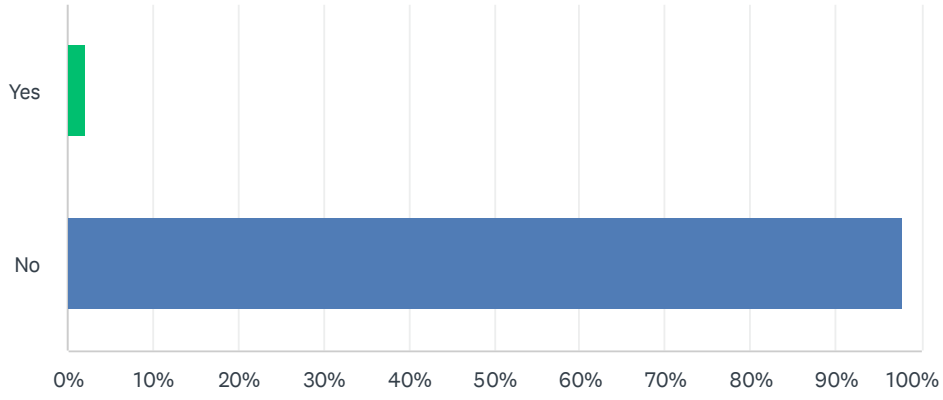
Q1 Do you perform non-therapeutic canine ventriculocordectomy (devocalization, debarking)?

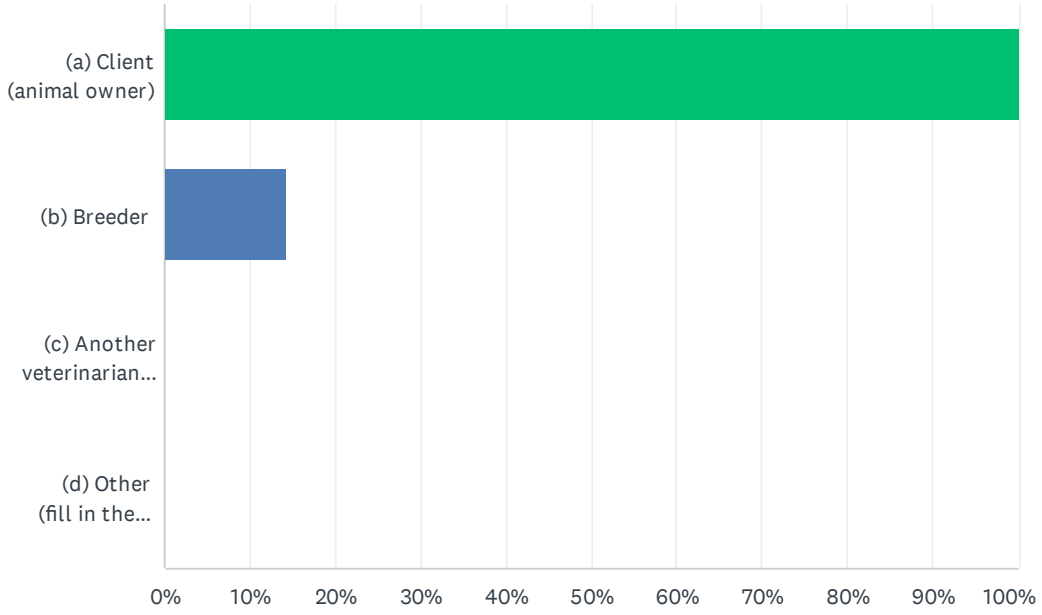
Answered: 330 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	2.12%	7
No	97.88%	323
TOTAL		330

Q2 Who is requesting the procedure (choose all that apply)?

Answered: 7 Skipped: 325



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
(a) Client (animal owner)	100.00%	7
(b) Breeder	14.29%	1
(c) Another veterinarian (referral)	0.00%	0
(d) Other (fill in the blank)	0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 7		

#	(D) OTHER (FILL IN THE BLANK)	DATE
	There are no responses.	

Q3 What reasons apply? (Please indicate which selection(s) in Q2 apply to each).

