

Issue 62 December 2022

OLPC 2023 Membership Meetings

- February 10, 2023
- April 14, 2023
- June 16, 2023
- August 18, 2023 – shortened agenda
- October 13, 2023
- December 15, 2023

Rabies Numbers in Canada as of November 30, 2022

To the end of November, there have been 29 positive cases in bats, five positive cases in raccoons, 19 positive cases in skunks and one positive case in a dog, which was an imported dog infected with a canine rabies virus variant.

In 2022, there have been 2402 samples submitted for rabies testing from across Canada. Nationally, 125 samples tested positive. Ontario accounted for 1348 samples of which 54 tested positive. The breakdown from which species the positive samples were taken are as follows:

	Can.	Ont.
Arctic fox	17	
Bat	49	29
Bovine		
Caprine		
Cat		
Dog	10	1
Equine	2	
Raccoon	6	5
Red fox	15	
Skunk	26	19
Total	125	54

Registered Veterinary Technician (RVT) Utilization

The Ontario Association of Veterinary Technicians have a multitude of educational materials regarding RVT utilization regarding their different roles, areas/sectors of work, and how RVTs work within the larger veterinary team.

Proposed Regulation Changes to 557 and 567 for Rabies

As of November 23, 2022, legislative amendments to Ontario Regulations 557 and 567 for rabies have been introduced and are posted to Ontario's Regulatory Registry. The proposed regulation changes to Ontario Regulation 557 will allow Medical Officers of Health to order testing of animals that die or are euthanized during their post-exposure confinement period to rule out rabies. This avoids bite victims having to undergo unnecessary vaccination for rabies and decrease personal stress and anxiety. Proposed regulation changes to Ontario Regulation 567 are to recognize rabies vaccination, supported by a veterinarian-endorsed certificate, from Canada and the United States and not just Ontario.

Comments on the proposed changes can be submitted via [this link](#) by January 9, 2023. Should the regulation changes be approved, the effective date of the proposed changes would be effective as of July 1, 2023.

Modernize the Veterinarians Act

In the 33 years that the Veterinarians Act has been in place, it has not changed substantively and no longer reflects the realities of a modern veterinary practice. The Veterinarians Act governs the practice of veterinary medicine in Ontario, and changes are being proposed that would modernize several areas of the current legislative framework, including the scope of practice, the complaints and resolutions process, quality assurance, and governance of the College of Veterinarians of Ontario.

OMAFRA is seeking feedback on how several areas of the current legislative and regulatory framework could be improved, including better defining the scope of practice for veterinary medicine, improving the complaints and resolutions process, addressing quality assurance in the legislation, and improving the overall governance of the College of Veterinarians of Ontario. You can find more details via [the website](#). The public can share feedback by email to vetact.omafra@ontario.ca or by mail:

Comments on the Modernization of the Regulation of the Veterinary Profession Ontario
 Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
 Food Safety and Environmental Policy Branch 1
 Stone Road West, 2nd Floor S.W.
 Guelph, ON N1G 4Y2

Ontario Regulation 277/12 AHA Amendment

Following stakeholder consultation, updates were made to the Immediately Notifiable Hazards (Appendix A) and Periodically Notifiable Hazards (Appendix B) list in Ontario Regulation 277/12. The regulation can be found here at [this link](#). The amendments include both the addition and removal of hazards, as well as certain hazards that have shifted between the immediately and the periodically notifiable classification. Additionally, the regulation now captures the name of the causative agent, rather than the name of the disease. These additions and/or changes come into effect February 1, 2023.

Enhance Animal Health Preparedness

A proposed change to the Animal Health Act, 2009 would explicitly provide the Ministry authority to issue a temporary response order efficiently at the early stage of a potential animal health event. This addition, if passed, would further animal health preparedness in the province by allowing OMAFRA to take timely, immediate action to protect animal and human health.

The Animal Health Act, 2009 provides a framework to prevent, detect and respond to hazards that may lead or contribute to animal health hazards such as diseases. With recent events such as highly pathogenic avian influenza in both wild and domestic North American birds

Accessible on the OAVT website are 8-years of [wage and compensation survey](#) results, [OAVT by-laws](#) (beginning on page 25), and the [Professional Practice Standard](#) as set out by the College of Veterinarians of Ontario.

