



# PROVINCIAL REGULATIONS FOR TEETH CLEANING



The procedure of non-anesthetic teeth cleaning/scaling has been very controversial as to whether it is a permitted practice by anyone other than a Veterinarian. There are many private individuals and businesses offering this service and often Groomers will have them come into their shops to perform this for their clients.

In an effort to help keep Groomers across the country, informed on what is legal in their province, CPPS has contacted all of the provincial regulatory bodies for each province and asked for their standing on this practice. All were very forthcoming with their information and gladly provided their position on this. Some even provided copies of court cases or the actual documentation of the regulations for their province. Below is a compilation of their responses.

Province	Organization & Contact	Consensus
British Columbia	College of Veterinarians of B.C. Dr. John Brocklebank, DVM, Deputy Registrar	YES – currently there is no prohibition against any person in B.C. providing cosmetic teeth cleaning and scaling above the gum line in accordance with the decision of the B.C. Court of Appeal on April 8, 2005. 🐾
Alberta	Alberta Veterinary Medical Association Phil Buote, Complaints Director	NO – Considered to be unauthorized practice of veterinary medicine. The procedure causes stress to the awake patient and are often painful... may cause an animal to be in distress, including causing direct harm through improper or incomplete scaling, damaged gingiva and soft tissues or even fractured mandibles.
Saskatchewan	Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Assoc. J. A. Currie, Sec/Treas.	NO – Brushing the teeth in the same manner an owner would brush would be acceptable only.
Manitoba	Manitoba Veterinary Medical Association Michelle Martin-Strong, MVMA Registrar	NO – Anything beyond brushing a dogs teeth, such as scaling, extractions and all that is between, would fall into the scope of veterinary medicine where only a registered animal health technologist or a veterinarian could do.
Ontario	College of Veterinarians of Ontario Martin Fischer, Investigations and Inspections Specialist	NO – Brushing and flossing as a human would normally do is all that is permitted by anyone other than a Veterinarian. 🐾🐾
Newfoundland & Labrador	Newfoundland and Labrador Veterinary Medical Assoc. – Dr. Brown-Bury	NO – Dental cleaning is considered a veterinary service and is to be done by a veterinarian or under direct supervision of a veterinarian. To do otherwise is to practice veterinary medicine without a license.
New Brunswick	New Brunswick Veterinary Medical Assoc. George Whittle, Registrar	NO – Nothing beyond using a toothbrush as is done on a human’s teeth. 🐾🐾🐾
Nova Scotia	Nova Scotia Veterinary Medical Assoc. Brian MacInnis	NO – The scaling of teeth and cleaning of teeth beyond superficial brushing provides risk of harm to those engaged in the service, and accordingly is a regulated activity falling within the definition of the “practice of veterinary medicine”. 🐾🐾🐾🐾
P.E.I.	PEI Veterinary Medical Association Gary Morgan, DVM, Registrar	NO – Any oral health procedure, including the scaling and polishing of teeth, and any type of extraction must be performed by a licensed veterinarian or a veterinary technologist working under his supervision in an approved veterinary practice facility.

🐾 - provides copy of the Veterinary Act that pertains to unauthorized practice of veterinary medicine

🐾🐾 - provides copies of three court cases that were filed against companies and individuals who performed teeth cleaning and who were fined.

🐾🐾🐾 - provided section from Veterinary Act that refers to services performed

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Please respect the mandate of the regulatory veterinarian organization for your province. We do not wish groomers to act in contravention of their province or to be associated with, or be put in a compromising situation by companies or individuals who perform illegal activities.

We know that the groomers in Canada only wish to provide the very best services and care for their clients dogs and by educating yourselves of your provincial regulations, you will be able to continue to provide that service.

**\*\*\* If you would like to see the actual full response from your province’s veterinary medical association, please contact the Executive Director at [info@canpropetstylists.com](mailto:info@canpropetstylists.com) and it will be provided to you. \*\*\***