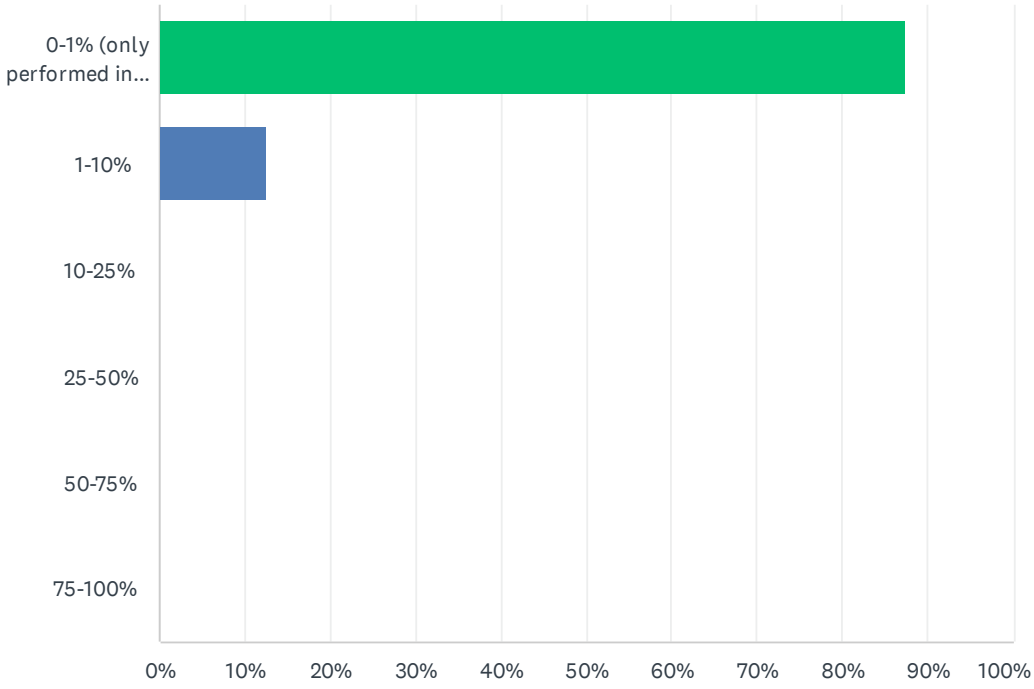
Answered: 7 Skipped: 325

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
In response to barking	71.43%	5
To prophylactically prevent future barking	28.57%	2
To prevent eviction or loss of housing	42.86%	3
As a last resort to prevent euthanasia	57.14%	4
As a last resort to prevent relinquishment	42.86%	3
Other (please indicate)	0.00%	0

#	IN RESPONSE TO BARKING	DATE
1	yes	2/22/2023 5:08 PM
2	Have done 2 or 3 in my career, but not since the 90s	2/16/2023 7:39 AM
3	Yes	2/15/2023 8:33 PM
4	Excessive nonsensical barking	2/15/2023 7:37 PM
5	yes if subject to possible euthanasia	2/15/2023 1:17 PM
#	**TO PROPHYLACTICALLY PREVENT FUTURE BARKING**	**DATE**
1	yes	2/22/2023 5:08 PM
2	yes	2/15/2023 1:17 PM
#	**TO PREVENT EVICTION OR LOSS OF HOUSING**	**DATE**
1	yes	2/22/2023 5:08 PM
2	yes	2/15/2023 1:17 PM
3	Senior citizen, community residence situation	2/15/2023 11:23 AM
#	**AS A LAST RESORT TO PREVENT EUTHANASIA**	**DATE**
1	yes	2/22/2023 5:08 PM
2	all cases have threatened this.	2/16/2023 7:39 AM
3	yes	2/15/2023 1:17 PM
4	Community complaints	2/15/2023 12:19 PM
#	**AS A LAST RESORT TO PREVENT RELINQUISHMENT**	**DATE**
1	yes	2/22/2023 5:08 PM
2	no	2/15/2023 1:17 PM
3	Client in condominium , see above	2/15/2023 11:23 AM
#	**OTHER (PLEASE INDICATE)**	**DATE**
	There are no responses.	

