

## Important Message for Equine Veterinarians

The College has received information, inquiries, and expressions of concern about non-registrants presently offering equine dental services in BC.

These non-veterinarians variously describe themselves as “equine dental practitioners,” “equine dentists,” or similar titles suggesting expertise or certification.

Section 1 of the *Veterinarians Act* defines “veterinary medicine” as the art and science of veterinary medicine, dentistry and surgery. As such, registrants are reminded of the requirement to supervise any non-registrants performing procedures such as dental cleaning and prophylaxis, dental extractions or other dental procedures.

Registrants are advised to consider the risk that the failure to adequately supervise a non-registrant in accordance with the Bylaws may give rise to both civil liability (in the case of an adverse result with financial loss to the owner) and regulatory action by the CVBC (in the case of a complaint being made). Also, an owner’s insurance coverage could be voided if a non-registrant performs dental procedures with an adverse result. Registrants who do not inform owners of that potential consequence could face civil liability consequences.

In September 2016, the College filed a Petition in the BC Supreme Court, seeking an Order that a non-registrant cease practicing equine dentistry. We expect to have an update about the court proceedings posted on [www.cvbc.ca](http://www.cvbc.ca) (See **Resources/Unauthorized Practice**) sometime in late October 2016.