



PROVINCIAL REGULATIONS FOR ANAL GLAND EXPRESSING BY GROOMERS

The procedure of expressing anal glands in dogs by groomers has been fairly controversial over the years and there didn't seem to be a standard of practice for this procedure. Some felt that it was acceptable for a groomer to perform the service for their clients, while others were of the thought that it was strictly a veterinary procedure and was not to be done by groomers and some even felt that it was illegal for a groomer to do it.

Canadian Professional Pet Stylists felt that some research into this was needed and so we contacted the provincial veterinary regulatory body for each province and asked what their standing and feelings were regarding the subject. Every province contacted has been very helpful in research and gladly provided their position on it. Each province is regulated individually and we have compiled the responses for you so that you can see what their individual positions are. In this way, you will know whether it is an acceptable procedure in your province or whether it is considered illegal.

The summary of our findings are:

Province	Organization & Contact	Consensus
British Columbia	College of Veterinarians of B.C. Dr. John Brocklebank, DVM, Deputy Registrar	Yes, if done externally only.
Alberta	Alberta Veterinary Medical Association Dr. Duane Landals, Senior Advisor	Yes, but with extreme caution as could be construed as practicing veterinary medicine if a problem arises from expressing the glands
Saskatchewan	Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association Dr. Judy Currie, Registrar	No. Could be considered practicing veterinary medicine.
Manitoba	Manitoba Veterinary Medical Association Michelle Martin-Strong, Registrar	No. Considered to be a medical procedure and must be done by a veterinarian unless groomer is under the supervision of a veterinarian.
Ontario	College of Veterinarians of Ontario Martin Fischer, Investigations and Inspections Specialist	Yes, as long as the glands are not impacted, inflamed or otherwise in need of veterinary care.
Newfoundland & Labrador	Newfoundland & Labrador Veterinary Medical Assoc. Dr. Heather M. Hiller	Yes, provided there are no signs of any problems whereby the client should be referred to their veterinarian.
New Brunswick	New Brunswick Veterinary Medical Association Mr. George Wittie, Registrar	Yes, but groomers should educate themselves in the proper way to perform the procedure and know when to refer to a veterinarian.
Nova Scotia	Nova Scotia Veterinary Medical Association Mr. Brian MacInnis, Assistant to the Registrar	No. This is a medical procedure and must be performed by a veterinarian only.
P.E.I.	Prince Edward Island Veterinary Medical Association Dr. Wm. Wade Sweet, President	Yes, but only done externally and as long as the groomer does not give any advice on the condition of the glands or that they have been completely expressed.

Please respect the mandate of the regulatory veterinarian organization for your province. We do not want groomers to be acting in contravention of their province and thereby putting themselves at risk of legal action for performing this procedure.

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 in your provincial regulations and the proper procedure for expressing anal glands, 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 Carol Cody, Executive Director and it will be forwarded to you. ****