

UNAUTHORIZED PRACTICE WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

VETERINARY DENTISTRY

The issue of non-veterinarians providing veterinary dental services is a concern. Undiagnosed and untreated dental disease can result in harm to your animal and unexpected and unnecessary costs for you as the owner.

VETERINARIANS ACT OF BC

Under the Veterinarians Act of BC, only veterinarians licensed to practise in BC are permitted to perform dentistry services.

VETERINARY DENTAL SERVICES

Veterinary dental services include dental cleaning that uses ultrasonic equipment; alleviation or correction of disease, injury, pain, defect, or disorder; and teeth cleaning that is meant to treat or prevent health conditions.

THINGS TO LOOK OUT FOR

The following words or phrases used by non-veterinarians are not appropriate, as they may be misleading:

- professional
- skilled technician
- certified
- vet-approved
- clinic
- holistic treatment
- oral health conditions
- oral care
- oral health specialist
- care and welfare through a maintenance program
- canine dental chart
- natural alternative to conventional oral health procedures
- thorough examination of mouth and head

ALSO AVOID NON-VETERINARIANS WHO

- mention any behaviours or signs of dental disease such as pawing at mouth, loose teeth, loss of appetite, or bleeding or inflamed gums
- talk about potential health impacts like infections, gingivitis, periodontitis, organ issues, or overall health
- offer home remedies to keep tartar and calculus from forming or health issues from developing
- use the term "hygienist" including oral hygienist or certified dental hygienist, as these are regulated services that go beyond grooming and cosmetic teeth cleaning services

WHAT VETERINARIANS NEED TO KNOW

Veterinarians who employ, contract with, or allow non-registrants (pet retailers, grooming facilities, contractors) to use their premises for activities that contravene the regulatory requirements may also face scrutiny by the College of Veterinarians of BC and the Courts, as well as potential negative reviews and other actions by dissatisfied customers who later discover their pets did not receive appropriate treatment from someone associated with their practice. If you are aware of unauthorized veterinary practice, it should be reported to the CVBC by email to complaints@cvbc.ca. You can learn more on the website at <https://cvbc.ca/public-protection/complaints-process>.

This poster is a joint educational project produced cooperatively by the College of Veterinarians of British Columbia and the Society of British Columbia Veterinarians Chapter.



College of Veterinarians
of British Columbia