Q4 What percentage of your surgical caseload does this procedure represent?

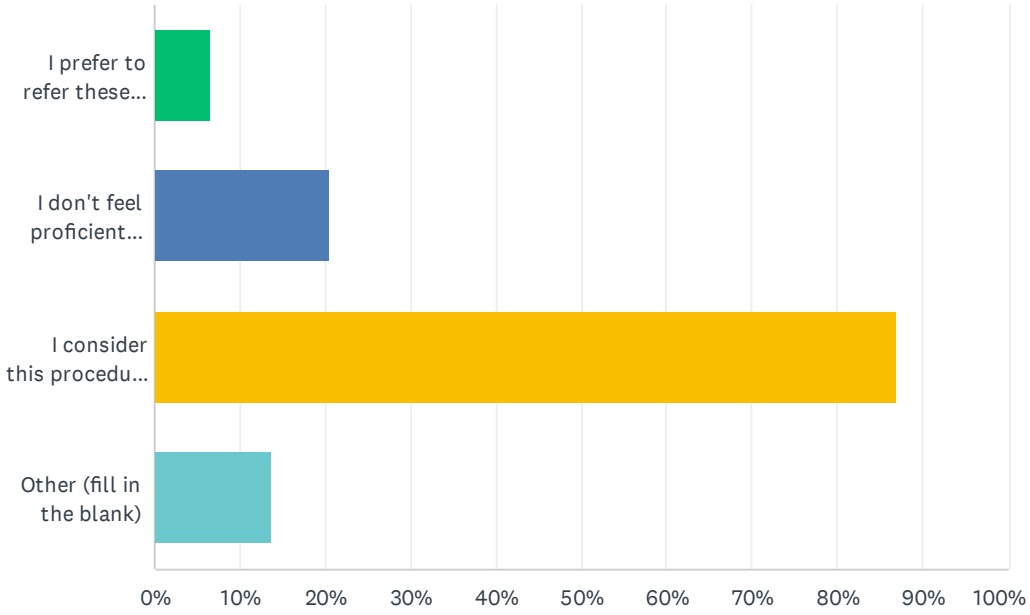
Answered: 8 Skipped: 324



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
0-1% (only performed in rare and specific cases)	87.50%	7
1-10%	12.50%	1
10-25%	0.00%	0
25-50%	0.00%	0
50-75%	0.00%	0
75-100%	0.00%	0
TOTAL		8

Q5 Why do you not perform non-therapeutic canine ventriculocordectomy? (choose all that apply)

Answered: 317 Skipped: 15



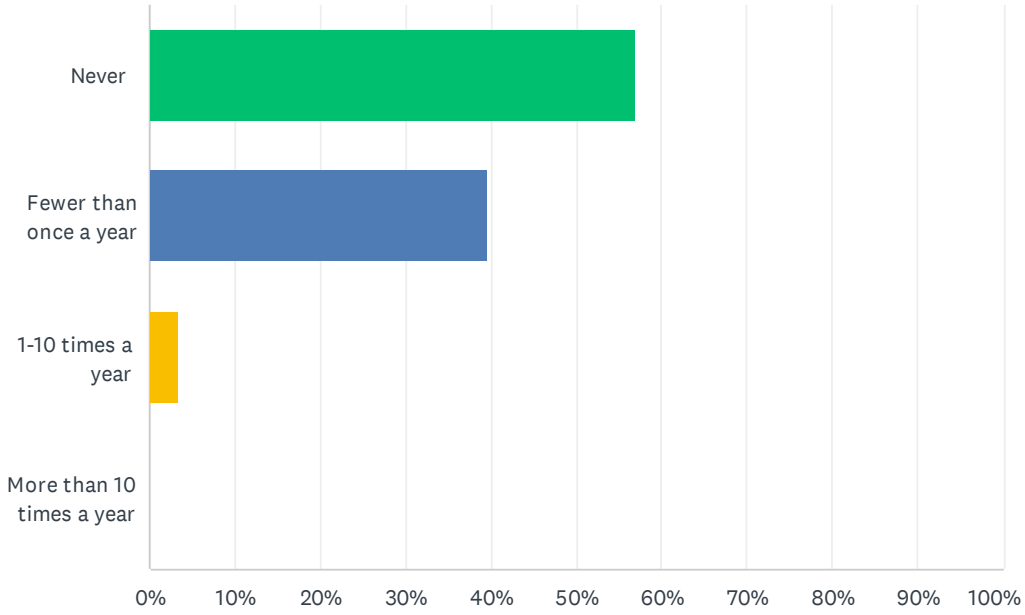
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I prefer to refer these cases	6.62%	21
I don't feel proficient performing this procedure	20.50%	65
I consider this procedure inhumane	87.07%	276
Other (fill in the blank)	13.56%	43
Total Respondents: 317		

