

| Concerns Raised in VPOA Survey | OVMA Position |
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| New OVC graduates aren't meeting owners' expectations – they lack practical training and refer too many cases | The opinions expressed in the VPOA survey are not substantiated by the data collected through OVC's annual survey of practice owners who are actually employing new graduates. According to that survey, over 90% of those employing new grads rated their grad's overall performance as "Superior" or "Very Good". The most recent graduates will have had the benefit of OVC's Primary Healthcare Facility training. |
| It's hard to attract associates to remote areas | OVMA agrees that this can be a problem. However, it is not unique to the veterinary profession. OVMA works with northern Ontario practices to ensure that the Province's <i>Designated Area Veterinary Assistance Program</i> is helping in very remote areas, but individual practices may still have to try to overcome this problem by offering appropriate incentives. |
| Internationally trained veterinarians lack needed hard/soft skills | The licensing requirements for internationally-trained vets (ITVs) are set by AVMA & CVMA. OVMA supports VSTEP to improve the skills of those ITVs who enrol in the program, but only a small percentage of ITVs do so. OVMA has also worked with CVO and the Ontario Government to paint a more realistic picture of employment prospects to ITVs considering immigrating to Canada, and the number of ITVs entering Ontario has decreased substantially in recent years. |
| Veterinarians are afraid of CVO – CVO should better define expectations | OVMA has traditionally not tried to tell veterinarians how to practice medicine, unless animal welfare is a concern. OVMA is concerned that veterinarians fear the College, and is working with CVO to ensure that veterinarians are treated fairly, and to help veterinarians better understand the workings of CVO. |
| CVO does not follow up on non-veterinarians practicing without a license | That is not OVMA's experience, and CVO recently took two non-veterinarians to court for practicing without a license. If veterinarians are aware of non-veterinarians practicing veterinary medicine, OVMA will gladly follow up with CVO. |
| Spay/neuter clinics are practicing substandard medicine | OVMA has investigated spay/neuter facilities and there is currently no evidence that they are practicing sub-standard medicine, as defined by CVO. OVMA is working with shelters and veterinary groups to try to limit expansion of spay/neuter facilities. |
| Shelters should not be allowed to treat animals they don't own | Shelters' legal right to provide veterinary care to animals that they don't own was challenged by the SOV (OVMA's predecessor) in the mid-1980s. The SOV lost. In the U.S., three state VMAs have mounted similar legal challenges in recent years. All three lost their cases. Mounting such a challenge again is not advisable from a cost or PR point of view. |
| Rabies clinics should only be conducted for people in need | OVMA agrees, and has been working for the past 20 years to limit the # of rabies clinics held in Ontario. |
| Veterinary products sold through non-veterinary channels | OVMA shares VPOA's concerns and has worked diligently to try to keep those products in veterinarians' hands. |
| Veterinary pet food manufacturers should do veterinarians advertising for them | As previously noted, OVMA believes that available funds would be better spent educating veterinary staff about how to better market veterinary diets, and will be speaking to pet food companies about that possibility. |