

## Establishing a Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship (VCPR) - A Guide for Ontario Beekeepers

The Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship (VCPR) describes the professional working relationship between a veterinarian, a client, and the patient. This must be established before a veterinarian can extend professional services to a client, except in emergency circumstances. In order to establish the VCPR with a beekeeper the veterinarian must, at a minimum:

- confirm the provincial registration of the beekeeper
- confirm the number of colonies held by the beekeeper
- confirm the production management practices of the beekeeper
- confirm the standard operating procedure / protocol for use in a disease requiring an antimicrobial drug<sup>1</sup>

Requesting additional information is at the discretion of the veterinarian. This Guide has been developed to assist beekeepers in Ontario prepare for their initial discussion with a veterinarian. More resources for beekeepers looking to access antibiotics are being developed.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Company Name (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone 1: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Phone 2: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Beekeeper Registration Number<sup>2</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of colonies to be preventatively treated in spring: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of colonies to be preventatively treated in the fall: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total<sup>3</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_

Production management practices (check all that apply):

- Honey producer
- Queen / nuc producer
- Pollination services provider
- Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

In your beekeeping management, do you incorporate<sup>4</sup>:

- Biosecurity for AFB prevention
- Monitoring for AFB
- Reporting and disposal of clinical AFB

<sup>1</sup> This criteria for SOPs and protocol for use will be determined during discussions with your veterinarian.

<sup>2</sup> By law, all beekeepers in Ontario must register their colonies on an annual basis with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA). For more information, and to register your colonies, follow this link:  
[http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/food/inspection/bees/info\\_registration.htm](http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/food/inspection/bees/info_registration.htm)

<sup>3</sup> At the discretion of the veterinarian, prescriptions may be obtained for one treatment period (spring **or** fall), or for two treatment periods (spring **and** fall).

<sup>4</sup> A Discussion Guide for your AFB management strategy can be found on Page 2.

## Managing AFB: A Beekeeper-Veterinarian Discussion Guide

During consultation with your veterinarian, they may ask you to describe the methods you use to prevent American foulbrood (AFB) in your colonies, and ensure you know what to do should a suspected case be found. This Discussion Guide is intended to help facilitate that conversation, as well as assist in identifying areas where you are proactive, and potentially areas where you can improve.

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### Biosecurity for AFB Prevention

Check all that you do in your hive management / beekeeping operation:

- Regularly disinfect hive tool(s) and smoker(s). Describe the method(s) you use: \_\_\_\_\_
- Inspect tools and equipment when moving between bee yards. Describe the method(s) you use: \_\_\_\_\_
- When using gloves they are they disposable, and a new pair is used at each beeyard location.
- Have a comb replacement strategy in place. Describe: \_\_\_\_\_
- Purchase bees, queens, or used equipment only from sellers with a permit issued by OMAFRA.

Have you taken the Biosecurity workshop available through the Ontario Beekeepers' Association (OBA) Tech Transfer Program (TTP)? If so, what year? \_\_\_\_\_

### Monitoring for AFB

I am, and/or individuals conducting colony inspections on my hives are, familiar with the signs and symptoms of clinical AFB:     Yes     No     I'm not sure

I have, and/or individuals conducting colony inspections on my hives have, taken Integrated Pest Management (IPM) workshops available through the Ontario Beekeepers' Association (OBA) Tech Transfer Program (TTP)? If so, what year?: \_\_\_\_\_

### Reporting and Disposal of Clinical AFB

If you discovered a suspected case of AFB in your colony(ies), describe the steps you would take<sup>1</sup>:

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<sup>1</sup> Requirements for reporting suspected cases of AFB can be found here:  
<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/food/inspection/bees/afb-mgmt.htm>