#	OTHER (FILL IN THE BLANK)	DATE
1	Practice limited to ER	3/2/2023 9:55 AM
2	Never had opportunity	3/1/2023 8:14 PM
3	The procedure is ineffective and can have potentially significant long-term complications.	3/1/2023 5:33 PM
4	as the question says - it's "non-therapeutic!"	3/1/2023 4:54 PM
5	I don't agree with performing this ethically.	3/1/2023 12:18 PM
6	Have not had reason to	3/1/2023 11:54 AM
7	In 23 years of busy practice, nobody has ever asked me for this and the possibility of doing it has never occurred to me.	3/1/2023 11:07 AM
8	I want to know if the new rash of highly aggressive dogs are barking at me befire I approach them	3/1/2023 11:05 AM
9	Have never been asked	3/1/2023 10:56 AM

10	I strongly discourage owners from considering this procedure. If they are adamant, I offer referral to a board-certified surgeon.	2/22/2023 2:22 PM
11	I am in specialty practice but would consider the procedure inhumane.	2/22/2023 12:38 PM
12	I work ER	2/22/2023 7:30 AM
13	Not within my scope of practice	2/17/2023 6:52 PM
14	No Longer in active practice.... but did do them rarely in the past.	2/17/2023 3:05 PM
15	No one has asked me to, and if they did I would discuss alternatives and/or refer.	2/17/2023 8:56 AM
16	I am a large animal vet	2/16/2023 9:09 PM
17	Urgent care vet - don’t do non-urgent surgeries	2/16/2023 3:59 PM
18	this is in many cases an ineffective method to curtail barking with significant detrimental risks-unjustified and inhumane	2/16/2023 2:40 PM
19	I understood it was not allowed by the college	2/16/2023 12:24 PM
20	It has never been requested of me by a client	2/16/2023 9:06 AM
21	I strongly discourage it and consider it only if the alternative is going to be euthanasia	2/16/2023 5:27 AM
22	Think there are better alternatives. Don't get these cases referred to me (I am in referral specialty surgery service)	2/16/2023 12:23 AM
23	Complications are high. I would do this surgery or recommend it if the complications were minimal.	2/15/2023 9:14 PM
24	I have never been asked	2/15/2023 9:10 PM
25	In addition to being inhumane, it does not address the underlying problem	2/15/2023 8:34 PM
26	I have never had a client ask me to perform this surgery.	2/15/2023 7:46 PM
27	They can still make an annoying sound	2/15/2023 5:45 PM
28	I have been asked once, and told the client that I didn't perform the procedure	2/15/2023 4:27 PM
29	Like ear-crop & Tail dock, outdated unnecessary procedure	2/15/2023 4:03 PM
30	None of my clients ask me to do it or something like that	2/15/2023 3:52 PM
31	not effective and therefore inhumane	2/15/2023 3:03 PM
32	causes narrowing of the tracheal opening that can impede further anesthesias	2/15/2023 2:24 PM
33	BARBARIC PROCEDURE	2/15/2023 2:10 PM
34	I work in a veterinary dental referral practice. Devocalizing is not a procedure we perform.	2/15/2023 1:19 PM
35	(no longer in clinical practice)	2/15/2023 12:50 PM
36	I only practice on equines	2/15/2023 12:07 PM
37	I've done it, didn't like it, and feel that there are other options.	2/15/2023 11:39 AM
38	Wouldn’t fit in my specialty ECC	2/15/2023 11:28 AM
39	I have never been asked to do.	2/15/2023 11:19 AM
40	have a limited practice	2/15/2023 11:17 AM
41	Have never had this requested	2/15/2023 11:15 AM
42	It does not achieve what it purports to achieve, and it has unacceptable risks for an elective procedure.	2/15/2023 11:14 AM
43	Retired	2/15/2023 11:12 AM

Q6 How frequently do clients request non-therapeutic canine ventriculocordectomy?

