



LEGISLATED COMMITTEES

Professional Conduct Committee

Council appoints the members of the Professional Conduct Committee (PCC) all of whom must be SVMA members. The majority of the members of the PCC should have current or recent experience in private practice representing a mixed balance of the types of animals treated. Current or recent members of Council or the Discipline Committee are not eligible to be appointed to the PCC.

The Professional Conduct Committee reviews and investigates written complaints received by the SVMA that allege a member is guilty of unprofessional conduct or a breach of a provision of the Veterinarians Act, the Bylaws or the Practice Standards.

The PCC investigates the complaint, taking any steps it considers necessary and then submits a written report, within 90 days, to the Discipline Committee. This report is to recommend either that the Discipline Committee hear and determine the formal complaint set out in the written report or that no further action be taken with respect to the matter under investigation. The formal complaint identifies the specific Bylaws the committee feels the member has contravened.

Where the PCC report to the Discipline Committee recommends no further action be taken regarding the matter, a copy of their report is provided to Council and the Discipline Committee.

The PCC may, from time to time, make a ruling on any question of professional ethics submitted to it by the Council, for the guidance of the profession.

The PCC may, from time to time, make recommendations to Council for changes to the Bylaws with respect to professional ethics which may clarify ethics questions and reduce complaints by providing better guidance to the profession.

Discipline Committee

Council appoints members and lay representatives to this committee, the majority of whom must be SVMA members. Current or recent members of the Council or the Professional Conduct Committee are not eligible to be appointed to the Discipline Committee.

The Discipline Committee (DC) receives reports from the Professional Conduct Committee (PCC) which recommend either that no further action is required or that the DC should hear and determine the case. The DC must hold a hearing when the PCC makes that recommendation.

The hearing determines whether or not the member identified in the formal complaint is guilty of unprofessional conduct as defined in The Veterinarians Act, the SVMA Bylaws or Practice Standards. During a hearing, evidence is presented to the DC on behalf of the PCC. The member who is the subject of the hearing may also present evidence. The decision of the DC is binding.