

Newsletter

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ECVS



European College of Veterinary Surgeons

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From the President's pen



Dear Diplomat
Colleagues and
Residents,

Great memories of a
terrific scientific program
and the delightful
atmosphere at our last
annual meeting in Lyon,
for which we once again

extend hearty thanks to our hosts, are still vibrant, and we now look forward to Sevilla with anticipation and enthusiasm. Miguel Valdés will make every effort to show us the charm of his Andalusian homeland, which will surely make the Spanish nights seem very short. All the more reason for an exciting scientific program that will make us oblivious to our lack of sleep! The program committee is confident that the topics selected this year will capture everyone's full attention. As has been the custom, fellow diplomates of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons will be attending either as examiners or speakers.

We are very grateful to the American College of Veterinary Surgeons for their continuous support since the institution of the ECVS 15 years ago. It has not been an easy task to establish the European College

of Veterinary Surgeons. Although it was possible to adopt many of the guidelines of the ACVS, convincing all European countries to establish postgraduate training programs is not something that can be done quickly. The unified European countries simply have not embraced the American melting-pot scheme. Most European countries have already established postgraduate programs but they vary considerably from country to country. Once the movement of European citizens had become liberalised, several compromises had to be made along the way so that selected qualified and capable surgeons from countries that did not offer residency programs were not excluded from but rather accepted into the College.

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Despite all the hurdles encountered, the ECVS has arrived, in my opinion, at a point that is very close to meeting all the requirements of the ACVS. With regard to surgical experience, the ECVS is currently even more stringent than the ACVS, because the American College no longer requires a definite number of operations to be performed as the primary surgeon, whereas the ECVS still does. In fact, the topic of reciprocity between the two groups received quite a bit of attention during the discussions that we had with the Board of the American College in San Diego. Let us hope that globalisation brings the ACVS and the ECVS closer together. It is certainly not our intention to make it easier for European veterinarians to receive green cards and to take away jobs from our American colleagues. Rather, it is all about making the exchange of diplomates at the university level easier. Unfortunately, both our guidelines state that reciprocal recognition of residencies is not feasible. However, even when a university on one side of the pond requires diplomates

from the other side because of a shortage of qualified specialists, available and willing candidates are restricted and forced to complete their residency program on "their" continent. This does not seem to make much sense.

Nevertheless, there is reason for optimism. It seems that the ACVS has become a bit more sympathetic towards our call for reciprocity. Likewise, our North American friends have started to view our intentions to support countries outside our combined jurisdictions more favourably in their efforts to establish new Colleges for Veterinary Surgeons. Let us work hard towards a College that does not define its members by national borders but by surgical expertise!

I am optimistic that we are on the right track and I hope to see as many friends and colleagues in Sevilla as possible.

With best wishes to all
Uli Matis

From the Chair's corner



Dear ECVS colleagues

As autumn descends on the Northern Hemisphere our Congress in Lyon seems a long time ago but is remembered with affection.

Olivier Lepage and his team made an enormous effort to great effect. We also welcomed 20 new Diplomates by examination and three ACVS Diplomates were accepted by the Board. This is another opportunity to say how much we appreciate the work of all those involved in organising the meeting, evaluating residents' credentials

and holding the examinations.

Miguel Valdés and his team have presented an excellent proposal for the 2006 Congress in Seville. We are most grateful to him for the work this has involved and for his commitment to take on the local organisation of the meeting. The concept of visiting different European cities for our meetings has endowed them with a unique quality and it is a great credit to our host Diplomates over the years that they are prepared to give so much time and effort on behalf of the College. We also have to thank our Irish contingent for their proposal for Congress in Dublin in 2007. For residents who wish to specialise in bovine surgery, the Board has decided to replace

the bovine programme with a General Large Animal programme and is producing a case log curriculum that will be along similar lines to the ACVS curriculum for their General Large Animal Programme.

Having advised that we planned to discontinue the Alternate Training Programmes in 2006, we have been directed by the EBVS that they must be maintained. Alternate Training Programmes will therefore continue but I would remind candidates that they are designed for surgeons who already have considerable experience in veterinary surgery but did not do a Standard Residency Training Programme. The requirements are detailed on the website and the Credentials Committee will examine

proposed programmes closely.