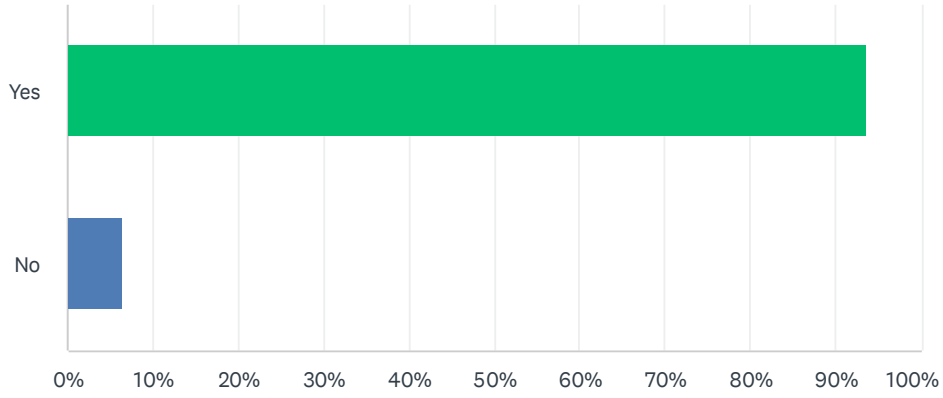
Answered: 316 Skipped: 16



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Never	56.96%	180
Fewer than once a year	39.56%	125
1-10 times a year	3.48%	11
More than 10 times a year	0.00%	0
TOTAL		316

Q7 Do you support CVBC regulatory change banning non-therapeutic canine ventriculocordectomy?

Answered: 323 Skipped: 9



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	93.50%	302
No	6.50%	21
TOTAL		323

Q8 Please share additional feedback that may assist the College in reviewing this procedure.

Answered: 83 Skipped: 249

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	This should have been banned over a decade ago. The CVBC is decades behind in standards of veterinary care.	3/2/2023 1:17 PM
2	Instead of surgery veterinarians should be encouraging management of anxiety, boredom, stress etc that leads to excessive barking. We should be working with behaviorists and trainers for this.	3/2/2023 9:56 AM
3	Please ban the procedure. It is outdated and unnecessary that does not address the welfare of the animal	3/1/2023 11:06 PM
4	I support banning non therapeutic ventriculocordectomy.	3/1/2023 10:28 PM
5	It has to be done by proficient practitioners and only as a last resort over euthanasia	3/1/2023 10:04 PM
6	It is the only alternative collars do not work	3/1/2023 8:15 PM
7	I have never,in 42 years of practice, been asked to provide this service.	3/1/2023 6:50 PM
8	I have seen multiple medical and surgical emergencies as a result fo debarking. Dogs that are debarked still bark and many clients are unaware of that. This should have been banned with cosmetic surgery ban years ago. Please let me know if you need help on this issue.	3/1/2023 5:03 PM
9	No brainer - please "make it so..."	3/1/2023 4:55 PM
10	Get a Basenji if you can’t tolerate a barking dog.	3/1/2023 1:09 PM
11	This surgery is absolutely unnecessary and inhumane.	3/1/2023 12:50 PM
12	CVBC banned tail docking yet non-veterinarians (aka "breeders") still do this procedure routinely. Why is it not stopped by the CVBC and law enforcement?	3/1/2023 11:18 AM
13	This is a very marginal and dubious problem. Many other elective, surgical procedures are carried out far, far more commonly and would largely share the possible complications listed in the supporting documents. A great variety of variations is likely to exist from case to case, making a blanket regulatory approach likely to be a poor fit when applied in the real world. There is no need for regulation of this issue. Best to leave health care decisions like this one to the owner and veterinarian most familiar with the individual case.	3/1/2023 11:14 AM
14	Can we also ban all cosmetic procedures in ajimals and put a ban on the use of altered/debarked/intentionally conformationally deformed and altered pets in the use of advertising like they have in other countries to try and reduce the appeal of such procedures ?	3/1/2023 11:08 AM
15	I have a concern with "banning" as there are situations where it is the only reasonable alternative to Euthanasia, in which case a live, happy, altered bark dog is better than a dead quiet family dog. It should only ever be a "last resort" situation where all reasonable alternatives have confidently been explored prior to ever considering this procedure.	3/1/2023 11:06 AM
16	I view this procedure as mutilation if performed without a medical cause.	3/1/2023 10:58 AM
17	please ban this procedure!!!	3/1/2023 10:27 AM
18	Should not be considered an elective procedure and only used to help with illness or to prevent convenience euthanasia	2/22/2023 5:49 PM
19	I think most of us would agree that surgical debarking is NOT a rational response to problem barking in dogs. Along with declawing, I am completely in favour of a ban on this outdated, inhumane procedure.	2/22/2023 2:23 PM
20	I was actually surprised to find out that it wasn’t already banned in BC.	2/22/2023 1:12 PM

