



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 / www.ecvs.org

ECVS STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE:

Extended Publications Rule

For SVSRP Residents only

Examination credentials (application to take the ECVS certifying examination) are submitted by candidates after a minimum of 156 weeks or a maximum of 6 years from the start of their Residency Training Programme. The deadline for submission is the 15th August with intention to sit the examination the following February. However, in an attempt to **improve the impact of research** during Residency Training Programmes and in order to allow more time for data acquisition, additional time for manuscript acceptance can be granted under certain conditions. An extension may allow SVSRP Residents who only just miss their publication acceptance deadline to have their credentials accepted while waiting to hear from a journal. However, the Supervisor *remains fully responsible* for facilitating and supervising the publication component of their Resident's credentials, even if the Resident has left the Supervisor's institution and is employed elsewhere.

In normal circumstances, both publications should be accepted by the time of credentials submission (15th August). However, if ALL other credentials requirements have been fulfilled on time, including acceptance of ONE publication, without requests for extension for other elements *and* the outstanding publication has been submitted, a SVSRP candidate may submit credentials. The candidate will be allowed to take the examination the following February whilst waiting for the reviewer's decision on the second publication. This exception will only be granted if the publication has been submitted to a listed journal that is accepted by the Credentials Committee, as per the publication guidelines in the [ECVS Training Brochure](#). On applying for credentials, the details of BOTH the accepted publication AND the submitted publication should be included as usual for approval. If the publications have not been submitted according to the guidelines in the Training Brochure, then this extension WILL NOT APPLY and the rule WILL NOT BE APPLIED RETROSPECTIVELY. This extended publication rule is not available to AVSTP Residents.

If the candidate is successful in passing all three parts of the ECVS certifying examination, they *may not use any form of ECVS title or 'Board eligible' description until the outstanding publication has been fully accepted by the journal*. The time limit for this confirmation is ONE YEAR (12 months) from the submission of credentials (i.e. the 15th August deadline before the next February exam).

Once the publication has been accepted, the candidate must email the proof of acceptance to the Credentials Committee (credentials@ecvs.org) who will review the case at the [next scheduled committee meeting](#) in February, July or September.

When the Credentials Committee has confirmed approval of the publication, this information will be passed on to the Examination Committee. **The candidate is only allowed to use the title of Diplomate ECVS after the exam result and updated credentials have been ratified by the ECVS Board of Regents.**

If the publication is rejected and has to be submitted to another journal, the candidate must inform the Credentials Committee as soon as possible. If the rejection occurs before the first examination attempt, the candidate will be withdrawn from the examination.

If candidates pass all three parts of the examination, but the outstanding publication is not accepted within 12 months from credentials submission, they lose the opportunity to become a Diplomate with the original credentials. They will have to re-submit a complete set of credentials (including acceptance of the outstanding publication) by the 15th August deadline before the next examination and re-sit all three parts. Repeat examination attempts fall within the limit of 4 attempts within 8 years after the first credentials submission, as specified in the Training Brochure.

Candidates can appeal to the Board of Regents for reconsideration if there are exceptional circumstances for the delay of acceptance of the publication within the 12 month time limit.

If candidates pass only one or two parts of the examination, they must notify the Credentials Committee about acceptance of the publication within the original 12 months time limit from credentials submission. If the paper is not accepted within this time limit, they will have to re-submit a complete set of credentials (including acceptance of the outstanding publication) by the 15th August deadline before the next examination attempt and re-sit all three parts.

Repeat examination attempts fall within the limit of 4 attempts within 8 years after the first credentials submission, as specified in the Training Brochure.

Candidates can appeal to the Board of Regents for reconsideration if there are exceptional circumstances for the delay of acceptance of the publication within the 12 months time limit.

The option to delay submission of one publication aims to support candidates who wish to embark in potentially more impactful research at the beginning of their programmes (e.g. prospective trials vs retrospective or *ex-vivo* studies). For those candidates, the process should remain straightforward. It does not represent an opportunity to unduly delay fulfilment of publication credentials (i.e. starting a

project too late, not progressing as expected based on annual reports, etc.), **which represents a risk**: It is possible to have publications rejected by multiple journals and then run out of time or options to complete publication credentials and become an ECVS Diplomate. It cannot be emphasised enough that candidates **MUST** try to complete all publication requirements by the time of credentials submission.

Examples

Example 1

- August 2025: Resident submits credentials at end of the Standard Training Programme; one publication accepted, one submitted to a double peer reviewed journal listed in the Training Brochure (and according to publication guidelines in the [ECVS Training Brochure](#)). All other requirements are completely fulfilled.
- February 2026: Resident takes examination and passes all three parts
- August 2026: Second publication must be accepted in a journal listed in the Training Brochure, by 15th August 2026 for the Resident to become a Diplomate.

If the publication is not accepted by the deadline in a listed journal, then the examination result is suspended and the Resident has lost the opportunity to become a Diplomate based on the August 2025 credentials.

Example 2

- August 2025: Resident submits credentials at end of the Standard Training Programme: one publication accepted, and one submitted to a double peer reviewed journal listed in the Training Brochure (and according to publication guidelines in the [ECVS Training Brochure](#)). All other requirements are completely fulfilled.
- February 2026: Resident takes examination and passes 1 or 2 out of 3 parts
- August 2026: publication still not accepted

The Resident cannot have another attempt at the examination until the second publication has been accepted and credentials must be resubmitted. The attempts at the examination must still be within the guidelines of 4 attempts within 8 years of first submission of credentials.

Example 3

- August 2025: Resident submits credentials at the end of the Standard Training Programme: one publication accepted, and one submitted to a double peer reviewed journal listed in the Training Brochure (and according to publication guidelines in the [ECVS Training Brochure](#)). All other requirements are completely fulfilled.
- February 2026: Resident takes examination and passes 1 or 2 out of 3 parts
- August 2026: publication has been accepted

The Resident's credentials are fully accepted and he/she can continue to have the normal number of attempts at the examination going forward. The attempts at the examination must still be within the guidelines of 4 attempts within 8 years of first submission of credentials (in this example August 2025).

Publication Rules Summary from the [ECVS Training Brochure](#) (version 2024)

- Residents are required to publish a minimum of two articles in scientific journals. The articles should contain original scientific data. An editorial, comment piece, commentary or co-authorship on a consensus article will not be considered suitable.
- At least one publication must be a first-authored major article in English. The second publication may be a first-authored or second-authored major article OR a first-authored case report.
- The major and second publication published in one of the journals listed in the Training Brochure can be accepted by the Credentials Committee without detailed evaluation as long as it meets the criteria listed in the 'guidelines' in Element 8 of the Training Brochure.

For the purposes of this extended publication rule, there will be NO exceptions to publishing in journals that are not on the list in the Training Brochure.