Several discussions concerning ACVS reciprocity have been held with Norm Ducharme who is now their President. We have detailed the differences in the two programmes and the form of reciprocity that we offer ACVS Diplomates who wish to work in Europe. Norm has been proactive over the issue and his Board is addressing the topic at their next meeting.

I hope you all had a good Christmas and New Year and I wish you well for 2006.

John Walmsley

News from the office



Dear friends

Recertification is up and running. We reviewed more than 140 applications. The vast majority went through with flying colours. However we noticed some problems

with practitioners, who do not publish. The Board will review the guidelines at the next meeting. We want to be fair to all our members but certain activities to maintain excellency are required from all our members.

We would like to remind you at this point of time of the various deadlines we have to keep in mind within the ECVS organisation. Be aware that the various committees meet two times per year. For the time being The Board meets in January and at the Annual Meeting, the Credentials Committee meets in fall and at the Annual meeting, it is therefore important

that information, documents and problems which need to be addressed by one or the other committee are at the office in Zurich at least one month in advance. Thank you for your attention.

Important deadlines for 2006:

- **March 1**
 - Contributions for the spring newsletter
- **March 31**
 - Membership dues payment
- **September 1**
 - Resident in training grant application
- **October 1**
 - Credentials/ annual reports submission
 - Contributions for the autumn newsletter
- **November 1**
 - Recertification file submission for diplomates of the year 2001
- **November 15**
 - Abstract submission for annual meeting 2007

Lyon meeting 2005 - facts and figures

The meeting counted this year over 400 attendants including faculty. Two hundred paid the normal register fee and 140 paid the reduced fee (residents/students).

From these people, 119 returned the questionnaire, a new statistical record.

Of these, 41% were from practice, 37% from faculties, 2% from the industry, 18% were residents (!) and 2% students. 52% of the registrants were Diplomates (either ECVS or ACVS), 49% were specialists in their own country, 39% were mainly treating large animals and 61% small animals.

The registrants came to the meeting by advertisements (5%), were informed by colleagues (16%) or reacted on a mailing from the ECVS office (70%) or came through other information (9%).

The registrants were asked for their opinions about the new meeting format. 77% liked the new format better, 2% less and 21% had no opinion for being the first time to the meeting. From those who knew the previous format, 98% preferred the new one and expressed their desire to keep this format for future meetings.

The following questions were semi-quantified with scores from 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent): The scores have been averaged for all registrants (A), for diplomates (D) and non diplomates (N) and also for Large animal surgeons (L) and small animals surgeons (S).

	A	D	N	L	S
Meeting organisation:	3.6	3.5	3.7	3.7	3.5
Quality of Proceedings:	3.3	3.4	3.1	3.0	3.5
Location of the meeting:	2.7	2.4	3.0	3.0	2.5

Frequent Remarks:

The quality of the proceedings book had a severe set-back by many loose pages ("falling apart"), the content was hardly criticised. The location was felt to be too far from the city and difficult to reach.

	A	D	N	L	S
Meeting facilities:	3.0	2.9	3.1	3.1	3.0
Social events:	3.8	3.8	3.9	4.0	3.7
Overall meeting quality:	3.7	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.6

Remarks: some people were disappointed that some speeches were French which they could not understand.

Scores of the presentations:

These scores have been separately calculated for the large (L) and for the small (S) animal presentations:

Combined state of the art:	L	S
clinical and ethical consideration:	3.5	3.5
The information age ...	3.2	3.4

Large animal presentations:

average score:	3.96
Resident forum	3.8
Development in urogenital surgery	4.2
Stifle surgery	4.4
Update farm animal surgery	3.8
Diagnostic techniques	3.7
Eye surgery	4.3
Short communications, general topics	3.6
Short communications, orthopaedics	3.9

At least 14 LA speakers were mentioned as excellent speakers, most Dr. Brooks (18), followed by Dr. Ragle (13), Dr. Bouré (9) and Drs. Boswell and Schramme (8).