21	There is a noisy person at the gym who is very annoying. I would not consider cutting their vocal cords to reduce my annoyance level. At some point as a profession we have to recognize our duty to protect species who cannot advocate for themselves.	2/22/2023 12:41 PM
22	Disagree with the procedure, unless identified as medically necessary. Client education, behavioural modification or referral to a Veterinary board certified behaviourist should be the primary and singular goal of such cases.	2/21/2023 1:16 AM
23	This procedure is mutilation in my opinion. This should be banned along with tail docking and ear cropping.	2/20/2023 11:04 PM
24	A ban on debarking would bring the CVBC into alignment with its other bans on non-therapeutic procedures (declawing, ear cropping, tail docking) as well as the CVMA position statement. There would have to be very good reasons NOT to enact such a ban, and none are presented in the background information. Seems an easy decision to me.	2/20/2023 2:51 PM
25	There is a lot of evidence based medicine that supports that this procedure contributes to psychological distress. I am therefore against the procedure, and have always been since graduation in 2005.	2/20/2023 1:59 PM
26	Get on with this, it’s way overdue!!!!	2/19/2023 5:22 PM
27	100% accept. Thank you for stopping these unnecessary and inhumane procedures.	2/18/2023 8:42 PM
28	I believe that there are times when it is the "more" humane choice to do ventriculocordectomies on dogs. Those times are probably rare but an outright ban will sometimes put veterinarians and client in an untenable position.	2/17/2023 3:10 PM
29	I think a "ban" is unnecessarily black and white. From a personal standpoint, I find myself much more closely aligned with legislative bodies that allow de-barking but only under extremely narrow circumstances, ie: as a last resort alternative to euthanasia. Excessive barking is a behavioural issue, and as with everything in veterinary behaviour, these cases are not black-and-white. There are often many possible treatment options to explore, and ultimately the treatment plan for every behaviour case I have ever seen has been complex and multimodal. I trust my colleagues to use best judgement and be able to evaluate each individual patient on a case by case basis, to develop an appropriate treatment plan that is ethical and in the best interest of that patient and their family. Although I think that debarking will rarely be a part of that plan, I believe that an outright ban is unnecessarily short-sighted and deprives my colleagues of one tool that in a rare case, may be an important piece of management that helps to keep our patients alive and with their families.	2/17/2023 9:07 AM
30	this should have been banned long ago	2/16/2023 2:40 PM
31	Years ago I have done this procedure several times. It worked fine and the pets recovered well. It is a challenging surgery but doable. In this day and age with most people being city dwellers having their dog debarked would help them keep their pet in urban areas. People desperately need their pets for their mental well being. The pets do not seem to have ill effects from it other than occasionally it does not work well. The dogs can still make some sounds but these are very muted.	2/16/2023 12:27 PM
32	I have never done this surgery, and I never will. I haven't seen a debarked dog in at least 10 years. It is a non issue in my opinion, and regulating non issues is a nonsensical virtue signaling.	2/16/2023 11:36 AM
33	great move!	2/16/2023 10:24 AM
34	Thank you for this survey on an important issue.	2/16/2023 9:58 AM
35	My first 'debarks' were in 6 dairy goats, where subdivision grew up around the dairy operation, then multiple taxpayers complaining about agricultural noise. The municipality told them they had to get rid of the goats or silence them. Very upsetting to all involved. Subsequent cases in dogs were counselled with other options, until this became the last option. My main beef with this proposal is that over the last several years, the college has been gradually legislating our behaviour, at the expense of professional judgement and discretion. It seems that the newer generations of vets need to be told what to do, and can't think for themselves. When I leave this profession, it will be because of the college meddling in the day- day actions and decisions of vets, which is happening with alarming regularity.	2/16/2023 7:45 AM

