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Coronavirus / COVID-19 Update: Information on Annual Reports and Credentials Submission

The ECVS Credentials Committee (CC) and Board of Regents, are aware of the concerns that most of you have regarding the significant impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on your ECVS residency training programme.

We are all seeing an enormous reduction in surgical caseload as clinics must adjust to new working guidelines. Most, if not all of the veterinary hospitals across Europe and the world are closed for routine elective patient care and are seeing emergencies only.

Many scientific meetings are cancelled, and the majority of research laboratories are closed down. Therefore, ECVS residents will experience a time in which they cannot participate in routine clinical rotations nor will it be possible to present research at meetings or actively work on research projects other than preparing manuscripts at home. We understand that these events might have an impact on a resident's ability to complete credentials and we have been discussing possible solutions.

We would like to reassure you all that there will be a flexible approach to the credentialing process that will take into account Covid-19-influenced events. Currently, the College is working on the assumption that the 2021 certifying exam will take place in February, as normal. Of course, the current recommendations are subject to change, depending on how the situation evolves.

Activity Log:

- Please log any activity that is **unaffected** by the Covid-19 "lockdown", as you would normally.
- Please log time that is **affected** by the Covid-19 (e.g. supervised clinics) as "Covid-19-interrupted."
- "Covid-19-interrupted" weeks of activity will be factored in to any "reasonable adjustments" made to the overall requirements for 156 weeks of activity and the 94 weeks of supervised clinical activity, affected by the "lockdown".

Case load and supervision:

- Please log any cases done during "Covid-19-interrupted" weeks in your case log summary, as normal.

- The overall caseload and the recommended numbers of different case types will remain the basis for this aspect of credentials but again, “reasonable adjustments” will be made to take into account the impact of Covid-19 on caseload.

Supervised training in Anaesthesia, Diagnostic Imaging, Pathology, Internal Medicine:

- Residents submitting credentials for examination by the 15th August 2020 that have not completed one or two of the specialty rotations (Anaesthesia, Diagnostic Imaging, Pathology and Internal Medicine) because of Covid-19, will be allowed to sit the examination provided completion of all other core requirements is evident in the submission. The Diploma will be withheld until the CC have received proof of successful completion of the outstanding activity.

Meeting attendance, Presentations and Publications:

- The requirement to attend at least one ECVS Annual Scientific Meeting will be waived for this year.
- In order to complete the minimum requirement of presentations, on-line lectures addressed to post-graduate veterinarians (i.e. webinars, etc) will be counted towards the minimum of five presentations; providing the credentials submission contains appropriate proof of the presentation.
- For those residents submitting credentials for examination by the 15th August 2020 whose national/international presentation had been accepted by the programme organization of national/international meetings such as BSAVA, but the meeting has been cancelled, the presentation will be accepted as given provided submission of the proof of acceptance. **For those who had presentations accepted for ECVS 2020, credit will be given for this, providing you present your abstract in the online meeting on the 2nd July (details to follow soon).**
- Residents and supervisors should continue their regular attendance of journal clubs, M&M rounds and book clubs, using on-line platforms such as Zoom cloud meetings, Skype, etc. where possible.

Submissions deadlines and CC meetings:

- The submission deadline for annual reports by the 31st July 2020. The deadline for the submission of Credentials by the 15th August 2020. New programmes and new applicants by the 15th June 2020.
- **There will be a modified “Supervisor statement” that will specifically ask the supervisor to explain briefly how Covid-19 has interrupted the training, what activities it was possible for the resident to undertake, which ones were impossible to continue etc.**
- The Credentials Committee will conduct discussions in a videoconferencing format, at the normal times, if face-to-face meetings are not possible. Thus, there should be minimal or no delay in the decision making.

Extended deadline:

The CC is working on the assumption that it may be necessary to create an extended deadline (up to November 1st 2020) to allow residents to provide evidence that they have corrected critical deficiencies in their Credentials submission (as at 15th August and in accordance with CC evaluation) that were caused by the Covid-19 interruption.

Yours sincerely
Board of Regents and Credentials Committee