



# College of Veterinarians of British Columbia

## COUNCIL MEETING

Video Conference

Friday, October 29, 2021

### Minutes of the Open Meeting

**Council Members:** Dr. Josh Waddington (President), Dr. Michele Martin (Vice President), Mr. Chris Finding (Treasurer), Ms. Lori Charvat, Mr. Gian Sihota, Dr. Doris Leung, Dr. Jane Mancell and Mr. Harinder Mahil

**Staff:** Dr. Megan Bergman (Registrar & CEO), 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.

*Council would like to respectfully acknowledge that we work and live on the traditional ancestral and unceded lands of the Coast Salish, Squamish, Sechelt, Musqueam and Tsleil-Waututh nations and we acknowledge all other first nations in British Columbia.*

#### 2. ROUTINE PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

##### 2.1. Approval of the Open Agenda

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

**MOVED/SECONDED CARRIED**

##### 2.2. Discussion of Consent Agenda

Dr. Martin requested that Drs. Bergman and Thomas pass along thanks to the Continuing Competence Committee for their policy work.

Council requested that Consent Agenda item 3.7 be taken off of the CA and placed on the regular open agenda for discussion. In addition, Item 3.8 is also to be placed on the regular open agenda as it requires a vote.

**MOTION: THAT** the Open Consent Agenda be approved with items 2.3, 3.9, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4 and 4.5.

**MOVED/SECONDED CARRIED**

### 2.3. Minutes of the September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Open Meeting

Accepted and not discussed as per the Consent Agenda

**MOTION: THAT** the Minutes of the September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Open Council meeting be approved as per the Agenda.

**MOVED/SECONDED**

**CARRIED**

**Direction:** For the office to publish the approved September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021 minutes to the website.

## 3. ITEMS REQUIRING COUNCIL ACTION/DECISION/DISCUSSION

### 3.1. Introduction of New Public Member

The Council President welcomed Mr. Harinder Mahil to the group. Mr. Mahil was gracious in accepting his appointment and introduced himself to Council and spoke of his background, which in part includes experience with investigations and complaints, which could lend input to CVBC processes. In return, each Council and staff member introduced themselves to Mr. Mahil and welcomed him.

### 3.2. Annual General Meeting Agenda

The updated AGM agenda was presented, and the Registrar confirmed invited guests including the Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Fisheries represented by Assistant Deputy Minister, Ms. McGuire, who will briefly address the registrants, Dr. Al Longair, President of the SBCV Board, Dr. Gillian Muir, Dean of the Western College of Veterinary Medicine, Ms. Barker from the BCVTA and Ms. Kristine Simpson, Partner at BDO confirmed attendance at the AGM. The registrants will be able to ask questions of the College, Council or invited guests by typing them into the Zoom chat and they will be addressed at the end of the meeting. The office has reached out to the Chairs of the Committees to ask that they speak on their respective reports. The 2021 AGM will be recorded for those who may not be able to attend but would like to watch it afterwards at their leisure, and participants at the AGM will be advised that the AGM is being recorded. Questions and answers will be posted as they were last year. The recording will only be available to registrants for 3 months under the registrants portal in a format that cannot easily be downloaded.

### 3.3. BCVTA

Drs. Bergman and Thomas had an initial outreach meeting with the BCVTA to begin the collaborative process of working together and initiating efforts on the CVBC bylaw amendments. The Strategic Plan was shared with the BCVTA and opportunities for collaboration on communications and other activities was discussed. A BCVTA member has been appointed as the CVBC Liaison and the BCVTA asked to be able to participate in Council meetings as observers, in open and closed, if permitted. Discussion was also had around joint meetings between the BCVTA and Council boards on an annual basis.

Council discussed and agreed to inviting a BCVTA representative to attend the open agenda of the CVBC Council meetings.

**Direction:** To have the CVBC invite BCVTA executive to join the open meetings and perhaps share the agenda with them. Further, to arrange an executive meeting between the CVBC and BCVTA to bridge the relationship.

### 3.4. Practice Ownership

The office of the Registrar is exploring how practice ownership is managed. In Canada, BC and SK does not require a veterinarian. Most other provinces require veterinary ownership to varying extents. There is some risk in having a practice owned by a non-veterinarian if the Designated Registrant decides to leave, and there is not another veterinarian in the practice where see a facility may not have a veterinarian overseeing controlled drugs and delivering the responsibilities of a designated registrant and as a result would lose facility accreditation and would not be able to operate. .

Are there options to consider for risk mitigation?

Next Steps: Further review is warranted

Seek legal advice

Consult other regulators – College of Dentistry and other Veterinary Registrars

**Council took a 5 minute break to return at 11:25.**

### 3.5. Telemedicine

The Deputy Registrar provided information regarding expanding the focus of what the reality of telemedicine will become. The Telemedicine Guidelines were published this past summer and it is a good model and makes it clear that it is to be used as a tool for veterinarians working in a facility, but there are ways to get around that with veterinarians speculating that if they set up a mobile practice out of their home or vehicle, buy equipment as needed and get properly accredited and have the ability to go out and visit a patient, but primarily just provide telemedicine services. It is anticipated that there will be an increasing interest to further grow the use of telemedicine services, corporations are already operating these types of services in Canada and BC, and it won't be long before this begins to expand. Our current risk is that there are registrants not affiliated with a practice facility who are providing services for companies such as Vetster, and these services may be crossing a line and out of compliance with CVBC Bylaws and standards if providing veterinary advice. This poses risks impacting continuity and transfer of care, and a lack of medical records for clients who are receiving direction from a veterinarian on these platforms.

Council discussed that there are quite a few registrants who are using telemedicine to specifically conduct an initial virtual appointment to get background and answer basic questions and then they will have the owner bring the pet in for a physical appointment This is a valuable tool for practices.

Council suggested that the Registrar reach out to the AAVSB and the CCVR to gather additional information.

Telemedicine extends across boundaries and the issue of who owns the VCPR and who has prescribing rights exists and has to be addressed

**Direction:** The Registrar will research information from national and international counterparts to see how to address this going forward.



**Direction:** The Deputy Registrar to work on a new title for the Policy and post on the website for immediate implementation.

**3.11. Draft Annual Report**

The Registrar advised Council that the last Committee report was submitted only yesterday and that the Annual Report is a very draft version. Suggestions were made to fix the spacing as well as to not make the report justified as it does not flow well that way. Council will be provided with a more finalized version of the report in the next week.

**3.12. CVBC Statement on Non-veterinary Therapeutic Modalities**

This issue seems to have settled for now, but Dr. Bergman wanted to have something drafted in case it is needed in the future The SBCV has also had an opportunity to give feedback on this draft document. The Executive members of Council have reviewed and approved but it is important that all Council is aware of this document in the event it is needed.

**3.13. EDI Training Request**

The Registrar provided Council with a draft message she would like to send to Committee members to set out that their participation in the 2, 2-hour EDI training sessions is strongly recommended and also to set out that their time will be compensated. The Council agreed to soften the tone of the message given how busy registrants are at this time and to ensure that these sessions will be offered online for those who are unable to participate in the live sessions.

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

**5. ADJOURNMENT**

**5.1. Next Meeting Date**

Annual General Meeting scheduled for Sunday, November 14<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

**MOTION: THAT** the Open meeting be closed at 12:31 p.m.

**MOVED/SECONDED                      CARRIED**

**Council broke for lunch until 1:00 p.m.**