

# ESVCP Bulletin

The Official Bulletin of the European Society of Veterinary Clinical Pathology

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Important dates:

- Sept. 5-8, 2001, 11<sup>th</sup> annual ESVIM congress, Dublin, Ireland
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## Message from the ESVCP President

### **Dear Colleagues:**

As indicated below, much has happened within the ESVCP since our last newsletter. Firstly, there has been substantial progress in preparing for the application to the European Board of Veterinary Specialisation (EBVS) for Nov 1st 2001 to establish a European College of Veterinary Clinical Pathology (ECVCP). Secondly, we held our third ESVCP scientific and business meeting in Edinburgh with the Association of European Comparative Clinical Pathologists (AECCP). Plans are already underway for the next meeting.

**Letter of Rebuttal to EBVS** - Following our submission to the EBVS for Nov 1st 2000 of a letter of intent to establish the ECVCP, the EBVS requested further information from us indicating the need for independence of the speciality of European Veterinary Clinical Pathology from existing colleges. Following substantial discussions and enquiries, this letter was crafted by the ESVCP executive and several senior members of the ESVCP. It can be found on the ESVCP website (<http://www.esvcp.com>)

**Draft Application for ESVCP Member Review** - A DRAFT of the proposed Constitution, Bylaws and Information Brochure that are to be submitted in application to the to establish ECVCP is enclosed. These documents are also posted on the ESVCP website if you wish to review them from there. The documents are based on those of existing colleges, and on information presented at the inaugural meeting of the organising committee on June 5th 2001 in Edinburgh and at the July 24th 2001 Bern meeting of the ESVCP executive (minutes for both of which meetings are attached), on subsequent meetings and teleconferences, and on reviews by the organising committee members. Please provide your comments and suggestions within 2 weeks, by email to [pobmobuk@aol.com](mailto:pobmobuk@aol.com). Please Indicate whether you: Approve of this draft of the Proposed Constitution, Bylaws and Information Brochure of the ECVCP as it now stands. OR If you suggest specific changes (Please indicate which of the 3 documents and which section you are referring to)

**Identification of Charter Diplomates and Defacto Specialistst for ECVCP Committees** - The ORGANISING COMMITTEE of proposed charter diplomates has been selected by the ESVCP executive from those volunteering at the Edinburgh ESVCP meeting, based on meeting the EBVS criteria and recommendations (See constitution section 3.3). Anyone else wishing to be a charter diplomat, meeting these criteria, and willing to be an active ECVCP committee member please contact me by email as soon as possible. Also, anyone who wishes to be appointed as a defacto diplomat immediately upon EBVS approval of formation of the college, and who is willing to participate on ECVCP committees, please submit a CV in the EBVS format (see below). In your response, please indicate which committee you would like to participate in.

The organising committee will use your input to produce the final documents for the EBVS applications. The current 14 members of this organising committee are, in alphabetical order of country and person: Denmark- Asger Jensen; England - Joy Archer and Peter O'Brien; France:Jean-Pierre Braun and Corinne Fournel; Ireland: Hugh Larkin; Italy: Saverio Paltrinieri; Greece: Zoe Polizopoulou; Hungary: Tibor Gaal; Spain: Jose Ceron & Josep Pastor; Sweden: Maud Palm and Harold Tvedten; Switzerland: Anne Bolliger Provencher

The **ESVCP Edinburgh Meeting (see below)** was a big success with approximately one hundred attendees and 44 presentations orally or by poster and with good overlap with the associated meeting of the AECCP. The abstracts are expected to be published in the Fall issue of Veterinary Clinical Pathology. The detailed proceedings of the ESVCP meeting can be found on our website. Because of the ESVCP meeting being held so close in time to the **Dublin ESVIM meeting**, an ECVCP session was not held in Dublin. However, it was decided that we hold the next **ESVCP meeting with ECVIM in Munich**.

