to direct an in-person inspection based on information gathered either before or during the virtual inspection. The rationale is that most changes in a facility could be reasonably assessed virtually; for "substantive" renovations, these would typically require a city permit and inspection before occupancy is granted, ensuring that the facility is safe – the CVBC inspector would focus on confirming city approval and ensuring biosecurity. If the inspector feels that a proper assessment was not possible in the virtual format, the Committee would have the option to direct an in-person inspection. The facilities selected for a virtual inspection will be given a list of what to provide to the inspector prior to the inspection so that documents can be reviewed and areas of concern can be targeted for closer inspection, including a requirement to disclose *all* changes that have taken place at the practice facility (physical and operational) since the last inspection. As there will be some facilities where the virtual inspection is insufficient or not possible, in person inspections may be done after hours with social distance and PPE. PFAC approved this policy version and referred it to Council for approval.

Until now, virtual inspections were reserved for new facilities only, but with COVID still an ongoing issue, the reaccreditation inspections are backing up and the ability to virtually inspect at least some of them will help to alleviate the workload moving forward.

If successful, Council would like to see a similar policy continue beyond the relaxation of the restrictions during COVID, as virtual inspections would be useful for more remote facilities, cutting down on travel costs.

MOTION: TO approve the PFAC Temporary Policy as written and approved by PFAC on October 14, 2020.

MOVED/SECONDED

CARRIED

Direction: For implementation by the Committee and office. To place a link in the Fall Newsletter and publish the document on the website.

3.5 Screening of Public Members for Committees

At the last meeting Dr. Pritchard brought forward information developed from other jurisdictions and Council looked towards setting a subcommittee for the screening of public members for Committees. The application provided by a volunteer should include a resume and three references, which the subcommittee would verify.

A Terms of Reference needs to be developed for this Council subcommittee and Ms. Charvat will provide a copy of the Terms of Reference from the College of Physicians & Surgeons which will assist the office in the development for the next meeting.

There is currently no urgency in setting up this subcommittee as all Committees are fully populated, but the development of the Terms of Reference should be in place prior to setting this subcommittee.

Direction: For the office to develop the Terms of Reference for the Nominations Committee to screen volunteers for Committees, once Ms. Charvat has provided copies of her documents and bring back to Council at its next meeting.

3.6 Provisional Supervised Active Registration

The Interim Registrar provided information to the Council as this matter is still with the Registration Committee for discussion. Research is still being done to determine if there has to be a major change to the bylaws or just a minor change in addition to the development of a policy.

This class of licensure would add to the pool of practising veterinarians in BC, which will hopefully provide some relief to veterinary practices struggling to bring on new associates, particularly in more remote communities.

Council discussed the possibility of implementing this class of licensure on a trial basis to be re-evaluated over the period of 12 months, before being finalized and amending the bylaws. However, this would create significant uncertainty for applicants eligible for this form of license, which could impact its use and its usefulness.

The CVBC is referencing the CVO's regulations for guidance and as a starting point for our own bylaw and policy development.

IEV's have the education and training to be a veterinarian and will have already demonstrated that through completion of the NEB's BCSE and NAVLE exams, but would benefit from exposure to Canadian practice and from the ability to use and maintain their skills while completing the practical portions of the NEB's exams. Registrants will likely appreciate this resource and the ability to mentor internationally-educated veterinarians (IEVs). The CVBC will need to establish clear requirements for a supervisor, and to apply those requirements in an objective manner, to avoid the appearance of bias.

The Interim Registrar is hoping to have this instituted by the end of her term.

Direction: To continue to develop the bylaw revision with the Registration Committee and to keep the Council apprised of developments.

3.7 Proposal for a Joint Meeting with the Board of the SBCV

Dr. Pritchard proposed to have Council meet virtually with the Board of the SBCV as there are many issues and areas where the two bodies overlap and can benefit from discussion and collaboration.

In recent years, a joint dinner has been coordinated (either in conjunction with the CVMA conference in 2018, or in November, during the weekend of the CVBC's Annual General Meeting and the SBCV's Fall Conference), but as that is not a possibility with the COVID pandemic, a Zoom call could be held instead. Suggestion was to either do it as a happy hour meeting with members sharing a drink and a snack together, or possibly supply each attendee with a \$50 gift card for everyone to get dinner. The meeting would be used to discuss the licensure of foreign trained veterinarians, amongst other topics.

