

Did you Know? A new pet care app

Virtual veterinary care is now available in Ontario on a new app.

We suggest this announcement will be well received by:

- People struggling to find vet care
- Those living in rural areas or long distances from their veterinarian
- Anxious animals who don't travel well in vehicles
- Pet owners with their own mobility or transportation issues
- Busy families trying to work pet care into their schedules

This virtual veterinary care, now available in Ontario, is offered by [TELUS Health MyPet](#). You can find the free download on the App Store, Google Play, or at telus.com/mypet.

One more step to improving access to vet care

The last few years have been a perfect storm – **more pets and less vets**. During COVID, thousands more people got a pet while they were home, shut-in, lonely and had time on their hands. This was great for pet adoptions, however Ontario already had a veterinarian shortage! And during COVID, public health measures limited access to vet care, so some preventive procedures were missed or deferred.

That has created a big backlog, and it's difficult to catch up.

Virtual care through smartphones should help with reducing some of the backlog. We think online access to licensed veterinarians will be useful for diagnosis and non-urgent medical issues such as infections (ears, eyes or respiratory), skin rashes and minor wounds.

An app doesn't replace the need for vets!

According to the [OVMA \(Ontario Veterinary Medical Association\)](#) a high percentage of pet health issues can be treated through telemedicine without a visit to a clinic. We're skeptical about that high percentage but agree this is a step in finding solutions to improve timely access to vet care across the province.