

### **CVBC Position on Veterinarians' Duty to Report to the BCSPCA**

The public must feel confident that a veterinarian's primary role is to provide effective and necessary treatment for patients. It serves and protects the public interest when clients trust that veterinarians will discharge both patient and client duties in a professional, confidential, and ethical manner.

The duty to report under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animal Act should never be used to threaten a client to consent to treatment. The better approach is to educate the client, discuss all reasonable options and even invite or arrange for the client to seek a second opinion.

Reporting a client to the BCSPCA should be reserved for circumstances where there is clear and unequivocal evidence of an animal being in distress as a direct result of the actions of the veterinarian's client. Threatening to report or reporting on circumstantial evidence will leave veterinarians open to criticism for breaching client trust and confidentiality, eroding the veterinarian's professional reputation in addition to adversely affecting business, and most importantly, possibly preventing the animal from receiving necessary treatment.

Veterinarians will best serve their patients when clients can rely on them to make patient treatment a priority, while simultaneously meeting client confidentiality obligations.

Please contact the Registrar's office for clarification: Luisa Hlus 604.924.2153 or [Lhlus@cvbc.ca](mailto:Lhlus@cvbc.ca)

College of Veterinarians of B.C. | #107 - 828 Harbourside Drive, North Vancouver, BC V7P 3R9  
Canada

[Unsubscribe Legal@cvbc.ca](mailto:Legal@cvbc.ca)

[Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by [communicate@cvbc.ca](mailto:communicate@cvbc.ca) in collaboration with