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Peter O'Brien

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### **Notes from the Editor:**

**ESVCP dues and membership:** For information regarding membership, please contact Kathy Freeman, Treasurer, ESVCP at [kfreeman@flexnet.co.uk](mailto:kfreeman@flexnet.co.uk). Dues for 2001 are 85.00 Euros and include a subscription to the Veterinary Clinical Pathology Journal. Dues for 2002 will be 100.00 Euros. If you are a member of ASVCP, please indicate this to Dr. Freeman and a reduction in dues of 45.00 Euros will be made in order to prevent duplication of journal subscriptions. If you have not been a member previously, a copy of your CV for review by the Executive Board is requested and can be sent to [POBMOBUK@aol.com](mailto:POBMOBUK@aol.com).

**ESVCP listserve:** The ESVCP listserve will change in the near future and a new location for it will be announced in the next bi-yearly newsletter. Few members were aware of its existence and consequently it was in little use. An ESVCP listserve provides members with an internet space to post questions and share information relevant to the discipline of clinical pathology. Subscription to such a list is free. As soon as the next listserve is up and running, instructions on how to subscribe will be announced, and it is hoped that there will be a little more traffic on the listserve where members share and exchange information.

Anne Lanevschi-Pietersma

**Member Advertisements and Announcements:** Input is requested from ESVCP members for a new section in upcoming issues of the ESVCP Bulletin that may provide information useful to fellow members (ie. study or employment opportunities, news on available resources). These may be addressed to the Editor.

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**Background on ESVCP:** The European Society of Veterinary Clinical Pathology (ESVCP; <http://www.esvcp.com>) was formed in Sept 1998 for the promotion of this discipline and out of the need for well educated clinical pathologists with certified experience for leading positions in commercial laboratories, industry, and veterinary schools. The ESVCP will be applying for specialty status to the European Board of Veterinary Specialisation. There are now approximately 145 members from across Europe.

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**ESVCP Website:** For information on constitution, membership, meetings and more, please visit <http://www.esvcp.com>.

**ESVCP Annual (2001) Meeting in Edinburgh:** The theme of the this year's 3<sup>rd</sup> annual ESVCP meeting was the "Current Practice of Veterinary Clinical Pathology in Europe", and was held June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2001. The meeting programme included sessions on the status of veterinary clinical pathology in Europe, the role of the veterinary clinical pathologist in the academic and commercial environment, companion animal clinical pathology, new technologies and methodologies, large animal and toxicologic clinical pathology. Minutes of the business meeting are found in this newsletter.

**ESVCP annual (2002) Meeting:** The 4<sup>th</sup> annual ESVCP meeting will be in conjunction with the ESVIM annual meeting in Münich. Details will be announced in the spring newsletter.

#### **Minutes of the Business Meeting of the European College of Veterinary Clinical Pathology**

Tuesday June 26, 2001, 6:25 PM

Holland House, Common Room, Pollock Halls, University of Edinburgh, Scotland, UK.

Attendance: approximately 40 members

Minutes prepared by: Peter Graham and Anne Provencher Bolliger

#### **President's Report**

Peter O'Brien presented a brief summary of progress on ECVCP (see attached minutes of inaugural organizing committee meeting held on Mon June 25th, 2001).

#### **Treasurer's Report (Kathy Freeman)**

- Circulation of report (attached)
- Current subscription fee and cash reserve:
- Current fee is 85 euros including ± \$45 US for journal (Vet.Clin.Path) subscription

Issue of necessary cash reserve was raised particularly with regards to conference costs.

POB noted the receipt of 8,000.00 £ sponsorship for this meeting in addition to the registration fees collected from attendees.

Kathy Freeman noted that because of a temporary misunderstanding last year during the changeover in ESVCP executives, some members had not been charged for subscription fees for Veterinary Clinical Pathology but received the subscription. Consequently, these fees were still owing to the Journal.

Dr. Mary Christopher indicated that under the circumstances the journal would likely waive the fees.

Suggestions:

Future search for sponsor ship to assist in the generation of a "cash reserve".

Possible "development committee"

Increase meeting registration or automatically include subscription in meeting fees for non-members.

Vote:

Increase annual subscription fee from 85 to 100 euros. Passed with majority vote.

