



# College of Veterinarians of British Columbia

## *Policy: Registrant Requests to Transfer to Inactive Status*

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### **Preamble**

The Inactive classes of registration allow a registrant to retain their privileges of registration with the exception of the privilege to practice veterinary medicine in British Columbia. Inactive registrants are able to continue to support the profession in BC through participation in the CVBC's regulatory functions (vote in Council elections & bylaw revisions, participate in surveys and working groups, be appointed to Committees, and stand for election to Council). The Inactive classes of registration enable a registrant to re-enter practice (for up to 3 years after leaving active status) without requiring all of the information requested for a new or former registrant application.

There are two inactive classes identified in the CVBC bylaws (Part 2 – Registration, sections 2.17 & 2.18):

**Non-Practicing** registration is intended for registrants taking a short-term (up to 3 years) break from practising veterinary medicine in BC, where there is an intention or possibility that they will return to active practice within that 3-year timeframe.

**Retired** registration is intended for those registrants who are choosing to cease their practice of veterinary medicine entirely, often without an expectation of returning to active practice in BC. It is also available to registrants who must cease practicing entirely (for either the long or short-term) due to personal reasons (such as parental leave or medical leave)

These bylaws also establish that the Registrar **may** approve applications from registrants to transfer to an Inactive registration class. In using the term “may”, the bylaws indicate that approval is subject to the Registrar's discretion and will include consideration of any factors deemed to be relevant to a decision to approve such a request.

The purpose of this policy is to identify what factors may be considered relevant to the Registrar's decision to approve or deny an application to transfer to either the Non-Practicing or Retired class.

Approved by CVBC Council January 2023

## Policy

In considering a registrant's application to transfer to either Non-Practising or Retired status, the Registrar will consider:

- A. the registrant's declared reason for leaving active registration status;
- B. any circumstances of the registrant's current registration that may be relevant to the decision; and
- C. which class of inactive registration is being sought.

### A. Reasons for Transferring to Inactive Status:

Reasons why a registrant might request a transfer to an inactive status include (but are not limited to):

- Taking a leave of absence (for medical, parental, or other personal reasons)
- Taking a sabbatical (to pursue studies or training that either take the registrant out of practice entirely, or require a temporary relocation to another jurisdiction; to travel; or to seek personal growth in some other way)
- Moving to practice veterinary medicine in another jurisdiction
- Changing careers (leaving the veterinary profession)
- Retiring

The reason for (and expected duration of) the transfer may be relevant to the Registrar's approval, depending upon which inactive class of registration is being requested.

### B. Circumstances of the Registrant's Current Registration

The Registrar may also consider whether or not:

- the registrant is in good standing with the CVBC (as defined in the bylaws);
- the registrant's registration with the CVBC is provisional in nature;
- there are any terms or conditions on the registrant's current registration, and what those are;
- the registrant has any pending consent agreements issued by the Investigation Committee, or any referrals to the Discipline Committee;
- the registrant has any outstanding fees or other unfulfilled obligations to the CVBC
- anything else regarding the registrant's registration that the Registrar feels is relevant to the decision

### C. Class of Inactive Registration Being Requested

Depending upon information considered in 'A' and 'B' above, the Registrar will consider whether the requested Inactive class (Non-Practicing or Retired) is appropriate, with regards to the purpose of each class established in the bylaws.

## **Continuation of any provisions, terms and conditions applied to a registrant's Active registration**

- **Provisional** active registration may be granted if an applicant for registration is unable to satisfy one or more of the requirements and criteria for registration.
- **Limited** active registration may be granted if there are (or have been) limitations placed on that veterinarian's practice in another jurisdiction; likewise, limited registration may be imposed as a consequence of a discipline hearing.

**Terms and conditions** may be placed upon a veterinarian's full, provisional or active registration by the Registration Committee, the Discipline Committee, or through the registrant's consent with the Investigation or Discipline Committee.

While not a definitive barrier to a transfer to inactive status, the Registrar will identify whether any such circumstances exist and consider their relevance to the application before making a decision to approve or deny the request.

However, the Registrar's approval of a transfer to inactive does not eliminate existing provisions, limitations, terms or conditions of the original registration.

- ❖ Any timelines established by the Registration, Investigation or Discipline Committees for correction of deficiencies or satisfaction of conditions on the registrant's active registration are neither cancelled nor suspended by a transfer to inactive status, unless so directed by the Committee in question
- ❖ The provisional or limited basis of active registration, and any associated terms and conditions on that registration, will continue to be disclosed to other regulators in any registrant-requested Letters of Standing
- ❖ Reactivation:
  - Any inactive registrant may apply for reactivation up to 3 years after transferring into inactive status; reactivation would be into their previously held class of registration, unless the registrant requests a different class of registration and provides the necessary proof of meeting the registration requirements for the new class of registration.
  - A registrant who previously held provisional or limited active registration, or who had terms or conditions placed on their full active registration, may only return to their previously-held form of registration (with any associated terms and conditions) unless they are able to prove correction of any prior deficiencies in their registration requirements and/or satisfaction of the terms and conditions that had been placed upon their registration.

## **Reconciliation of Privileges of Registration upon Transfer**

A registrant's form and class of Active registration (full, provisional or limited registration in either the Private Practice, Specialty Private Practice, Public Sector or Temporary class) is a reflection of the registration requirements and criteria that they satisfied during their registration application, as well as any restrictions placed upon their registration through formal processes (hearings) of either the Registration or Discipline Committees.

Each class and form of registration bears its own set of privileges and restrictions regarding the registrant's practice and their ability to participate in College activities in BC, which are detailed in sections 2.31 to 2.36 of the bylaws. Likewise, section 2.37 identifies the privileges of Inactive Registrants.

When a registrant who holds a class or form of active registration that bears anything less than full privileges of participation in College activities transfers to an inactive class, their privileges of participation will be bound by the more restrictive of the two categories in question.

## **Denial of an Application to Transfer to Inactive Status**

If the Registrar denies a registrant's application to transfer to their requested inactive class of registration, the Registrar will provide the registrant with a written explanation for the decision and will identify any opportunities to improve their eligibility and/or alternative options available to the registrant.

*This policy replaces the CVBC's former "Policy on Registrant Transfers to Inactive Status", published in February 2019*

### **Legislative Authority**

*Veterinarians Act*, SBC 2010 c. 15.

CVBC Bylaws, Part 2 - Registration