



## European College of Veterinary Surgeons

c/o Vetsuisse Faculty University of Zurich, Equine Department  
Winterthurerstrasse 260, CH-8057 Zurich, Switzerland

Phone: + 41 (0)44 635 84 92 / 90

Fax: + 41 (0)44 635 89 91

email: [info@ecvs.org](mailto:info@ecvs.org) / [www.ecvs.org](http://www.ecvs.org)

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### ECVS STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE:

## Recertification Application Procedure

In order to maintain EBVS European Specialist status and to comply with requirements of the EBVS, Diplomates must undergo the recertification process every five years.

### Recertification can be obtained in one of two ways:

1. By sitting and passing the Practical Part of the Annual Certifying Examination for Residents. The examination must be sat in the February preceding the July in which recertification is required. Notice to sit the examination must be given by October 25<sup>th</sup> preceding the February examination.
2. Documentation of activity in the field of Veterinary Surgery using a credit point system by completion and submission of the online Recertification request form (available via the 'your ECVS' RED area). The submission deadline is July 31<sup>st</sup> of the year of submission.

A minimum of 100 credit points has to be accumulated for successful recertification (see [Guidance for completion of Recertification Request Form](#) below).

Credit points towards recertification can be obtained by a combination of supervision of residents, membership of ECVS committees and sub-committee, attendance at annual ECVS or ACVS meetings or other recognised national or international meetings, scientific publications, acting as a reviewer for journals listed in the Training Brochure, and documentation of surgical procedures using the Residents' Surgery case log form.

For quality assurance purposes, two reference letters are a necessary part of the recertification process in order to have third parties attest to a Diplomate's good standing within the profession, and his or her continued activity in the speciality. Only one of these letters may come from a person working in the same institution and referees should not be related to the Diplomate seeking recertification. Templates for the referees are available from [www.ecvs.org/membership/recertification.php](http://www.ecvs.org/membership/recertification.php). They should not be sent to the Office by the referees but uploaded by the Diplomate seeking recertification.

The first recertification period. Due to the examination being in February and the recertification deadline for submission of points being at the end of July the first five year period is shortened. Diplomates may claim additional points when they first recertify to compensate for this shortfall.

Requests for leniency. Diplomates requesting leniency for maternity/paternity leave, sickness leave or other causes should provide details addressed to [recertification@ecvs.org](mailto:recertification@ecvs.org). Cases will be sympathetically considered on an individual basis.

The EBVS specifies that certified Diplomates must practise their specialty for more than 60% of their time, based on a working week of 40 hours. Should there be a query whether a Diplomat is practising for  $\geq 60\%$  of their time, the Recertification Committee may ask for the Diplomat's surgical log. This is not be part of the standard submission unless a Diplomat is seeking points under "case logs".

If a Diplomat does not meet the required number of points, under EBVS regulations they can be given an additional year in which to achieve the number of missing points. If they succeed, their next period of recertification will be four years rather than five.

Failure to recertify will render a Diplomat 'non-certified'. Non-certified Diplomates are no longer registered with the EBVS and are not allowed to use the title "European Specialist". Furthermore, they may not establish a new ECVS residency programme or be the named supervisor for a resident in a Standard VSRP or an Alternate VSTP. However, residents may log (in bold) a non-certified ECVS Diplomat as supervisor in their Surgery Case Logs.

Non-certified Diplomates cannot be nominated as members of the Examination Committee or Credentials Committee. The title ECVS Diplomat and all other rights of an ECVS Diplomat, such as the right to vote, eligibility to offices within the College other than the ones listed above and participation in the Annual Business Meeting remain unaffected by the recertification status. Non-certified Diplomates are still required to pay an [Annual Membership Fee](#).

Non-recertified Diplomates who wish to re-instate their Specialist status should either apply to sit the Practical Part of the Annual Certifying Examination for residents or document their activity in the field of Veterinary Surgery by submitting the online Recertification request form.

The Recertification Committee will convene early in August in order to report its findings to the [September Board meeting](#). Diplomates may expect to hear of the Board's decision soon thereafter.

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## Guidance for completion of the Recertification Request Form

### 1. Supervision of Resident

- The Diplomate must be the registered supervisor of a resident according to the ECVS Training Guidelines.
- 10 points per resident per year with a maximum of 2 residents per Diplomate, with a maximum of 50 points that can be claimed over the 5-year recertification period.
- Please attach supporting evidence with the name(s) of the resident(s), the date when their residency started and the Institution where the residency programme has been approved.