Issue of increased advertisement and brochure development was raised. Communication committee agreed to look into this suggestion.

ESVIM treasurer checks our membership list against ESVCP.

ESCPV members that are also ASVCP members should notify the treasurer so they are not "double-billed" for journal subscription

#### **Report of Scientific Sub-Committee (Joy Archer)**

- Sponsors thanked for young investigator award and meeting
- Thanks for abstracts
- Decisions needed for possibility of:
- 2 day meeting with or without parallel sessions, round tables/workshops or stay with plenary session and short research communications
- Confirmed that original /unpublished research (not reviewed) abstracts will be published in Vet. Clin.Path.

#### **Communications Sub-Committee (Anne Lanevschi)**

- Website exists thanks to POB and spouse
- ESVCP listserve started by Johannes Hirschberger to be resurrected by Anne Lanevschi:
- Could do with more traffic; will include a reminder in newsletter
- Newsletter: going to move to June/July and Jan/Feb issue

#### **Report from ECVCP Organizing Committee (Peter Graham)**

Minutes as proposed

Separate circulation

Comments included:

Shortage of time for preparation of EBVS application to establish ECVCP before Nov 1st deadline (Jean-Pierre Braun)

Use of other colleges' models would facilitate preparation of application (E.Teske)

Emphasis on differences from other colleges would be important in application for an independent college (E.Teske)

Clarification of liaison EBVS members: Michael Heritage of Cambridge University, England, Erik Teske of University of Utrecht, Netherlands, Ted van den Ingh of University of Utrecht, and fourth person yet to be identified by EBVS to ESVCP

#### ***Other Business***

Next ESVCP meeting: to be held in Munich with ESVIM

There will be an early call for abstracts

Early contact with J.Rothuizen one of the Munich congress organizers from ESVIM will be made

Possible inclusion of laboratory technologists.

Will be 2 days duration with integration into ESVIM meeting.

Meeting adjourned: 7:50pm

#### **Minutes of the Executive Committee of the European College of Veterinary Clinical Pathology**

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2001. 9am to 4pm

Veterinary Teaching Hospital, University of Bern, Bern, Switzerland

Present:

Joy Archer (UK) for Corinne Fournel-Fleury, Peter O'Brien (UK), Anne Provencher Bolliger (CH).

Absent: Kathy Freeman (UK)

The aims of this meeting were to identify key charter diplomats to form the organizing committee (OC), give mandate, and go over applications.

Major issues that have been raised during the inaugural meeting and from correspondence with EBVS and Erik Teske were also discussed.

#### **Definition of Charter Diplomates and Application Review**

Peter O'Brien presented the role of charter diplomats (CD) as per EBVS constitution. These CD will act as members of the OC and form the interim executive committee of the new college until elections are organized. They will also choose the invited specialists (IS) who will identify the de facto diplomats (DF).

EBVS criteria to select charter diplomats include:

Veterinarian, qualified to practice in Europe

10 years or more in the specialty

PhD or equivalent degree

Author of a significant number of publications

No more than 2 CD per country

Must be ESCVP member

Must have showed significant work in teaching, research and practice of the specialty

Willing to give time and participation to the new college

CVs of individuals interested to become charter members were reviewed. The following participants were identified as potential charter diplomats:

J.Archer (UK)

JP Braun (F)

C.Fournel-Fleury (F)

H.Larkin (I)

P.O'Brien (UK)

M.Palm

S. Paltrinieri (I)

J.Pastor (E)

Z.Polizopoulou (G)

H.Tvedten (S)

Possible invited specialists and defacto diplomats were also identified.

#### ***ESCVP MINUTES***

Peter O'Brien explained that the EBVS suggested to have minutes and activities of the ESVCP made public and available. It was suggested to put all minutes on the website. Anne Provencher Bolliger would type conference calls and complete minutes of this meeting and the business meeting in Edinburgh. Joy Archer would provide minutes from the meeting in London with pathologists. Peter O'Brien would provide minutes from conversations with E.Teske in Neuchatel and communications with EBVS and liaisons.

