

November 23, 2006

Re: Proposed changes to the Veterinary Professions Act

Dear Alberta Equestrian Federation,

I am very disappointed in the way that the AEF has represented horse owners in the ongoing controversy with the AVMA and the proposed changes to the Veterinary Professions Act. I believe that the AEF should be fighting harder *against* the AVMA's efforts to restrict the application of all types of alternative therapies for horses, including dentistry, to veterinarians only. This is very narrow-minded and absolutely **NOT** in the best interest of horses or horse owners.

It is obvious to me, as a veterinarian and as a horse owner, that the AVMA is not willing to listen to the growing opposition by the public on this matter, and in particular on their primary goal of stopping anyone from practicing equine dentistry that is not a veterinarian. It is unacceptable that horse owners will no longer have access to quality dental care that is an alternative to the powerfloat used by most veterinarians. At the very least the AEF should be insisting that the AVMA let practicing veterinarians use their professional judgment in assisting clients to source the best care for a horse. This would mean that non-veterinarian equine dentists could work in conjunction with a licensed veterinarian to provide dental care. The way the proposed changes are, there will no longer be any new non-veterinarian dentists allowed to work at all.

My children are both involved in vaulting, and therefore we are required to have a membership with the AEF. If this were not required I would gladly drop our membership in the AEF, as you certainly do not represent me as a horse owner on this controversy.

Sincerely,

Ileana Wenger DVM

Cc Alberta Animal Owner's Association