



December 2, 2014

The Honourable Eric Hoskins  
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care  
10<sup>th</sup> Floor, Hepburn Block  
80 Grosvenor Street  
Toronto, ON M7A 2C4

Dear Minister Hoskins:

On behalf of the Ontario Veterinary Medical Association (OVMA) and the over 4,400 veterinarians in the province of Ontario, I am writing to you today regarding Lyme disease.

Veterinarians are well aware of tick-related diseases, including Lyme disease, and routinely discuss prevention and treatment options related to these diseases with pet owners. These conversations include advice on tick identification, bite prevention, risks of Lyme disease and treatment options. When discussing these issues, veterinarians are not only ensuring that their clients protect their pet's health, they are assisting pet owners to protect their own health from the potentially serious effects of Lyme disease.

As medical professionals, it is incumbent upon veterinarians to protect both human and animal health. Given that Lyme disease is truly a One Health issue, threatening the health of both animals and people, OVMA encourages the government to establish a provincial Lyme Disease Strategy. To that end, OVMA would be happy to participate in consultations between the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, representatives of the medical community, veterinarians, and patients' groups, with a view to developing a provincial strategy that would ensure the recognition, timely diagnosis, and effective treatment of Lyme disease.

Thank you very much for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact John Stevens, OVMA's Manager of Government and External Relations, at 1-800-670-1702, ext. 24, or [jstevens@ovma.org](mailto:jstevens@ovma.org).

Yours truly,

Robert Van Delst, DVM  
President

cc:

Ms. Christine Elliott, MPP  
Whitby-Oshawa  
PC Critic, Health and Long-Term Care

Ms. France Gelinias, MPP  
Nickel Belt  
NDP Critic, Health and Long-Term Care