#### ***FINANCIAL BOOKS***

Peter O'Brien explained that financial records need to be organized and structured so an audit can be done. Sizable donations were given in the past year. A business account may need to be opened. Anne Provencher Bolliger would help Kathy Freeman in the fall, after submission of the proposal to the EBVS. Until then, Peter O'Brien and Joy Archer to work with Kathy Freeman to finish financial transactions that need to be done (i.e.: reimbursement from meetings and payments to university and ECCCP).

Issues and controversies about the structure of the ECVCP that were identified during the OC meeting in Edinburgh were discussed.

**Membership criteria**

All agreed that EBVS criteria for selection and definition of diplomates should be followed.

**Type of diplomates**

In addition to the EBVS definition, additional types of diplomates were suggested.

Honorary diplomate: non voting member, selected by OC

Honorary member: non voting member, non veterinarian, selected by OC.

All agreed

**Definition of Veterinary Clinical Pathology**

All agreed that veterinary clinical pathology should be defined as:

Cytology

Hematology

Clinical chemistry (including endocrinology and molecular diagnostics)

General clinical pathology (including pathophysiology and laboratory management)

Supporting disciplines include: immunology, anatomic pathology and internal medicine.

Duration/description of training

All agreed:

Training should be defined as: supervised, specialized training

Minimum 3 years, do not need to be consecutive but must be completed within 5 years.

36 months separated in 4 sections (as per description of specialty)

Documentation must be provided

**Alternative training**

All agreed:

Minimum 4 years, one year must be done in an official supervised, specialized training

Can be shared programs

In the remaining 3 years, proof of courses/continuing education

Documentation, provided; all 4 sections to be represented

## **Examination**

All agreed:

First exam should be within 1 year after creation of college

Examination in 4 defined areas of vet.clin.path.

No histopathology

Similar format (multiple choices, cases, glass slides, kodachromes) as per ACVP

## **Eligibility for exam:**

All agreed:

Completed training

2 papers as first author: not more than one case report, no literature review, published in peer reviewed journal

## **Sub Committees to be chaired by OC diplomates:**

Executive

Exam/credentials

Education

## ***CONLUSION OF MEETING***

Anne Provencher Bolliger to write minutes

Documentation that Corinne Fournel-Fleury and Kathy Freeman agree with minutes

Peter O'Brien and Joy Archer to write first draft of constitution for review by ESVCP exec. Committee

After first draft completed and corrected, send to members identified as CD and then to all ESVCP members.

Minutes prepared by Anne Provencher Bolliger, verified by Peter O'Brien and Joy Archer

**European College of  
Veterinary Clinical Pathology**

## ***CONSTITUTION***

*Sept 2001*

## **INTRODUCTION**

The European College of Veterinary Clinical Pathology (ECVCP) will be established according to the general scheme for veterinary specialization in Europe which has been encouraged by the Advisory Committee for Veterinary Training (ACVT) and described in the "Policies and Procedures of the European Board of Veterinary Specialization (1995)".

The ECVCP was initiated by the European Society of Veterinary Clinical Pathology at its first meeting in Vienna on September 26th 1999. This College resulted from a growing desire to harmonize postgraduate training and provide certification in veterinary clinical pathology in Europe and out of the actual need for well-educated veterinary clinical pathologists with certified experience for leading positions in commercial and government laboratories, industry, and veterinary schools.

Veterinary clinical pathology is a discipline-oriented specialisation, which focuses on the diagnostic laboratory procedures for monitoring animal health and the diagnosis, prognosis, treatment and monitoring of animal disease.

The primary objectives of the College are to advance veterinary clinical pathology and promote a high standard of veterinary clinical pathology and veterinary clinical pathologists practising in Europe.

This publication provides the Constitution and By-laws of the European College of Veterinary Clinical Pathology (ECVCP) as accepted by the European Board of Veterinary Specialisation (May 2002, Utrecht), and an Information Brochure with further information about the European College of Veterinary Clinical Pathology, including description of the requirements for admission to the College, a profile of the specialty, and application and examination procedures.

