



European College of Veterinary Surgeons

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ECVS STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE:

Recertification Guidelines

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 25th 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 31st of the year of submission.

A minimum of 100 credit points has to be accumulated for successful recertification. Credit points towards recertification can be obtained by a combination of supervision of residents, membership of ECVS committees, 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. 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 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 of Regents meeting. Diplomates may expect to hear of the Board's decision soon thereafter.