

Key Roles Within The Disciplinary Framework

Committees appointed by the SVC hear complaints about professional conduct and the quality of veterinary services.



THE THREE COMMITTEES

1

Complaints Assessment Committee (CAC)

Undertakes formal inquiries for most complaints that are not dismissed by the Registrar.

Outcomes: case dismissal, advisories, warnings, requirement to complete further education or training, undergo mediation or referral to a Disciplinary Committee (DC) or Interim Orders Committee (IOC).

2

Disciplinary Committee (DC)

Undertakes cases involving convictions of offences, fraud, dishonesty and professional misconduct.

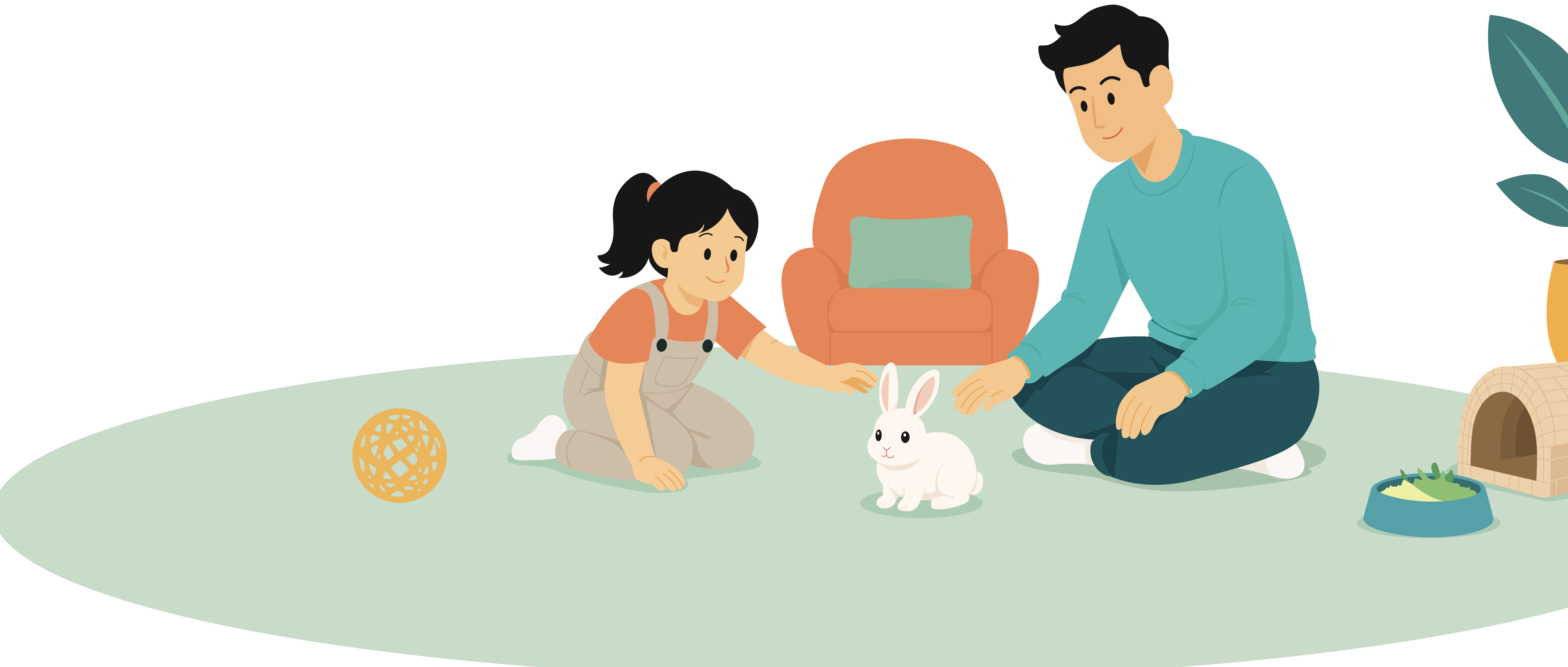
Outcomes: cancellation or suspension of a veterinarian's registration, imposition of conditions and penalties of up to \$50,000.

3

Interim Orders Committee

May suspend or restrict registration on an interim basis where it is necessary to protect the interests of the public, animal health or welfare, or a registered veterinarian.

*This infographic provides general information only and is not legal advice. The Veterinary Practice Act and its subsidiary legislation prevail in the event of any inconsistency.



The Disciplinary Framework



RECEIPT OF COMPLAINT

A complaint must be received with a statutory declaration within 3 years from the date of the occurrence or within 3 years from the earliest date of knowledge of the act.



REVIEW BY REGISTRAR

The Registrar may recommend one or more of the following actions after reviewing the case.

REFER TO A COMPLAINTS ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE (CAC)



For unprofessional conduct, failure to meet required standards, or breaches of a suspension order. The CAC may issue advice or warnings, require further education, refer the matter to mediation, or escalate it to the DC.

REFER TO A DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE (DC)



For cases involving fraud or dishonesty, professional misconduct, or fitness to practise. The DC may cancel or suspend registration, impose conditions, or issue a fine of up to \$50,000.

VOLUNTARY CANCELLATION OR SUSPENSION



A veterinarian may voluntarily request cancellation or suspension of their registration due to a physical or mental condition affecting their ability to practise, or if their professional services do not meet a reasonable and expected standard.

DISMISS THE CASE



For cases that are found to be frivolous, vexatious, misconceived, without merit or unsubstantiated.

WHAT CAN HAPPEN NEXT?

Depending on the pathway, the following actions may be taken



CAC MAY RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING:

- Dismissal of the complaint
- Letter of advice or warning
- Formal inquiry by a DC
- Referral for mediation
- Any other order as deemed appropriate



DC MAY ORDER ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

- Cancellation/suspension of registration
- Cancellation/suspension of Practising Certificate
- Additional conditions or restrictions on registration
- Financial penalties up to \$50,000
- Any other order as deemed appropriate

INTERIM ORDER

An interim order may be necessary to protect the interests of the public, animal health or welfare, or a registered veterinarian.

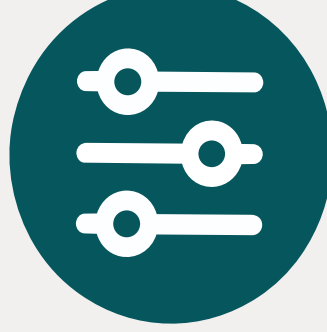
The Registrar, CAC or DC may recommend that the Council refers the case to an Interim Orders Committee (IOC).

ORDERS BY AN IOC:



Suspension of registration for up to 18 months.

OR



Impose conditions or restrictions on registration for up to 18 months.

- An IOC may take place concurrently with inquiries by a CAC or a DC.
- Interim orders may be revoked when formal inquiries by a CAC or a DC have concluded.



OUTCOME FROM A CAC

Appeal to Minister within 30 days



OUTCOME FROM A DC

Appeal to the High Court within 30 days



IOC ORDER

Appeal to the High Court within 14 days