## CONSTITUTION OF THE EUROPEAN COLLEGE OF VETERINARY CLINICAL PATHOLOGY

### Article 1: NAME AND STRUCTURE

1.1 The name of the College shall be: the European College of Veterinary Clinical Pathology - hereafter referred to as the "ECVCP", herinafter referred to as "the College"

1.2 The college shall be registered and domiciled in London, England.

1.3 The college shall be a part of the transnational structure for veterinary specialization in the European Community (E.C.), as recommended by the Advisory Committee for Veterinary Training (ACVT) of the E.C., set up by the Council Decision 78/1028/EEC of 18 December 1978 and OJ No L 302 of 22 December 1978, in its report doc. III/F/5285/3/91. The structure includes the Coordinating Committee for Veterinary Specialization (CCVS), the European Board of Veterinary Specialization (EBVS), the Supervisory Committees for the specialty, and the Colleges of Specialists.

1.4 The College shall be incorporated under the laws of England as a non-profit educational organisation. The term for which it is organised shall be indefinite. However, in the event of dissolution of the Corporation, its property shall be distributed for educational purposes as determined by the Council.

1.5 The College shall run concurrently with the calendar year, subject to the first society year ending on the last day of December of the year in which the college is established.

### Article 2: OBJECTIVES

The College shall have the following objectives:

1. To further scientific progress in veterinary clinical pathology in Europe.
2. To establish standards of training, experience, and examination for qualification as a specialist in veterinary clinical pathology in Europe.
3. To further the recognition of such qualified specialists by suitable certification and other means in Europe.
4. To develop and supervise continuing education programmes in veterinary clinical pathology in Europe.
5. To encourage and promote the establishment of standards for the performance of laboratory procedures in veterinary clinical pathology in Europe.

### Article 3: MEMBERSHIP

3.1 The types of membership in this organization shall be:

- a) Founder Diplomate
- b) Diplomate
- c) Honorary Diplomate
- d) Non-Veterinary Members
- e) Non-practising Diplomate

3.2 Qualifications for membership:

In accordance with the policies of the European Board of Veterinary Specialisation only veterinarians may become diplomates of European veterinary speciality colleges. Veterinarians elected to membership of the College shall be designated a diplomate of the European College of Veterinary Clinical Pathology and shall be authorised to use the designation of diplomate of the European College of Veterinary Clinical Pathology (Diplomate, European College of Veterinary Clinical Pathology; DipECVCP).

3.3 **Founding diplomates** shall be specialists selected according to the following criteria in order to establish the College and to enable it to function during the initial period. There are two types of founding diplomates who are not required to submit to examination, charter diplomates and de facto recognised specialists.

**Charter Diplomate.** These founding diplomates are distinguished and experienced members in the field. There shall be no more than 2 per European country and the number shall be limited to those essential to conduct the business of the speciality and to achieve provisional recognition. They must:

- a. be a member of the organising committee;
- b. have achieved distinction in the field and have qualifications far exceeding those proposed as necessary for candidates to take the certifying examination of the college;
- c. have at least ten years experience in the speciality, having spent at least 50% of their time practicing veterinary clinical pathology;
- d. have a PhD or equivalent degree;

- e. have contributed significantly to the field by research, publication and lectures;
- f. be recognised by their peers as leaders in their field and be uncontroversial to the majority of members;
- g. be resident in Europe;
- h. not be a Diplomate of another European College recognised by the European Board of Veterinary Specialisation; and
- i. be an active member of the European Society of Veterinary Clinical Pathology.

