

Issue 63 March 2023

OLPC 2023 Membership Meetings

- April 14, 2023, virtual
- June 16, 2023 – Annual General Meeting in-person at Beef Farmers of Ontario in Guelph
- August 18, 2023 – shortened agenda
- October 13, 2023 – in-person at Beef Farmers of Ontario in Guelph
- December 15, 2023, virtual

Rabies Numbers in Canada for 2023

To the end of February 28, 2023, there has been two positive cases in arctic foxes, one positive case in a raccoon, one positive case in a dog, one positive case in a red fox, and three positive cases skunks.

In 2023, there have been 259 samples submitted for rabies testing from across Canada. Nationally, eight samples tested positive. Ontario accounted for 174 samples of which none have tested positive. The breakdown from which species the positive samples were taken are as follows:

	Can.	Ont.
Arctic fox	2	0
Bat	0	0
Bovine	0	0
Caprine	0	0
Cat	0	0
Dog	1	0
Equine	0	0
Raccoon	1	0
Red fox	1	0
Skunk	3	0
Total	8	0

Advocating for modernization of the *Veterinarians Act*

Jan Robinson, CVO, and Elise Wickett, OAVT, provided an overview of the Modernization of the Veterinarians Act for the member meeting in February.

Reforming the regulation of veterinary medicine in Ontario has been an ongoing discussion with OAVT and CVO for over 10 years. CVO has been regulated under the *Veterinarians Act* since 1877, and they regulate 5,200 veterinarians, and 2,300 veterinarian facilities. OAVT was established in 1970. There are 4,400 RVT members, with the numbers increasing each year. There are 10 college programs in Ontario that graduate 350 to 400 individuals each year, with 300 to 350 graduates joining the association each year.

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.

A Discussion Paper on the proposed updates to the Veterinarians Act has been posted on the regulatory registry, or <https://www.ontariocanada.com/registry/view.do?postingId=43867&language=en> outlining the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs' proposed approach for several items.

The Discussion Paper will be posted for public comment for 90 days, closing on May 30, 2023. Comments can also be sent directly by email to vetact.omafra@ontario.ca. 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

A.I. Detected in the Township of Municipality of Chatham-Kent and the Town of West Lincoln.

CFIA has confirmed two cases of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in the Municipality of Lambton Shores. IP44 (non-commercial poultry) and IP45 (commercial poultry) have been established. 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.

Manure Monday Biosecurity for Disease Prevention

Avian influenza (AI), Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea (PEDv), African Swine Fever (ASF) are some of the diseases that can move with manure and can devastate livestock production. In this webinar AI Dam (poultry specialist with OMAFRA) and Susan Fitzgerald (Fitzgerald and Company) provide an overview of disease transmission on the farm (including from manure) as well as prevention strategies and biosecurity measures for livestock producers, manure applicators as well as consultants and industry people visiting farms. Watch the video on Biosecurity for Disease Prevention by clicking the link: <https://youtu.be/fsjoljsa1zc>

Follow us on Twitter!

OLPC has a Twitter account, @ontlpc and can profile or retweet any member animal health and welfare communications. Forward suggested topics to Laura Shantz at laura.tfo@bell.net

Biosecurity Stop Signs and Resources

The OLPC office still has biosecurity stop signs in stock and can be ordered by calling the office 519-787-4322 or emailing Laura at laura.tfo@bell.net. Signs are \$20.00 + HST

We also have biosecurity videos on DVD. The videos work well for training nonagricultural staff and for 4-H or school groups.

You can view the videos at <https://www.ontlpc.com/videos.html>

Order forms can be found here: <https://www.ontlpc.com/resources.html>

Animal Health Canada Hires New Executive Director

Animal Health Canada is pleased to announce that Colleen McElwain has accepted the position of Executive Director of Animal Health Canada, effective March 1, 2023. Colleen has served as AHC's Interim Executive Director since September 2022, and prior to that was Operations and Animal Health Director.

African Swine Fever in China

China is experiencing a surge in ASF infections, which began around the Lunar New Year holiday in January; data from ASF virus testing companies shows that the order of magnitude in a single month has reached the level of the whole year of 2022. The northern provinces have been more seriously affected.

Humane Transport – Infographic on Animals Arriving at Assembly Centres

An infographic entitled, [Compromised or Unfit Animals at Assembly Centres](#), has been published by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. This tool has been prepared to clarify the decision-making process and options available when compromised or unfit animals arrive at assembly centres.

Federally Reportable Disease Information Sharing Agreement Template

The Canadian Association of Swine Veterinarians has developed a template for an information sharing agreement that could be used by producers to give the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) permission to share information with their herd veterinarian in the event of a federally reportable animal disease outbreak. The template could be used by other species groups as well.

This was identified as a need as a result of recent experiences of veterinarians dealing with Avian influenza. In some provinces, individual poultry boards have Memorandums of Understanding for sharing information with CFIA but even those do not cover CFIA sharing information with individual flock veterinarians.

CFIA assisted by providing suggested wording that should appear on a consent document. However, acceptance of this information sharing agreement by CFIA will be on a case-by-case basis depending on the specific disease scenario and the CFIA region involved (there are four CFIA regions: western Canada, Ontario, Québec and Maritimes).

CFIA has also made changes to their initial premises investigation questionnaire, by including a portion that specifically deals with inspectors discussing outreach to veterinarians as part of their initial contact with producers. So, there are active efforts to seek engagement of private veterinarians by CFIA.

This template cannot guarantee its acceptance by CFIA in every disease case. To download a copy, click the link: <https://www.casv-acvp.com/communications.html>

Proposed Amendments to Livestock Traceability Regulations now in Canada Gazette I

The proposed changes to Part XV of the Health of Animals Regulations are now in Canada Gazette I. The 90-day consultation period is from March 18 to June 16, 2023. Below, is the link to CFIA's main consultation webpage as well as the direct link to the proposed regulations in Canada Gazette I.

1. [Share your thoughts: Consultation on proposed changes to Part XV of the Health of Animals Regulations \(Identification and Traceability\) - Canadian Food Inspection Agency \(canada.ca\)](#)
2. [Canada Gazette, Part 1, Volume 157, Number 11: Regulations Amending the Health of Animals Regulations \(Identification and Traceability\)](#)

CAHSS Podcast Series – Animal Health Insights

The Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System (CAHSS) has produced a series of podcasts covering a wide range of animal health topics. Each podcast is approximately 30 minutes in length and features discussions with veterinarians or other animal health experts. The most recently posted one is Problem-solving for PRRS 144-1c with Dr. Doug MacDougald, a swine veterinarian with Southwest Ontario Veterinary Services. [Click here](#) for the complete list of podcasts.

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.