36	Can the college advise against/ban choke and prong collars as inhumane	2/16/2023 6:59 AM
37	I hope CVBC will follow the lead of other provinces and countries in banning this inhumane surgery.	2/16/2023 5:30 AM
38	The procedure does not "fix" the problem. It just decreases the volume.	2/15/2023 10:35 PM
39	It has a place in saving the life of dogs. It is very subjective to assume that it is inhumane. Where are the studies to show that dogs that have had the surgery are enjoying life any less than dogs that haven't? Albeit there is a high complication rate, particularily stenosis of the laryngeal opening. Pros and cons should be a matter considered between the client and their veterinarian.	2/15/2023 9:20 PM
40	Thank you for pursuing this!	2/15/2023 9:01 PM
41	I would like to see this procedure banned in Canada. From an ethical and welfare perspective, I do not feel there is any place in society for this kind of procedure. It causes undue suffering to the patient, both short-term and long-term, and it doesn't even address the underlying behavioural cause of the barking. As veterinarians, our priority should be our patient's health and well-being. This completely inhumane practice primarily exists to serve the needs of the owner.	2/15/2023 8:45 PM
42	This procedure should have been banned years ago in BC.	2/15/2023 7:41 PM
43	Occasionally there is a compelling reason to perform this procedure	2/15/2023 7:38 PM
44	The dogs I have seen that have been debarked both suffered severe repeat aspiration pneumonia. It is simply inhumane.	2/15/2023 6:57 PM
45	rec the clients to do behaviour therapy. Give them freedom of speech	2/15/2023 5:47 PM
46	I would support a very narrow scope and an external review process before the surgery could be performed	2/15/2023 4:57 PM
47	I really hate when I have to intubate a dog that has been debarked as the scar tissue makes it so much harder, and have to use a smaller ET tube	2/15/2023 4:42 PM
48	I have never been asked to perform a devocalization. I have had to perform surgery and attempt to correct the extreme narrowing of the pharynx due to scarring and webbing that developed following a debarking. I feel this procedure is not necessary and if done poorly has potentially life threatening complications.	2/15/2023 4:37 PM
49	I have no information about it. So I pass it	2/15/2023 3:53 PM
50	Advocate responsible dog ownership: training, socializing at a young age, life enrichment…	2/15/2023 3:22 PM
51	It should be at the discretion of the veterinarian (and of course the client). As should declawing. There are always cases where surgery should be an option, and removing the option entirely is not what is best for the animal. I believe that Vets always consider what is best for the animal and need to have all options available to them. I also request removal of the ban on declawing.	2/15/2023 2:42 PM
52	* Caveats for it being allowed only as a last resort to euthanasia should probably be considered.	2/15/2023 2:41 PM
53	Suprised that this is not banned already	2/15/2023 2:24 PM
54	I propose surgical resection of the vocal cords of BC veterianarians who perform this barbaric procedure. BC lags behind many other jurisdictions when it comes to animal welfare. We can, and should do better.	2/15/2023 2:13 PM
55	As a surgeon I strongly support banning non therapeutic ventriculocordectomy. I do not believe it is humane and carries a potential for significant complications if not performed properly.	2/15/2023 2:12 PM
56	Hold those that perform it accountable to rules, whether a veterinarian or not. If a veterinarian is reporting it, do NOT make it mandatory that the reporting veterinarian make a formal complaint or have their name available.	2/15/2023 1:50 PM
57	Thank you for reviewing this important issue!	2/15/2023 1:41 PM
58	Can't believe it is still legal in 2023	2/15/2023 1:21 PM

