



June 30, 2016

VPOA Executive Committee
c/o Dr. Ernst Marsig
Animal Hospital of Unionville
4568 Highway 7
Unionville, ON L3R 1M5

Dear Dr. Marsig,

Thank you for your letter dated June 7th, and for the results of your recent practice owner survey. Both the letter and the survey results were considered by OVMA's Board of Directors on June 22nd.

In response to your letter, I can assure you that OVMA has never been complacent when it comes to the well-being of Ontario's veterinarians. The association is well aware of the many challenges facing the profession, and is working diligently to address those challenges on a variety of fronts. To that end, OVMA meets regularly with CVO to discuss issues of concern to the profession, and reviews and lobbies CVO as necessary on every policy, bylaw and regulation change being contemplated by the College.

One of the association's key strategic priorities at the moment is to participate extensively in the College's current review of the *Veterinarians Act*, to ensure that any changes to the Act are in keeping with the profession's interests. As part of this and other advocacy activities, OVMA routinely asks Ontario veterinarians for their opinions on the issues at hand and brings concerns to CVO's attention. As such, OVMA rejects VPOA's assertion that practice owners are "suffering without a voice."

With regard to the summary of the feedback received through your survey, it is difficult for OVMA to truly evaluate those responses without knowing what questions were asked. However, there is no doubt that a number of serious concerns were raised, and it should come as no surprise to you that OVMA shares many of those concerns. Given the number of issues raised, I have taken the liberty of summarizing those issues and OVMA's thoughts on each issue in the attached chart. If you have any questions about OVMA's stance on any of the issues listed, please let me know.

With regard to the comments that were attached to the survey summary, OVMA questions whether the comments truly were "unedited", as the document suggests. Some OVMA Board members noted that they had responded to the survey and included positive comments about CVO, but that those comments were conspicuously absent from the document.

In closing, OVMA would like to reaffirm its commitment to protecting and advancing the interests of Ontario veterinarians. The association looks forward to continuing dialogue with the VPOA for the betterment of Ontario's veterinary profession.

Sincerely,

Christine Coghlan, DVM
President