

College of Veterinarians By-laws

1) Emergency Licensure

When an event occurs in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador that potentially presents risks to the safety, health and/or well-being of humans and/or animals in the province, any veterinarian may apply to the N&L College of Veterinarians to be licensed to practice veterinary medicine as an emergency general member.

- a) All applicants under this by-law shall be directed by the Government of Canada or Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to perform specific veterinary services solely for the short-term, special purpose of dealing with the emergency situation.
- b) All applicants shall submit a completed and signed application to the registrar and pay a fee in the amount determined by the Board of the College from time to time.
- c) On receipt of the application, the Registrar shall approve or reject the application.
- d) Letters of Good Standing will be waived in this circumstance if the registrar confirms that applicant holds an active licence in good standing with the regulator of the originating jurisdiction through direct communication.
- e) When granted the emergency general licence shall be valid for 30 days.
- f) All requests for an extension beyond 30 days must be made to the registrar in writing.
- g) Practice under this licence shall be limited to issues related to the animal disease emergency for which the licence was issued.

2) VCPR By-law

Before a veterinarian can prescribe medications or recommend treatment to any animal or group of animals a valid Veterinarian-client-patient relationship (VCPR) must exist. A VCPR requires the following:

- a) The client (owner or owner's agent of the animal [s]) has given the responsibility of medical care to the veterinarian and has agreed to follow the instructions of the veterinarian, and;
- b) The veterinarian has assumed the responsibility from the client for making clinical judgment regarding the health of the animal(s), the need for medical treatment , and for ensuring the provision of ongoing medical care for the animal(s), and;
- c) The veterinarian has sufficient knowledge of the health status of the animal(s) and the care received or to be received. The knowledge has been obtained through recent consultations and/or examination of the animal(s) and the premises where they are (it is)

kept or through a history of medically appropriate and timely examinations or interventions, and;

d) The veterinarian is readily available, or has made the necessary arrangements with another veterinarian, for ongoing medical care in case of adverse reactions or therapy failure.

When a veterinarian feels that the health and welfare of an animal would be compromised by the VCPR standards, the veterinarian may apply to the Board for permission to work outside of VCPR standards.

3. Continuing education by-law

All veterinarians licensed to practise veterinary medicine in Newfoundland and Labrador must obtain at least 10 hours of continuing education (CE) every year they are licensed.

- a) At the time of applying for licensure each year every veterinarian must provide proof of 10 hours CE in the previous calendar year.
- b) Veterinarians who do not obtain 10 hours of CE in a calendar year may instead show proof of 20 hours of CE in 2 years.
- c) Veterinarians who do not obtain 20 hours of CE within 2 years will not be licensed.
- d) The Board will set policy concerning what types and what proportion of different modalities of CE are eligible to count toward the required 10 hours of CE.
- e) At least one half of this CE must be live (the vet must attend the CE in person or attend a live webinar).
- f) Veterinarians are required to complete Antimicrobial Resistance/Antimicrobial Use (AMR/AMU) CE in their field of veterinary medicine.

4. Continuing practice by-law

If a veterinarian has not engaged in the practice of veterinary medicine for a period of 5 years the Board may refuse to issue a licence to practice.

5. Conditional temporary licenses

- a) A conditional temporary license may be held for a maximum of two (2) years.
- b) Veterinarians with a conditional temporary license may only work under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian in a manner acceptable to the Board of the College.

c) Any veterinarian applying for a conditional temporary license must have passed the NAVLE exam and have an offer of employment from a veterinarian with a general license in Newfoundland and Labrador.

d) Veterinarians with conditional temporary license may not write prescriptions to outside pharmacies.

e) Letters of Good Standing must be provided if the veterinarian has been licensed in another country/province.

f) Any allegation against a veterinarian holding a conditional license will also be considered an allegation against the supervising licensed veterinarian.

6. Cosmetic surgery by-law

The cosmetic tail docking and ear cropping of dogs, and the cosmetic tail docking of horses or cattle by veterinarians is prohibited.

7. Proxy voting at College meetings

Signed proxy votes with specific directions for voting on specific motions are allowed and counted in meetings of the College

8. Confidentiality by-law

Revealing information concerning a client, an animal or any professional service performed for an animal, to any person other than the client or another member treating the animal is prohibited except in the following circumstances:

- i. with the consent of the client,
- ii. when required to do so by law,
- iii. to prevent, or contribute information for the treatment of a disease or physical injury of a person,
- iv. when it appears that the animal has been abused, or
- v. for the purpose of identifying, location, or notifying the apparent owner of the animal, protecting the rights of the apparent owner, or enforcing applicable laws in respect of the animal, where it appears that the animal is not owned by the person presenting it for treatment
- vi. when a veterinarian feels that the health and welfare of an animal would be compromised by the VCPR standards, the veterinarian may apply to the Board for permission to work outside of VCPR standards.

