



European College of Veterinary Surgeons

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Recertification information

In order to maintain EBVS European Specialist status, recertification is required at the end of July in the 4th year after first being awarded Diplomat status of the ECVS, and then every 5 years thereafter. You may claim an additional ten points at the time of your first recertification to compensate for the shorter period of recertification.

Once you have been recertified, you may continue to use the title "European Specialist" for the next 5 years and your name will continue to be on the list of EBVS approved Specialists.

The European Board of Veterinary Specialisation specifies that Certified Diplomates must practise their specialty for more than 60% of their time, based on a working week of 40 hours. It is not permissible to be a European Specialist of more than one EBVS approved College.

Failure to re-certify will result in:

- 1. The loss of training opportunities of future Residents. Current Residents will be able to complete their programme*
- 2. Loss of the right to use the title of "European Specialist", and removal from the EBVS list of active Diplomates*

The award of the Diploma from the ECVS is not removed and membership of the ECVS may be continued.

Recertification can be obtained in one of two ways:

- 1. By sitting and passing the Practical Examination part (Part II) of the ECVS annual diploma examination (held every February)***

Or:

- 2. By submitting the recertification request form with 100 or more credit points, maintaining a satisfactory case log, and submitting two letters of reference.***

Option 1:

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 25th preceding the February examination.

Option 2:

The deadline for submission of the recertification application is no later than July 31st of the year in which you are required to recertify.

New diplomates are required to submit their first recertification request by 31st July in the 4th year after the year in which they succeeded in their Diploma examination (as an example, a diplomate who passed the examination in 2015 will need to submit their recertification request by 31st July 2019). ***You may claim an additional ten points at the time of your first recertification to compensate for the shorter period of recertification.***

Application for recertification requires:

1. Completion of the online Recertification request form (available via the 'your ECVS' area) with at least 100 credit points
2. Supporting evidence for the activities entered into the recertification request form.
3. Two letters of reference. Please note that only one of these letters may come from a person working in the same institution. Referees should not be related to the diplomate seeking recertification. Templates for the referees are available from www.ecvs.org/membership/recertification.php
4. Maintenance of a satisfactory case log.

Forms must be typed and all submitted documentation – including the reference letters – must be included in **one single zip file** and uploaded to online form.

An electronic signature is acceptable.

Evaluation is performed by the Recertification Committee according to the criteria published on the web site.

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 confirmed by your signature on the attendance sheets of the Annual Business Meeting (downloadable from 'your ECVS' – AGBM). For ACVS meetings, please provide scanned copies of certificates of attendance.

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**
- **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 according to ECVS Training Guidelines - 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 (available from www.ecvs.org/membership/index.php) 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.

8. Case logs

Case logs must follow the same format and guidelines as those for residents as detailed in the Training Brochure (available from www.ecvs.org/membership/index.php). 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.