Small animal presentations:

average score:	3.63
Resident forum	3.6
Update in treatment of CCL injuries	3.4
Oncology of the neck and head	3.7
Small fragment fracture repair	3.7
Thoracic treatment	3.9
Short communications, general topics	3.6
Short communications, orthopaedics	3.5

At least 20 SA speakers were mentioned as excellent speakers, most Dr. Lascelle (17) followed by Dr. Houlton (8) and Dr. Dejardin (5). Even a resident Dr. Findji was mentioned as excellent speaker; well done.

Unfortunately, the poster session was scored too less to result in reliable quantification figures.

General remarks indicated the satisfaction with the location and the presentation of the posters. More than 10 posters were considered excellent, but head and shoulders above the rest (17 nominations) was the poster presentation of Dr. Sprenger (equine carpal joint imaging).

Conclusion:

The figures may indicate that diplomates are a little spoiled by good meetings in the past; large animal surgeons a little less than small animal surgeons. There were some complaints about the accessibility of the facilities, especially the large distance between the veterinary school and the city. The friendly words of the French

officials have not reached all individuals in the audience, but the social events were appreciated.

The meeting was considered to be good, but not excellent. The combined State of the Art lectures did not quite satisfy the expectations by scoring lower than the average score for the large animal and small animal presentations.

The residents performed well by scoring close to the average scores. The large animal presentations were appreciated better than the small animal presentations. The poster presentations were appreciated and have been studied, otherwise not so many posters could have been mentioned as being excellent.

Dirk Riemersma

Congratulations:

The winners of the ECVS Iams award 2005 were announced during the banquet of ECVS Congress in Lyon on July 9. As in previous years the awards were given in two categories.

Small animal category

First prize winner was **Laurent Findji**, Clinique Frégis, Arcueil, France, for the presentation *"The folded flap palatoplasty: a new technique for treatment of elongated soft palate in dogs"*.

Runner up in this category was **Christopher Shales** from University of Cambridge, UK, for his presentation *"Canine sacro-iliac fracture luxation: Anatomical study of articular surface angulation and dorso-ventral safe corridor for lag screw placement"*.

Large animal category

First prize winner was **Frederik Pille**, University of Ghent, Belgium for his presentation *"Broad range 16S rRNA gene PCR compared to bacterial isolation methods for the detection of synovial infections in horses"*.

Runner up was **Harold Brommer**, University of Utrecht, NL, with presentation *"Functional consequences of cartilage degeneration in the equine metacarpophalangeal joint: quantitative assessment of cartilage stiffness"*.

Welcome to our new Diplomates

Barakzai	Safia Zarin	Roslin Midlothian	Great Britain	large animal	
Bass	Martin	Diessenhofen	Switzerland	small animal	
Beck	Alison	Herts	Great Britain	small animal	
Brissot	Hervé	Paris	France	small animal	
Burger	Michael	Berlin	Germany	small animal	
Corr	Sandra	North Mymms Herts	Great Britain	small animal	
Daude-Lagrave	Arnaud	Méré	France	small animal	
Delling	Uta	Leipzig	Germany	large animal	ACVS
Doyle	Ronan	Hitchin	Great Britain	small animal	
Freeman	Sarah L.	Sutton Bonington	Great Britain	large animal, Equine	
Gemmill	Toby Jonathon	Solihull	Great Britain	small animal	
Keller	Marcel	Affoltern am Albis	Switzerland	small animal	
Milgram	Joshua	Shimshon	Israel	small animal	
Moores	Andrew	Hatfield Herts	Great Britain	small animal	
Quinn	Gregory	Knutsford, Cheshire	Great Britain	large animal, Equine	
Risselada	Marije	Merelbeke	Belgium	small animal	
Siegfried	Roman	Oberentfelden	Switzerland	small animal	
Smith	Meredith	Cambridgeshire	Great Britain	large animal, Equine	
Stephen	Jennifer	Northaw, Herts	Great Britain	large animal	
Tessier	Caroline	Bern	Switzerland	large animal	ACVS
Vandekerckhove	Peter	Wondelgem	Belgium	small animal	
Velde	Karsten	Vienna	Austria	large animal	ACVS
Venzin	Claudio	Zürich	Switzerland	small animal	

Sevilla, Spain 2006

15th Annual Scientific Meeting - Hotel Meliá Sevilla from June 29th to July 1st

You cannot miss Seville 2006!! Get ready and start making plans for end of June. The 2006 annual meeting will take place in Seville (Spain) from Thursday 29th to Saturday July 1st. We are proud to announce that the social program is very close to be finished.