**De facto-recognised Specialist.** These are founding diplomates appointed by the Charter Diplomates. The de-facto recognition is possible upon application no later than 36 months after provisional recognition of ECVCP by the EBVS. To be appointed one must:

- a. have at least seven years of experience in the speciality, having spent at least 60 per cent of their time in the speciality;
- b. have published at least three original articles in refereed journals relevant to veterinary clinical pathology as first author and at least three additional articles as co-author excluding non-peer reviewed articles, review articles, and proceedings abstracts.
- c. be resident in Europe
- d. not be a Diplomate of another European College recognised by the European Board of Veterinary Specialisation
- e. be an active member of the European Society of Veterinary Clinical Pathology or other society of veterinary clinical pathology

**3.4. Diplomate:** A veterinarian who satisfies the ECVCP requirements as to training, experience, and competence in veterinary clinical pathology hereinafter described in Article 4, and is resident in Europe, shall be eligible. Alternatively, veterinarians who satisfy these ECVCP requirements, but have passed board examinations by comparable colleges outside Europe, or established prior to the ECVCP being established, may be eligible. Election of such candidates shall be accomplished by majority vote of the Council after review of their application.

**3.5. Honorary Diplomate:** A veterinarian who is not a Diplomate of the ECVCP but who has contributed in an extraordinary manner to the advancement of veterinary clinical pathology may be elected by majority vote as an Honorary Diplomate. Nomination for Honorary Diplomate Status shall be made through the sponsorship of two Diplomates. The sponsors shall furnish the Executive Secretary with such information concerning the nominee, as is required by the Council, e.g. curriculum vitae. Election of an Honorary Diplomate shall be accomplished by a two-thirds vote of the Council and by a two-thirds vote of the Business Meeting of the College. Honorary Diplomate status does not confer the right to act as a specialist in veterinary clinical pathology. Honorary Diplomates shall have all the privileges of membership except the right to vote or hold office and shall not be required to pay dues.

**3.6. Non-Veterinary Associate Members.** A non-veterinarian employed in a veterinary clinical pathology laboratory in a technical or managerial capacity with at least 5 years of experience. Nomination for non-veterinary associate membership shall be made through the sponsorship of two Diplomates. The sponsors shall furnish the Executive Secretary with such information concerning the nominee, as is required by the Council, e.g. curriculum vitae. Election of a non-veterinary associate member shall be accomplished by a two-thirds vote of the Council and by a two-thirds vote of the Business Meeting of the College. Non-veterinary associate members shall have all the privileges of membership except the right to vote or hold office. They shall be required to pay dues. Non-veterinary associate member status does not confer the right to act as a specialist in veterinary clinical pathology nor to using the designation Dipl ECVCP.

**3.7. Non-practising Diplomate:** Any ECVCP diplomate who has retired from the practice or teaching of veterinary clinical pathology may be designated a Non-practising Diplomate by the Council, at the diplomate's request. Non-practising Diplomates will be requested to pay a reduced fee in order to maintain all the privileges of diplomats, except the right to hold office.

3.8. Only diplomates of good standing with no dues in arrears shall be eligible to vote or hold office.

3.9. All diplomates are required to maintain activity in veterinary clinical pathology, maintain certification by continuing education in a form determined by the Council, and maintain activity in the affairs of the College, particularly by regular attendance at meetings.

#### **Article 4 - GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR BOARD EXAMINATION**

4.1. The following prerequisites must be met to the satisfaction of the Council before any candidate is eligible to undertake any Board Examination in veterinary clinical pathology. An eligible candidate must:

- a. have a satisfactory moral and ethical standing in relation to the practice of veterinary medicine;
- b. be qualified to practice veterinary medicine in Europe;
- c. be resident in Europe;
- d. complete at least 3 years of post-graduate training and experience in veterinary clinical pathology that is acceptable to the Council. Acceptable means a training programme of at least three years that is directed by a Diplomate of the ECVCP and is approved by the ECVCP.

**Supportive Study:** Additional to this 3 years of training and experience, one to two year's experience in clinical practice, internship or study in either veterinary medicine or veterinary pathology is considered optimal preparation of candidates knowledge of veterinary medicine and pathology to pass the ECVCP board examinations.

