



## College of Veterinarians of British Columbia

# *Professional Practice Standard: Practice of Veterinary Medicine in British Columbia as it Relates to Registration Class*

March 19, 2021

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This Standard addresses the privileges and boundaries governing the practice of veterinary medicine. They were developed to provide a clear outline of what is acceptable and what is unacceptable and therefore subject to discipline in this area.

### **To practice veterinary medicine in BC:**

- 1. You must hold an ACTIVE current registration (private practice, public sector, specialty private, temporary) to practice veterinary medicine with the College of Veterinarians of BC, <sup>1</sup>**
- 2. Veterinary services can only be provided to the public from a practice facility that is currently accredited by the College of Veterinarians of BC <sup>2</sup>**
- 3. You must meet all the requirements of the by-laws and standards of the College of Veterinarians of BC, and the Veterinarians Act of BC. <sup>3</sup>**

- A veterinarian/registrant holding an **ACTIVE** license (private practice, public sector, specialty private, temporary) is permitted to:
  - a) provide care for their own animals and
  - b) purchase veterinary prescription medication under the Pharmacy Operations and Drug Scheduling Act Section 26 (a) and (b).

The provision of veterinary medical care or prescription and dispensing of medication to treat animals owned by others is defined as part of the practice of veterinary medicine and can only be carried out from an **accredited practice facility**.

- Veterinarians/registrants holding **INACTIVE** registration (non-practicing, retired, honorary, suspended) cannot practice veterinary medicine in BC. Registrants in **INACTIVE** registration categories:
  - a) may provide care for their own animals,
  - b) cannot purchase veterinary prescription medication, except from an **ACTIVE** registrant as part of a Veterinarian-Client-Patient-Relationship (VCPR) from an **accredited practice facility**.
  
- A veterinarian/registrant in any category of registration may provide first aid or temporary assistance to an animal in an emergency based on the exception in the Veterinarians Act under Division 3 Section 46 (3) (a).

The practice of veterinary medicine is defined and restricted by the *Veterinarians Act* and the College of Veterinarians of BC’s bylaws and practice standards. Relevant sections are listed below.

## REFERENCES

### <sup>1</sup> References for Point 1

- A. “Veterinary Medicine”** (Definitions section of the Veterinarians Act) means the art and science of veterinary medicine, dentistry and surgery and includes, whether or not for consideration,
- a. the diagnosis and treatment of animals for the prevention, alleviation or correction of disease, injury, pain, defect, disorder, or other similar condition,
  - b. the provision of a service prescribed by regulation of the Lieutenant Governor in Council, and
  - c. the provision of advice in respect of a matter referred to in paragraph (a) or (b).

- B. Privilege to Practice Veterinary Medicine – Active Class of Registration – (Bylaws) Sections 2.32-2.41** of the bylaws establish the relative privileges of each class of registration. “Only registrants in active classes of registration have the privilege to practice veterinary medicine in BC.

**Part 2 REGISTRATION Section 2.1 Definitions.** “class of active registration” or “active registration” means one of the classes of registration listed in section 2.2; (9) “class of inactive registration” or “inactive registration” means one of the classes of registration for registrants as listed in section 2.2;

Section 2.2(1). of the CVBC bylaws establishes the following **active classes of registration**:

- Private Practice
- Specialty Private Practice
- Public Sector

- Temporary for External Licensed Veterinarian
- The Life class of registration may be active or inactive.

Section 2.2(2) of the CVBC bylaws establishes the following **inactive classes of registration**:

- non-practicing class;
- retired class;
- suspended class; and
- honorary class.

## <sup>2</sup>References for Point 2

### A. **practice facility**” (CVBC Bylaws, Part 3 – Accreditation and Naming) s. 3.1 Definitions (11)

means the premises, structure or vehicle in, on or from which a registrant provides veterinary services, and includes any equipment, supplies, records or documents used in that facility, but does not include a consulting practice;

### B. **Accredited** – (Bylaws s. 3.4 General Requirements

Every practice facility must:  
(2) be accredited.

### C. **You can only practice veterinary medicine from an accredited practice facility** (s. 3.5 Registrant’s General Duties)

(1) A registrant must not practise in or from a practice facility in any of the following circumstances:...

(b) if the practice facility has not been accredited;

## <sup>3</sup>References for Point 3

### A. **Required compliance with the Act, By-laws, and Standards** (Registration Renewal 2.28 (1) (d) Bylaws)

To renew current registration, an active or inactive registrant must, before the end of the registration year:

- submit to the registrar a completed application for renewal form in a form approved by the registrar;
- pay the annual registration fee applicable to that registrant’s class of registration, as set out in Schedule "C";
- pay any other outstanding fee, special fee or assessment, or debt owed by the registrant to the college;
- attest to compliance with the Act, the regulations, and the bylaws, and any applicable limits or conditions imposed on the registrant under the Act or the bylaws; and**

(e) provide proof of having met the requirements of the continuing education program under Part 4, if applicable.

## Definitions

**Unauthorized practice** defined 224. For the purposes of the sections 225 and 226, “unauthorized practice” means a breach of one or more of the following provisions of Act: (a) section 46; 98 Effective October 2015 except as otherwise noted (b) section 47; (c) section 48

**Exceptional circumstances for the practice of veterinary medicine:**

**Section 48 Veterinarians Act.** Establishes that the following circumstances are exceptions to the strict definition of the act of veterinary medicine:

(a) the furnishing of first aid or temporary assistance to an animal in an emergency;

(b) **the treatment of an animal by**

(i) **an owner who has regular care and control of the animal,**

(ii) a member of the owner's household, or

(iii) an employee regularly employed full time by the owner in agricultural or domestic work;

**Personal Use Account (PUA)** – An account held by a veterinarian that is with a supplier of veterinary products. It is an account that is not associated directly with a CVBC accredited veterinary facility. Sometimes alternatively referred to as an “Own Use Account” or OUA

The College has established a series of *Professional Practice Standards*:

- *Professional Practice Standard: Medical Record Keeping*
- *Professional Practice Standard: Companion Animal Medical Records*
- *Professional Practice Standard: Equine Medical Records*
- *Professional Practice Standard: Production Herd/Flock Medical Records*

These are all available on our website ([www.cvbc.ca](http://www.cvbc.ca)) under Resources/Legislation, Standards & Policies