9. Retired member

- a) is a veterinarian previously licensed under the Veterinary Medical Act (Newfoundland and Labrador) but who is no longer employed as such,
- b) must not be under any disciplinary action of the College,
- c) must meet those criteria of the NALVMA for a retired member,
- d) shall receive notice of, and be eligible to attend, meetings of the College, and receive any correspondence from the College that would normally go to other members;
- e) may, upon election or appointment, hold office and nominate persons to hold office in the College,
- f) may serve, upon appointment, on committees of the College in accordance with the By-Laws;
- g) has the right to vote,
- h) must pay those fees established by the College, and
- i) retains the legal right to be referred to as a veterinarian

10. Conditional Specialty License (Restricted, Unsupervised)

The conditional specialty license member is a registered veterinarian who's license is restricted to the field of veterinary medicine in which they are specialized. A conditional specialty license terminates when the member ceases to practise in their area of specialty or they qualify as a full general member.

To qualify for a Conditional Specialty License, a candidate must:

- a. satisfy the criteria for private practice registration except the requirement for holding a CQ;
- b. provide all of the documentation set out for private practice registration except a CQ certificate;
- c. Is an active "diplomate" who is board certified in a veterinary specialty area of the American Board of Veterinary Specialties (ABVS) or equivalent
- d. Holds a recognized specialty certification from the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners or equivalent
- e. Is recognized by the governing Board of the College as having unique credentials combining academics and experience that qualify the individual in a specialized field of veterinary medicine.
- f. provide a signed letter of undertaking agreeing to restrict the veterinary practice to the scope of the diplomate certificate held by the applicant.

11. Feline Onychectomy by-law

No registrant may perform elective and non-therapeutic Partial Digit Amputation, otherwise known as declawing or onychectomy, of any felid, including domestic cats.

12. Telemedicine

Telemedicine: Telemedicine is the provision of specific veterinary medical advice and veterinary treatment of an animal(s) based on the remote diagnosis of disease and injury by means of telecommunications technology where no physical examination of the animal(s) by the veterinarian takes place. It does not include consultation between veterinarians where colleagues in different physical locations consult remotely with each other or the provision of general, non-specific, advice.

Telehealth: Telehealth is the overarching term that encompasses all uses of technology geared to remotely deliver health information, education or care remotely. Telehealth includes a broad variety of technology and tactics to deliver virtual medicine, health and education services. Telehealth is not a specific service, but a collection of tools which allow veterinarians to enhance care and education delivery. Telehealth encompasses both telemedicine and general advice.

Licensed veterinarians in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador are not required to practice telemedicine.

A veterinarian practicing telemedicine in Newfoundland and Labrador must:

- a) Hold a valid general licence in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador.
- b) Establish a veterinarian-client-patient relationship via telemedicine meeting the same expectations as when the relationship is established in-person.
- c) Veterinary medicine via telemedicine is only permitted in the context of a valid veterinarian-client-patient relationship.
- d) Cannot prescribe drugs when practising via telemedicine alone, unless the veterinarian has recent and sufficient knowledge of the animal or group of animals by virtue of a history and inquiry and either physical examination of the animal(s) or groups of animals or medically appropriate and timely visits to the premises where the animal or group of animals is kept to reach at least a general or preliminary diagnosis.
- e) Is exempt from (d) in circumstances where in the professional judgement of the veterinarian the animal requires prescribed medications to stabilize the animal until a physical examination can be performed.
- f) Practise veterinary medicine via telemedicine only in association with an accredited facility.
- g) Ensure that the client is aware of the veterinarian's location, licensure status and the privacy and security issues involved in accessing veterinary care via telemedicine.
- h) Ensure that he or she safeguards a client's privacy when practising via telemedicine by taking appropriate precautions and confirming that the technology and physical setting being used by the veterinarian and client have adequate security protocols in place to ensure compliance with the veterinarian's legal and professional obligations to protect clients' privacy and confidentiality.

- i) Ensure that the technology used with respect to practice via telemedicine is of sufficient and appropriate quality to ensure the accuracy of remote assessment.
- j) Ensure that information that is collected when a veterinarian practises via telemedicine becomes a part of the medical record. The veterinarian must maintain all applicable aspects of record keeping, outlined in the College's regulations and clinic standards.

Exceptions to this by-law are permitted with written permission from the Board.

13. Clinic Inspection

Clinic inspections will occur:

- (a) Prior to opening a new veterinary clinic;
- (b) Within the first year of operation of the veterinary clinic;
- (c) Every five (5) years; and
- (d) As required by the Board of the Newfoundland and Labrador College of Veterinarians

14. Virtual Meetings of the College

- 1) The Newfoundland and Labrador College of Veterinarians may hold an Annual General, Semi-Annual or Special Meeting of the College in whole or in part by video, teleconference or by another electronic means that is approved by the Board.
- 2) The place where the chairperson of the meeting is located shall be the place of the meeting.
- 3) Voting at all meetings of the Newfoundland and Labrador College of Veterinarians may be by e-mail or any electronic means approved by the Board and the vote of the majority of voting members, in person, by video, telephone or other electronic means shall be the act of the College.
- 4) Situations that require voting by secret ballot must be accomplished in a manner acceptable to the Board.
- 5) Voting must be conducted in a manner that permits their subsequent verification.
- 6) Quorum will be established by a verbal role call by the chairperson at the beginning of the meeting.