**Content of Training Program:** The 3-year training programme shall consist of a minimum amount of training of similar periods of time in each of the following 4 areas: (i) general clinical pathology ie pathophysiology, including immunology, and laboratory management, (ii) clinical biochemistry including endocrinology and molecular diagnostics, (iii) haematology, and (iv) cytology. At least 20% of time during training must have been spent in one or more of the following: research or clinical investigation in veterinary clinical pathology, preparation of scientific manuscripts, graduate degree studies, or externships to other institutions.

e. if either the supervisor is not a Diplomate or the programme does not provide training in veterinary clinical pathology as one of its primary functions, then 4 years of training in veterinary clinical pathology are required. One of these 4 years must be spent in training under the supervision of a Diplomate or in a programme that trains veterinary clinical pathologists as one of its primary functions. At least one month per year for each of the other 3 years must be spent attending courses or at another institution for training in veterinary clinical pathology;

f. have been the first author of two original articles which demonstrate application of scientific methods on subjects that are relevant to veterinary clinical pathology. The articles must be original, and have been published or accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal. Literature reviews are excluded. The articles may include one case report, and at least one article concerning one of the following: evaluation or validation of diagnostic methodology or technology in clinical pathology, retrospective or prospective study of clinical pathology changes in a disease or toxic state, or pathophysiological studies of clinical pathology change.

g. be active in veterinary clinical pathology for at least 60% of their normal working week.

4.2. Application will be made to the Secretary in a prescribed form and will be accompanied by an examination fee fixed by the Council. Letters of reference from supervisors and others are to be sent directly to the Secretary:

4.3. Eligible candidates will be examined by an Examination Committee appointed by the Council at the time and place fixed by the Council and in accordance with the policy established by the Council.

#### **Article 5 - OFFICERS AND COUNCIL**

5.1. The following Officers shall form the Council of the College: President, Past-President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and three Councillors.

5.2. The election of these officers and the duties of the officers and the Council shall be as provided in the by-laws.

#### **Article 6 - AMENDMENTS**

6.1 Any proposed amendment to this Constitution and to the by-laws, signed by at least three members of good standing, shall be submitted to the Council for its recommendation. The proposed amendment with the recommendations of the Council will be announced at least thirty (30) days in advance of any regular or special meeting of the College at which time the proposed amendment may be discussed. An affirmative vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) of members voting by secret ballot shall be required for the adoption of any amendment.

*as approved by EBVS on .....*

### **BY-LAWS OF THE EUROPEAN COLLEGE OF VETERINARY CLINICAL PATHOLOGY**

#### **Article 1 - DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

1.1. The President and Vice-President shall be members elected by a majority of members voting, using secret written or electronic ballots, and shall serve for three years, and then an election will be held.

1.2 The Secretary and the Treasurer, similarly elected from the membership, shall serve for 3 years. A Secretary-Elect and a Treasurer-Elect shall also be elected.

1.3 The Councillors, three in number, shall be members elected in the same manner as the other officers by a majority of members voting, each to serve a term of 3 years. No Councillor, having been elected for a full three-year term shall be eligible for re-election as a Councillor until after a lapse of at least two years following expiration of his term of office.

##### **1.4 Duties of the President, Past-President and Vice-President.**

a. The President shall preside over all meetings of the College and meetings of the Council, shall be a member, *ex officio*, of all committees, and shall perform the usual duties of such office.

b. The Past-President shall advise the President

c. The Vice-President shall be the President-Elect, shall be an *ex officio* member of all committees, shall preside at the meeting in the absence of the President, and shall succeed to the office of the President should that office be vacated.

1.5. **Duties of the Secretary and the Treasurer.** The Secretary shall serve as executive officer of the College. He or she shall keep minutes of all meetings and shall perform the usual duties of a secretary and such other duties as assigned by the Council. The Treasurer shall conduct the business affairs of the College, collect dues and fees, draw vouchers, pay bills and expenses, arrange for the safekeeping of College funds, keep records of all transactions and submit a yearly statement of financial affairs to the Council. Records shall be the property of the ECVCP and be available for inspection and audit.

1.6. **Duties of the Secretary-Elect and Treasurer-Elect.** The Secretary-Elect shall perform the functions of the Secretary in the absence of the Secretary and shall succeed to that office when it is vacated. The Treasurer-Elect shall perform the functions of the Treasurer in the absence of the Treasurer and shall succeed to that office when it is vacated.

