



Canadian Veterinary
Medical Association
Association canadienne
des médecins vétérinaires

February 22, 2023

Nathaniel Erskine-Smith
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario,
Canada
K1A 0A6
Sent via email: nathaniel.erskine-smith@parl.gc.ca

Dear Mr. Erskine-Smith:

RE: Bill C-293 – An Act respecting pandemic prevention and preparedness

The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) had the pleasure of presenting its Animal Welfare priorities during December 2021 to the All-Party Animal Welfare Caucus which you Chaired. During our talk we covered a number of high priority national issues in the Animal Welfare domain, however with the limited time available we were not able to touch on several areas of concern to the CVMA that have direct relevance to your private member's Bill C-293 ("An Act respecting pandemic prevention and preparedness").

I would like to bring to your attention two areas of concern highlighted in your Bill where CVMA is particularly active, namely antimicrobial use (AMU) in animals, and One Health.

First, with respect to AMU in animals, the CVMA has been a strong proponent of antimicrobial stewardship in animals, including through:

- The Stewardship of Antimicrobials by Veterinarians Initiative (SAVI) (<https://savi.canadianveterinarians.net/en/home/>) which has developed prudent guidelines for veterinarians covering antimicrobial use in 8 species groups of companion and farm animals.
- CVMA's current Position Statement on Antimicrobial Stewardship in Veterinary Medicine that can be found here - <https://www.canadianveterinarians.net/policy-and-outreach/position-statements/statements/antimicrobial-stewardship-in-veterinary-medicine/>.



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- CVMA's current Position Statement on Extra-label Drug Use in Veterinary Medicine that can be found here - <https://www.canadianveterinarians.net/policy-and-outreach/position-statements/statements/extra-label-drug-use-eldu-in-veterinary-medicine/>.

Second, with respect to One Health, the CVMA works actively with governments, non-governmental organizations, industry, academia, and others on issues that have direct relevance to One Health including zoonotic disease in animals (e.g., COVID-19, avian influenza), importation of dogs and associated disease risk, and tick-borne disease in humans and animals, among others. Many One Health issues are directly or indirectly influenced by climate change which was the focus on a recent CVMA Position Statement that can be found here - <https://www.canadianveterinarians.net/policy-and-outreach/position-statements/statements/role-of-the-canadian-veterinary-profession-in-addressing-the-challenges-of-climate-change/>.

With respect to animals and the general area of pandemic prevention and preparedness, veterinarians provide essential advice and expertise to help food animal producers effectively manage biosecurity, including bringing attention to disease prevention, preparedness, and animal welfare. In the event of a disease incursion, private veterinary practitioners are typically the first responders.

With this in mind, the CVMA would be pleased to contribute to further decisions on the aforementioned topics, including to facilitate the availability of subject matter experts.

Please do not hesitate to contact the CEO of CVMA, Mr. Joel Neuheimer (email: jneuheimer@cvma-acmv.org) for further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Bell'.

Dr. Chris Bell, DVM

President

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