CFIA Document - Assessing Lameness for Transport

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has published a new infographic: [Assessing lameness for transport](#). They stated this tool has been prepared to clarify the decision-making process when assessing lameness before loading animals for transport.

A.I. Detected in the Township of Lambton Shores

CFIA has confirmed two cases of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in the Municipality of Lambton Shores. IP41 and IP42 have been established, both being commercial poultry operations. To access the FBCC 10 km buffered biosecurity advisory map, [click here](#). All poultry industry personnel and other poultry farm visitors are urged to implement strict biosecurity protocols across Ontario

(including multiple infected premises in Ontario), as well as the rise in African swine fever in other countries, there has been a renewed attention to animal health threats.

Tick and Tick-Borne Diseases in Livestock

Dr. Katie Clow from the University of Guelph provided an overview of Tick and Tick-borne Diseases in Livestock to OLPC members as part of the December meeting.

The **Black Legged Tick** has undergone the biggest range expansion in Ontario and Canada of any tick species. It can spread bacteria that causes Lyme disease, which can be problematic for horses, dogs and humans. Currently, there is less expansion in Southern Ontario as compared to Eastern Ontario, due to there being a more suitable habitat in Eastern Ontario. The distribution is increasing from 5-10% infected ticks being found in Eastern Ontario, compared to the typical 1% or less in Southern Ontario. These ticks are commonly found near forests and high grassy areas, and they feed on White-tailed deer and small mammal species. The nymph stage is the biggest risk for human health, as the size is very small and it's hard to see. These ticks are most active in June and July.

The **Asian Longhorned Tick (ALHT)** is not currently in Canada, but is an emerging pest of livestock, companion animals, wildlife, and humans in the United States. Suggested habitat modelling studies show that the Eastern provinces (South Quebec to Nova Scotia) and the West Coast of British Columbia have desirable and suitable habitat for this tick. They prefer short grass, and well-manicured lawns as compared to established tick species that prefer wooded areas or tall grasses. There are four most probable invasion pathways for ALHT, including livestock, migratory birds, companion animals and wild cervids. Cattle, horses, chickens and sheep are known to be hosts of ALHT, with cattle being the most common in the US. Health risks can include *Theileria orientalis*, Ikeda genotype in cattle, a disease that can lead to anaemia, low weight gain, death, and be a production limiting disease.

Invasive populations of ALHT found in the US are parthenogenetic (i.e., the females can reproduce without mating). Adult females can lay upwards of 2,500 eggs and hatch in late summer to early fall. Once hatched, the larvae begin questing on grass. Upon successfully attaching to a host, the larvae will blood feed for three to five days, then they drop to the ground and begin molting into a nymph, which they will then spend winter in one place. In spring, the nymphs look for a new host and once found, will blood feed for five to seven days, then dropping off and becoming adults where they will look for another host to feed on for seven to 14 days, finally dropping off to digest the bloodmeal while simultaneously developing their eggs. Once the females lay their eggs, they die.

The **American Dog Tick** is widely distributed across southern and eastern Ontario, particularly in grassy habitats. Their peak activity occurs in the spring and early summer. They are a vector for several pathogens of human and animal health significance. In cattle, Bovine Anaplasmosis can be passed on through blood-to-blood contact and are infected for life. There is little data that exists for Ontario, and it is no longer a reportable disease.

Veterinary Antimicrobial Sales Reporting (VASR)

The [2021 Veterinary Antimicrobial Sales Highlights Report](#) is live and marks the fourth publication since the regulations came into force. This report summarizes key findings, providing a comprehensive picture of antimicrobials available for veterinary use and supports the antimicrobial resistance surveillance program and stewardship.

The Public Health Agency of Canada's, Canadian Integrated Program for Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance Unit have released an [interactive data platform](#), this includes the sales data collected by VASR.

Our Mission

Provide a forum to facilitate the development and coordination of an Ontario strategy to deal with foreign animal disease and other transmissible livestock and poultry diseases.