### 2. Membership of ECVS MCQ sub-committee

- 10 points per year, with a maximum of 40 points allowed over the 5-year recertification period (from 2018 onwards).
- Diplomates who have accrued points for submission of MCQs prior to the formation of the MCQ Sub-committee (up to and including 2017) may do so with a maximum of 30 points in the recertification period. It is no longer possible for diplomates to submit new questions unless they are a member of the MCQ Sub-committee.
- Please note that the Office will not provide documentation of submitted questions for recertification purposes. If you wish to claim points for MCQs submitted up until 2017, please claim them as per your records, and the Recertification Committee will verify the number if they see a need to do so.

### 3. Membership of an ECVS full Committee or Board

- 15 points per year, with a maximum of 45 points allowed over the 5-year recertification period

### 4. Attendance at ECVS/ACVS Meetings

- A minimum of TWO ECVS meetings MUST be attended within the 5-year recertification period. This may include the ECVS Annual Scientific Meeting which is held shortly before the submission deadline. In exceptional circumstances, one ECVS meeting may be substituted by an ACVS meeting.
- 10 points per meeting up to a maximum of 60 points over the 5-year recertification period.
- For ECVS meetings, attendance is either confirmed by your signature on the attendance sheets of the Annual Business Meeting (downloadable from 'your ECVS' – AGBM) or by the attendance certificate provided for each attended ECVS Annual Scientific Meeting (downloadable from 'your ECVS' – Annual Scientific Meetings; available from 2019 onwards).

- For ACVS meetings, please provide scanned copies of certificates of attendance.
- Equal points are awarded for on-site and online meeting attendance in years where the annual congress was held as a hybrid meeting.

#### **5. Attendance at major International meetings**

- An “International Meeting” is one where both the speakers and the delegates are expected to come from several different countries, such as ECVS, ACVS, BEVA, AAEP, ESVOT, WSAVA, WEVA, AO Courses and Arthroscopy Courses.
- 2 points for each meeting attended: a maximum of 10 points may be claimed over the 5-year recertification period.
- Scanned copies of certificates of attendance must be submitted with your application.

#### **6. Presentations at national and international meetings**

- A “National Meeting” is one that is organised by a national veterinary organisation, where the speakers may be from either the host country or include some international speakers, and where the delegates are expected to come from all areas of the host country.
- Scanned copies of the course programme and /or certificates of participation must be submitted with your application.
- Presentations must relate to the field of specialisation of the Diplomate.
- Poster presentations are not eligible unless they are also verbally presented to an audience.
- 10 points per international presentation and 5 points per national meeting up to a maximum of 50 points per meeting, and 60 points over the 5-year recertification period.

#### **7. Publications (peer reviewed journals)**

- first-authored publication according to ECVS Training Guidelines - 20 pts per publication
- non-first-authored publication - 10 pts per publication
- case reports - first author 10 pts, co-author 5 pts
- recent (within the past 5 years) surgery textbook chapters - 10 pts per chapter
- A maximum of 60 points may be claimed for publications over the 5- year recertification period.
- A scanned copy of the title page or equivalent must be submitted. It is not necessary to include the full text.
- Papers submitted to the journals listed in the Training Brochure will automatically be accepted. Those submitted to journals outside of this list will be accepted at the discretion of the Recertification Committee. If the

paper is published in a language other than English then the submitting Diplomate may be required to provide an English translation of the paper.

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- 8. Case logs**
  - Case logs must follow the same format and guidelines as those for residents as detailed in the Training Brochure. The Training Brochure specifies which types of surgical cases are considered suitable to be logged.
  - A minimum of 200 surgical cases is required per year. Equine logs may contain 50 surgical cases and 150 cases of lameness work-up.
  - The Training Brochure specifies limits to the number of certain procedures that can be submitted and these same limits will apply to Recertification Case logs.
  - Cases should only be logged where the Diplomate is the Primary Surgeon. The exception to this is that scrubbed-in supervision of residents-in-training may be logged as a primary surgery by the submitting Diplomate.
  - 10 points for each year up to a maximum of 50 points over the 5-year recertification period.
  - For the purposes of Diplomate recertification, the Case Log should start on the 1st August and end on the 31st July.
  - Case logs only need to be submitted if they are being used as part of the request to recertify, or have been requested by the Recertification Committee.

All Diplomates should keep an up-to-date copy of their Surgery Log, as the Recertification Committee may wish to check it.

- 9. Reviewing papers submitted for publication**
  - 5 points may be claimed for each paper that is reviewed for any of the journals in the list of accepted journals of the Training Brochure. The maximum number of points that may be claimed over the 5-year recertification period is 30.