



## Summary of Analgesic and Anesthetic Options for Use in Swine

The CASV-ACVP Summary of Analgesic and Anesthetic Options for Use in Swine, for pain mitigation during castration and tail docking, has been updated and posted on the members' only page of the CASV-ACVP website.

To access the members' only page on the CASV-ACVP website, go to the website [www.casv-acvp.com](http://www.casv-acvp.com) Click on "More" in the upper right corner, then "Log in". The password for all CASV-ACVP members is CanSwine. The password is case sensitive. Please do not share the password with non-CASV-ACVP members.

## Veterinary Student Scholarships

The CASV-ACVP Endowment Fund was built to use its interest and keep its capital to perpetuity. The interest is intended to be spent on activities developing veterinary students who could contribute to our swine industry. Discussions are taking place with the veterinary colleges. We identified ways CASV-ACVP could enable veterinary students enrolled in the second half of the curriculum to engage in swine medicine. A format is being developed to spend the interest of the endowment fund to meet this objective.

## Canadian Foot and Mouth Disease Vaccine Bank

The March 2023 federal budget included CFIA receiving \$57.5 million over five years to set up a FMD vaccine bank with another \$5.6 million for annual operating funds. If vaccination was to be used during a FMD outbreak, it is estimated that Canada would require 2.5 million doses of vaccine. However, we currently only have access to 300,000 doses from the North America FMD vaccine bank, a joint initiative of the

## On-Line Mental Health Support Available to All Veterinarians

Togetherall is the clinically moderated, online community where individuals give and get support on concerns affecting their mental health. Individuals share what's on their minds, anonymously, safely, and in the moment with peers who have similar lived experiences. All of their online moderators are licensed mental health clinicians, ensuring 24/7 oversight of the peer-to-peer community and immediate risk-detection and clinical intervention, if the need arises. To date, over 4.6 million individuals worldwide have access to Togetherall with the majority of users joining citing feelings of depression and/or anxiety.

Up to this point, the platform has been available only to CVMA members and Canadian veterinary school students, however since there is a high demand for mental health resources amongst veterinary professionals, Togetherall and CVMA's funding partner, Western Financial have decided to open the platform to all veterinarians across Canada to access for free. English and French registration link:

<https://account.v2.togetherall.com/register/company-lookup/CVMA>

## Position Statement on Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient (API) Antimicrobials

A reminder to members that CASV-ACVP has a position statement on APIs and compounded products which was updated in 2022. It states API antimicrobials should not be administered directly to swine. They must be compounded by a veterinarian or pharmacist following pharmacist regulations, imported and sold following the current federal regulations, including appropriate reporting of sales to Health Canada, and be used under the direction and prescription of a veterinarian under a valid veterinary-client-patient relationship.

The position statement also stresses API antimicrobials should not be used if a similar commercially approved product (DIN product) is available, and this DIN product has shown sufficient efficacy to meet the need of a specific medical situation. Further, Class 1 antimicrobials should never be used as an API.

Our position is consistent with the Therapeutic Decision Cascade for Animal and Public Safety as published by the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association. The decision cascade asserts APIs should only be used if nothing else is available and the decision cannot be contingent on price.

To view a copy of this statement, and all other position statements, visit the CASV-ACVP website [click here](#). For additional details on Health Canada requirements [click here](#) and [also click here](#).

## CASV-ACVP Board Activities – Q2 2023

Some of the items on which the Board has been working during the second quarter of 2023 included:

- Assisting in completing the swine component of the free prudent drug use app called Firstline;
- Sent a letter to Rob Bell, President of the Canadian Animal Health Institute regarding CASV-ACVP's Position Statement on APIs and Compounded Products;
- Circulated to the membership CPC's statement in response to misinformation

United States, Canada and Mexico. CFIA will maintain 12 antigens at potentially two sites, Merial at Lyons and at a lab in South America. A vaccine distribution and response strategy will also be prepared.

### **African Swine Fever (ASF) in the Caribbean**

The USDA has pulled back ASF eradication funding from the island of Hispaniola (encompassing the Dominican Republic and Haiti). They are shifting their focus from an eradication strategy to more of a chronic management strategy as the disease is now viewed as endemic on the island. The USDA will use the remaining funds to protect U.S. borders from ASF.

The Dominican Republic will be starting to apply the NAVET-ASFVAC vaccine, developed by Vietnamese and US scientists. Efforts will focus initially on market pigs eight to 10 weeks of age before scaling up to cover 100% of the country's pigs.

### **Updated Canadian Livestock Transport Training Program**

Animal Health Canada has significantly updated the Canadian Livestock Transport (CLT) certification program, a comprehensive training course for livestock and poultry transporters, shippers and receivers. Enrolment is now open on its newly launched e-learning platform at <https://campus.animalhealthcanada.ca/>

Recognized across Canada and the United States, CLT is an easily accessible, standardized online program offering humane animal transportation certification. The update, based on the most recent regulations, revamped the core training materials to make the training program more engaging and user-friendly.

on-line regarding animal vaccinations;

- Upon request, submitted feedback to CVMA regarding their Position Statement on Auction Markets;
- In conjunction with the other national veterinary species associations, have continued to hold meetings with the CVMA and the Canadian Veterinary Journal regarding greater input from and engagement with food animal veterinarians on position statements and journal content;
- Continued to participate in discussions with the Veterinary Drug Directorate, other national species-specific veterinary associations, livestock producer associations, and veterinary drug manufacturers regarding access to important veterinary products; and,
- Continued monthly meetings with CPC including review and comments on the CPC Piglet Pain Management document.

One of the outcomes of the discussions noted in point five above, is the Canadian Veterinary Journal has agreed to publish articles that will provide more food animal perspectives in their journal. The goal is to provide a balanced understanding of food production and the related professional activities of food animal veterinarians. Dr. Rob Tremblay, CABV/ACVB has very generously volunteered to lead this initiative for the national veterinary species associations. The feature will be titled "Food Animal Matters". The first article will be published in the July issue of the CVJ, and articles will appear in every second issue for the next two years. It is our hope that this initiative will gain enough momentum to continue indefinitely.

### **National Transport Code of Practice**

The National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC) launched a revision of the 2001 Transport Code in 2018 but the process stalled in 2021/2022 and was formally paused in March 2023 when the government funding expired.

There were many reasons for the permanent pause of the revision process; the two most significant were the new transport regulations and no national champion. After the revision project was announced, the Health of Animals Act transportation regulations were revised. That content essentially covered everything that would be in the Code. It then became difficult to envision the role or purpose of an updated Code. There are also pre-transportation sections in all 11 of the other on-farm animal production Codes.

In addition, national Codes supported by NFACC typically have a national association to champion it. There is no national animal transport association so no entity to "sign off" on the content and encourage adoption.

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*Susan Fitzgerald on behalf of CASV-ACVP Board of Directors.*

**Mission:** To be a responsive, proactive voice for veterinarians involved with the swine industry in Canada.