As you may know, Seville is one of the most historical and beautiful cities in the world, therefore, it is very easy to organize an unforgettable congress in Seville. The meeting will take place in the Hotel Meliá Sevilla (www.solmelia.com). This hotel will allow us to be all under one roof and downtown.

The hotel is the largest Congress Centre in the city. The scientific sessions, the coffee breaks and the exhibition area will be close to each other. At the hotel, near to 350 rooms are available at an exceptional rate: €95 plus taxes for a double room.

Seville is well known for its night life in summer, in order to get involved in the unique Southern-Spain "savoir vivre" the scientific sessions will adapt to the local life style - the main program will start and finish later in the day - so you should have plenty of time for a "siesta" and also go out for good food, flamenco and fun.

Thursday 29th, before going out to get the first



Torre del Oro and Giralda

contact with the Jewish Quarter, you will be able to get together with many Diplomates in the Welcome Cocktail. Friday 30th everyone will be able to explore the unique Seville way of eating: tapas, a one-bit cold or hot dish. A suggested tour with several stops at selected "tapas bars" will give a nice excuse to get lost in the many Christian, Muslim and Jewish legates that Seville offers you.

The Saturday banquet will be one of the highlights of the meeting. It will take place on an old traditional andalusian farm in the middle of rice fields where they breed cattle and andalusian horses. Cocktails will be served during the two hour boat trip on the Guadalquivir River followed by a typical spanish dinner on the historical andalusian "Finca - Isla Minima" (www.islaminima.com). You will enjoy a spanish open air night with flamenco dancing, andalusian horses, dancing and being together with friends until early morning.

Last but not least, I want to thank for the assistance and support of my colleagues in the local committee: Marta Prades, Javier Ezquerra, Antonio Cruz, Juan Marti, and Jorge de la Calle and my sister assistant Maria Angeles.

Do not miss Seville because it may be a once in a life experience.

Miguel Valdés



Isla Minima bull farm

Report from the Credentials Committee



The Credentials Committee had their autumn meeting in Zurich on November 18th and 19th 2005. The overall quality of the materials submitted to the committee this year was very good. The Credentials Committee wishes to thank all residents and supervisors for their

attention to detail when preparing credentials submissions and annual reports. Having these in good order makes the job of the Credentials Committee much more manageable. The web-based computer programme that we use to track each candidates progression proved to be an invaluable aid to this process. Again, we are indebted to Monika for keeping the material on this programme up to date and for helping the Credentials Committee meeting run smoothly.

Overall, the annual reports and new applications from 126 trainees (77 SA and 49 LA) were evaluated. In addition the credentials of 49 candidates (28 SA and 21 LA) were evaluated.

Nineteen candidates were accepted to sit the examination in 2006, 27 candidates were provisionally accepted pending final acceptance of publications or submission missing documentation of training. Two large animal candidates were rejected. Reasons for rejection were:

1. Publication not submitted by the deadline.
2. Second paper (case report with candidate as second author) not acceptable.

One of these candidates has appealed the decision.

One candidate (SA alternate) failed to meet the extended deadline set in 2005 and did not submit paperwork for November 2005.

Twenty nine applications from new trainees were evaluated and 27 of these were accepted. Two applications to start alternate VSTP were rejected because neither candidate fulfilled the criteria for entry into a VSTP, on the basis of inadequate experience.

One application for a new SA VSRP programme was accepted and one application for a SA VSRP programme was denied because of the lack of a second full-time specialist within the centre

making the application. One application for a SA alternate VSTP programme was denied because the proposed candidate was not sufficiently experienced to be considered for a VSTP and the proposed supervisor was not a diplomate ECVS. Two applications for new LA VSRP programmes were accepted

Of the remainder, 59 yearly reports were accepted without comment, three were provisionally accepted, pending completion of the report. Fifteen yearly reports raised serious concerns regarding the supervision of training, case numbers, case log balance or number of cases as primary surgeon, for which the Credentials Committee requested, in writing, that improvement be demonstrated for the following year. Of this 15, 12 were large animal programmes and 3 were small animal programmes. One report raised such severe concerns regarding training that it was not acceptable in its current form and additional supporting/explanatory documentation was requested.

