



# College of Veterinarians of British Columbia

## *Continuing Competence Committee Position Statement: Continuing Education Program Content*

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*The following is a position statement drafted by the Continuing Competence Committee and approved by Council.*

The Continuing Competence Committee (CCC) recognizes that there are many different areas of Continuing Education (CE) with a variety of topics or subjects that may be considered appropriate for an individual registrant. The Committee's expectations are provided here for registrant guidance.

### **Expectations**

1. Registrants are responsible for completing sufficient CE (inclusive of all subject matters) to maintain and further their skills and knowledge in all areas of their declared scope of practice.
2. Any CE claimed by a registrant must be appropriate for that individual registrant (it must be *relevant* to that registrant's current or intended scope of practice).
3. The Committee's expectation is that at least 50% of total required CE (i.e. 15 hours every 2 years) will:
  - a. be grounded in evidence-based medicine,
  - b. pertain to conventional therapeutic modalities (those universally taught in accredited veterinary colleges), and
  - c. reinforce or build upon the entry-level core competencies (*see Definitions*).
4. The registrant may be required to defend the relevance of the chosen CE to the CCC during the course of an audit.
5. CE content covering the following areas may be considered acceptable:
  - A. Clinical Veterinary Medicine and Science

Science- or Clinical-based CE (supported by research), which has been presented in peer-reviewed scientific literature or has been typically presented at/by accredited veterinary schools or nationally-recognized organizations or institutions. This would also include medical and surgical subject matter that is case-based, anecdotal and/or still undergoing scientific investigation. Programs discussing topics considered alternative and/or complementary are acceptable if designed for an audience of veterinary professionals;
  - B. Disciplines that have an impact on animal health and welfare

Includes nutrition, management, husbandry, behaviour, alternative & complementary therapies, etc;

C. Areas or topics that have an impact on the profession

Policy development, legislation, regulations and governance;

D. Topics that impact the delivery of veterinary services

Practice management, communication, professional ethics, conflict resolution, employment standards;

Other areas may be considered appropriate if they are relevant to animal health and welfare, and enhance a registrant's skill in the delivery of services.

## Definitions

**Core Competencies:** The AVMA-CVMA Council on Education's "COE Accreditation Policies and Procedures: Requirements", Part 7 *Requirements of an Accredited College of Veterinary Medicine*, Standard 11: Outcomes Assessment, establishes the core competencies (as covered in all accredited veterinary school curriculae) as:

1. Comprehensive patient diagnosis, appropriate use of diagnostic tests, and record management
2. Comprehensive treatment planning (including patient referral when indicated)
3. Anesthesia and pain management, patient welfare
4. Basic surgical skills and case management
5. Basic medicine skills and case management
6. Emergency and intensive care case management
7. Understanding of health promotion, biosecurity, prevention & control of disease (including zoonoses and principles of food safety)
8. Ethical and professional conduct, communication skills
9. Critical analysis of new information and research findings relevant to veterinary medicine

**Alternative/Complementary Medicine** are the term(s) most often used to identify the increasing number of therapeutic modalities that are not universally taught in accredited veterinary colleges and therefore are not considered conventional therapy (as defined in the CVBC's "Guidelines for the Responsible Use of Alternative Therapies" – see Bylaws, Schedule D – Accreditation Standards).

## Recommended CE Topics

Each year and/or CE cycle, the CCC and Council will identify a CE topic that has particular urgency or importance to the profession, to animals, and to the public. All registrants will be strongly encouraged to seek out CE relevant to that topic as soon as possible. It is anticipated that the coming bylaw revisions will give Council the authority to set mandatory CE topics as needed.

## Legislative Authority

*Veterinarians Act*, s. 3(2)(c)

CVBC Bylaws, Part 1 – Governance, s. 1.2(4) and 1.51(2)(d)

Part 4 – Ethics and Standards, s. 253(1) and 254