C. Veterinarians' responsibilities to the profession:

1. Veterinarians have a responsibility to maintain the integrity and dignity of the profession and be worthy of the trust and respect of colleagues, clients, other health professionals, and the general public.

2. Veterinarians should be honest, fair, courteous, considerate, and compassionate. Veterinarians should present a professional appearance and follow acceptable professional procedures using current professional and scientific knowledge.

3. Veterinarians should not slander, or injure the professional standing or reputation of other veterinarians in a false or misleading manner. However, veterinarians should report to the appropriate authority any unprofessional conduct by colleagues.

4. Veterinarians should view, evaluate, and treat all persons in any professional activity or circumstance in which they may be involved, solely as individuals on the basis of their own personal abilities, qualifications, and other relevant characteristics. As health professionals seeking to advance animal and public health, veterinarians should strive to confront and reject all forms of prejudice and discrimination that may lead to impediments to access of quality animal and public health care for clients/patients or lack of educational, training, and employment opportunities for veterinary colleagues/students and other member of the animal health care team. These forms of prejudice and discrimination

include, but are not limited to, race; ethnicity; physical and mental abilities; gender; sexual orientation; gender identify; parental status; religious beliefs; political beliefs; geographic, socioeconomic, and educational background; and any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or provincial law.

5. Veterinarians who are impaired or whose performance is adversely affected by physical or mental health conditions must not act in the capacity of a veterinarian and should seek assistance from qualified organizations or individuals. Colleagues of impaired veterinarians should encourage those individuals to seek assistance and to overcome their impairment.

6. A veterinarian having supervisory authority over another veterinarian should make reasonable efforts to ensure that the other veterinarian conforms to accepted standards of conduct and practice.

7. If there is evidence that the actions of a former attending veterinarian have clearly and significantly endangered the health or safety of a patient, the current attending veterinarian has a responsibility to take action.

8. Veterinarians should strive to improve their veterinary knowledge and skills, and they are encouraged to collaborate with other professionals in the quest for knowledge and professional development.

9. When conferences, meetings, or lectures are sponsored by outside entities, the organization that presents the program, not the funding sponsor, should have control of the contents and speakers.

10. Veterinarians should use only the title of the professional degree that was awarded by the school of veterinary medicine where the degree was earned. It is

unethical for veterinarians to identify themselves as members of a recognized specialty organization if such certification has not been awarded and maintained.

11. It is unethical to place professional knowledge, credentials, or services at the disposal of any nonprofessional organization, group, or individual to promote or lend credibility to the illegal practice of veterinary medicine.

12. It is unethical for veterinarians to use or permit the use of their names, signatures or professional status in connection with the resale of ethical products in a manner which violates those directions or conditions specified by the manufacturer to ensure the safe and efficacious use of the product.

13. Veterinarians should recognize a responsibility to give generally held opinions of the profession when interpreting scientific knowledge to the public. When presenting an opinion that is contrary to the generally held opinion of the profession, this should be clearly indicated.