Chairman's comments:

Publications:

Failure to meet publication requirements remains the most common reason for a candidate to fail to get his or her credentials accepted. It is clear that, in some programmes, the publications are left until the last possible minute. Commonly, it is not clear that the publications were submitted in time (Oct 1st) and often they are not accepted in time. Dealing with such incomplete files by extending deadlines has been considered fair and reasonable but creates a lot of additional work for the Credentials Committee. There is concern that this generous position adopted by the Credentials Committee is being abused. We would like to remind you that it is the responsibility of the supervisor and the resident to ensure that the publication requirements are fulfilled and that adequate documentation of this is provided. The TB reads as follows:

"Letters from the journal to prove that the papers were finally accepted for publication must be included in the Credentials file. Also, reprints or, if a paper is not yet printed, manuscripts of the papers must be included."

If papers are not finally accepted for publication at the time of the deadline, an extended deadline to wait for final acceptance of papers may be granted, at the discretion of the Credentials Committee. A prerequisite for having an extended deadline is

that the Credentials file contains a letter from the journal to prove that the paper was submitted in time before the deadline of October 1st. Without such letters in the file the application to sit the examination will be rejected, and a new application will have to be submitted next year."

Extended deadlines are at the discretion of the Credentials Committee and are generally given if the manuscript has been through the first review process and are pending decision of reviewers following revision. The Credentials Committee will continue to refuse extended deadlines for any papers not submitted by Oct 1st. We would also like to remind residents and supervisors that many journals may not be able to turn around manuscripts that require revision, in order for them to meet the extended deadline of March 1st.

Case load and case supervision:

As reported in previous years, the Credentials Committee noted that in LA programmes, low total case numbers, low numbers of advanced procedures and insufficient experience as primary surgeon is becoming a serious and ever increasing problem. The Credentials Committee would like to remind supervisors that the number of residents they take on is not only limited to two per Diplomate ordinarily, but should also be tailored to the case numbers in the training centre. It is unfair to enrol residents in the knowledge that the case load is "marginal" and risk the possibility of having

the case log element being insufficient at the end of three years. Such action by supervising Diplomates is unreasonable because it undermines a fundamental training objective of the college and creates an "us against them" atmosphere between diplomates and members of the Credentials Committee.

Inadequate supervision of residents has also been a recurrent theme, although there appears to have been significant improvement in several programmes in 2005. Again, the number of residents at a training centre should be tailored to the ability of the supervising diplomates to adequately supervise all elements of the training. The Credentials Committee has to take what is reported to them on trust but it remains clear that several training centres continue to operate with "marginal" supervision.

When a supervisor accepts a resident, they enter into a contract with that resident. It is the job of the Credentials Committee to ensure that that contract is fulfilled by both parties. The Credentials Committee works on the assumption that each supervisor has the continued health and reputation of the College at heart when designing and filling their training programmes. With this in mind we can all work together to build a stronger, more respected and more durable College for the future.

Daniel Brockman

Continuing education courses 2006

AOVET courses:

Oberdorf, Switzerland	February 15 - 17	Equine principles	English
Giessen D	February 17 - 19	Small animal / principles	German
Chile	March 16-18	Small animal basic	Spanish
Salzburg, Austria	March 30 – April 2	Small animal advanced	German
Columbus Ohio USA	May 4-7	small animal principles/advanced	English
		Equine basic	English
Sydney Australia	August 8-11	Small animal basic	English
San Diego	September 21-24	Small animal advanced	English
		Equine advanced	English
Cremona, Italy	October 17-21	small animal principles	Italian
Davos Switzerland	December 3-9	small animal advanced	English
		equine advanced	English

for more information please contact AOVET Centre Zurich
email: aovet@vetclinics.unizh.ch / phone: +41-44-635 8408

Equine Arthroscopy course in Telgte, Germany

Basic course June 9&10 Advanced course September 29&30

for more information please contact: Anne Richter at: richter@tierklinik-telgte.com

phone +49-2504 933212 or make your registration online under: www.tierklinik-telgte.com/telgte-ce