59	If there is failure to stop barking by behaviour modification and owner seeks euthanasia or constant complaints by neighbours.	2/15/2023 1:19 PM
60	Forty five years of small animal practice. Never performed one but saw results of others' work. Some developed dyspnea due to scarring. Some larynxes so damaged it was difficult to intubate. All retained some ability to make sound.	2/15/2023 1:05 PM
61	I have had to go in and do ventral laryngotomies with resection of the scar tissue/webbing that is causing these dogs to suffocate, therefore I support banning this procedure.	2/15/2023 12:42 PM
62	Thank you for moving to ban this inhumane procedure. I'm shocked it wasn't already banned.	2/15/2023 12:40 PM
63	Our role as veterinary professionals is to optimize patient health, not cater to owners. Performing this procedure is unethical.	2/15/2023 12:31 PM
64	The risks outweigh the benefits. I do not buy the reasoning that this is the only way to prevent relinquishment/euthanasia - I think this is a convenient excuse for bad pet owners to avoid their responsibilities and putting the work in to address the underlying reason for barking. Socialization/behaviour training is the treatment of choice for barking. Sometimes rehoming is not the worst thing for a pet.	2/15/2023 12:21 PM
65	Should be available as a solutipn of last resource	2/15/2023 12:21 PM
66	Better to perform than euthanasia	2/15/2023 12:18 PM
67	I'm a firm believer in the 'pet-human bond'. Anything we can do to preserve it, I'm all for. A barking dog is stressful for owners & neighbours- and if it saves the pets' life, then I'm all for it.	2/15/2023 12:10 PM
68	I have had a couple of cases where a previous debark sx by another vet led to exercise intolerance, inability to open enough for airflow due to scarring and subsequent cardiac problems.	2/15/2023 12:08 PM
69	As someone who's done it a few times, many years ago, I feel that there are always better options.	2/15/2023 11:40 AM
70	That procedure is cruelty and must be banned at the earliest.	2/15/2023 11:33 AM
71	Like de-clawing, most problems result from incompetent performance of the surgery, resulting in complications with long term morbidity.	2/15/2023 11:28 AM
72	Have had 1 request in 42 years and was declined. Have probably seen about a dozen debarked dogs in the same period, all had breathing issues to some degree. Most mild, some critical	2/15/2023 11:25 AM
73	I beleive this should have been banned long ago. We are here to advocate for the health and welfare of animals, this is wholly inhumane.	2/15/2023 11:24 AM
74	Inhumane archaic practice which is not even effective and causes significant harm, should definitely be banned.	2/15/2023 11:22 AM
75	I think some cases may be granted. But they would need to be justified.	2/15/2023 11:20 AM
76	As a European trained veterinarian, I feel that we are still drastically behind in animal welfare standards in North America. Banning this cruel and medically unnecessary procedure would be another small step we could take to improve animal welfare in our province.	2/15/2023 11:20 AM
77	Long overdue	2/15/2023 11:17 AM
78	An outright ban might result in euthanasia of some pets that otherwise could be saved. Having said that, there needs to be criterion set so that it is not done for convenience purposes, but rather as part of a broader behavioural remediation strategy	2/15/2023 11:16 AM
79	Should have been banned years ago	2/15/2023 11:15 AM
80	It's about time.	2/15/2023 11:15 AM
81	An excellent procedure	2/15/2023 11:13 AM
82	I'm surprised it hasn't been banned yet.	2/15/2023 11:11 AM
83	The few cases that I have dealt with where the surgery was performed, the issue of noise did not abate, if anything the noise became more annoying and at a similar volume as before	2/15/2023 11:11 AM