Direction: To have Dr. Pritchard reach out to the SBCV to arrange a Zoom meeting as a social time.

3.8 Revised CE Approval Criteria Policy

The CE approval policy was put into place last October and became effective January 1, 2020. With most courses being held online now, this Policy was revisited by the CCC and the parameters broadened to accept online courses other than just those that are RACE approved.

Under the revised policy, if a session (in person or online) is either RACE approved or already approved by another Canadian jurisdiction that has an approval process in place, then the CVBC's approval does not need to be sought. Otherwise, the CVBC's approval must be sought. The CVBC will consider applications for any in-person session; for online session, the policy has been expanded to allow that the CVBC will consider applications for online sessions that are either being presented by an AVMA-accredited institution, by another Canadian veterinary regulatory body or veterinary association, by a board-certified veterinary specialists (of an American or European Board-Recognized specialty college), or offered as an industry or government-specific session.

MOTION: TO approve the CE Approval Criteria Policy, post to the CVBC website and disseminate to the registrants.

MOVED/SECONDED

CARRIED

Direction: Publish the CE Approval Criteria Policy to the website and include in the Fall Newsletter to the registrants.

4. **REPORTS RECEIVED FOR INFORMATION**

- 4.1 Report on New Registrants – Accepted and not discussed as per the Consent Agenda.
- 4.2 Change of Registration Class Report – Accepted and not discussed as per the Consent Agenda.
- 4.3 Name Approvals – Accepted and not discussed as per the Consent Agenda.
- 4.4 Report on Facilities, Closed, New & Reaccredited – Accepted and not discussed as per the Consent Agenda.
- 4.5 Report re. IC Cases/Status

The office put the numbers into a graph as requested by the Council last meeting. The

complaints department wished to explain some issues that must be considered when interpreting the information presented. The number of files represented at each date in the graph are “discrete moments in time” and do not represent progress of a particular file through the system over time. “File Completion/Closure” is a complex issue since if a RAC (Remedial Action by Consent) is entered, it will remain open until the registrant has satisfied the terms; if a citation for a discipline hearing is issued, the file would not be considered closed until the discipline hearing has been held and the Discipline Committee has made its finding, which could be 2 or more years if pre-hearing motions are dragged out.

Council would like to work towards identifying a useful point of comparison within the complaints process. They would also like to see a comparison in timeline to completion of those files where the registrant has retained legal counsel and those where the registrant is dealing directly with the CVBC, to understand the impact this has on progression of the file.

The complaints department advised Council that the number of complaints over the last 3 years is holding steady and explained that if a single submitted complaint names multiple veterinarians then multiple complaint files are opened which will inflate the total numbers.

The Council is interested in hearing feedback from the investigators about the complaints process and IC’s work, to provide additional perspective. Council is interested in exploring ways to alleviate the heavy workload for the Complaints Department, the investigators and the IC itself. The development of a remediation model was suggested, as used by other professions, that could be explored before the complaint progresses to the investigation stage. A great number of open complaints could benefit from such a process, thereby relieving the strain on the IC resources. The office would have to ensure that a remediation process would be compliant with the *Veterinarian Act* and may require the hiring another staff person in the Complaints department, or a contract consultant to handle the remediation process. Ms. Charvat offered to put the CVBC in touch with Mediate BC.

Direction: To have the office explore this option to alleviate the backlog, including consulting with Ms. Karlicki as the head of the Complaints department. Review the Act and the bylaws to see if such a model would be compliant.

4.6 Task List – Accepted and not discussed as per the Consent Agenda.

4.7 Professional-Looking Registrant Cards (added item)

Council Member Dr. Martin has heard from registrants who feel that the current paper-printed registrant card is unacceptable. Registrants often have to prove their registration with the CVBC and it is very unprofessional to pull out a piece of paper to verify and it does not look legitimate. The office was asked to research the possibility of having credit card-type registrant cards made, possibly for a nominal fee to registrants, or at the very least laminated, coloured cards.

Direction: To have the office explore both types of registration cards and report back at the next Council meeting.

5. ADJOURNMENT

5.1 Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday December 18, 2020, with the Annual General Meeting being held on Sunday November 15th at 2:00pm.

MOTION: THAT the Open meeting be closed at 12:17 p.m.