#### **Article 2 - DUTIES OF THE COUNCIL**

2.1. The Council shall have the duties and powers ordinarily delegated to the governing body of the corporation, those responsibilities given by the Constitution are as follows:

a. Shall organise and operate a certifying agency for diplomates of the European College of Veterinary Clinical Pathology as provided in the constitution. The Council shall judge compliance of candidates with the general requirements of the Constitution, appoint an examination committee to operate under its supervision, and certify candidates who qualify. The Council shall make available to candidates and the interested public a detailed account of the experience and training prerequisites to all Board examinations.

b. Shall create and appoint members of all committees, supervise their activities, and receive their reports.

c. Shall report to the College annually its work and activities, including a full financial statement, and shall make such interim reports as are necessary and advisable.

d. Shall exercise its constitutional authority in promoting and attaining the objectives of the College especially those pertaining to professional, institutional and public relations.

e. Shall hold a meeting at least once a year.

f. Shall ensure all the results of each examination are announced at the same time.

#### **Article 3 - Committees**

3.1 The Council shall appoint a **Nominating Committee** of three members who are not members of the Council for a term of one year before elections. Nominations to all vacancies may be made by the Nominating Committee or to the Nominating Committee by any member in good standing. Nominations shall be made in writing and shall include a brief statement of qualifications of the nominee.

Nominations are to be submitted between January 1 and June 30 of the election year. The Nominating Committee shall prepare a secret ballot listing of all nominees. In the event that no nominee receives a majority of votes cast, the two nominees receiving the most votes shall be placed on a second secret ballot. Should a vacancy in any office occur, the Council may at its discretion initiate nomination and election procedures to fill the vacancy until the next general meeting of the College.

3.2 The Council shall appoint for a term of three years an **Education Committee** of three members who are not members of the Council. The committee shall elect its Chairperson annually. The duties of this committee are:

- a. establishing guidelines to assist applicants applying to sit the examination
- b. setting and approving criteria for training programmes, training institutions, and supervisors. Maintaining lists of approved training programmes, training institutions, supervisors and current candidates.
- c. monitoring the progress of each candidate by receiving the required annual reports from supervisors of candidates
- d. establishing guidelines for minimum requirements for the continuing education of diplomates
- e. developing and supervising continuing education programmes in veterinary clinical pathology in Europe.

3.3 The Council shall appoint for a term of three years an **Examination Committee** of three members who are not members of the Council. The committee shall elect its Chairperson annually. The duties of this committee are:

- a. receive, review, and approve the candidacy of applicants for examination by the College.
- b. receive, review, and approve the candidacy of applicants for diplomate status who satisfy ECVCP requirements but have passed board examinations by comparable colleges outside Europe, or colleges established prior to the ECVCP being established.
- c. prepare, administer and grant all examinations of the College. All training supervisors must submit five questions, along with their fully-referenced answers, each year to the examination committee.
- d. forward to the Council all examination results and recommendations regarding the granting of diplomate status

3.4 The Council shall appoint for a term of three years a **Laboratory Standards Committee** of three members who are not members of the Council. The committee shall elect its Chairperson annually. The duties of this committee are:

- a. setting and approving criteria for the performance of laboratory procedures in veterinary clinical pathology in Europe.
- b. approving clinical pathology laboratories for training programmes and training institutions in Europe. Maintaining lists of approved clinical pathology laboratories, of training programmes, and of training institutions. Clinical Pathology Laboratory standards that must be met include adequate facilities, compliance with health and safety standards, written operational procedures and policies, current methodologies and technologies, a program for quality management including internal quality control and participation in an external quality assurance scheme for proficiency testing, a laboratory information management system, documentation of personnel training and development, and a duty clinical pathologist, who has guided all aspects of laboratory management.

3.5 The Council shall appoint for a term of three years a **Science Committee** of three members who are not members of the Council for a term of three years. The committee shall elect its Chairperson annually. The duties of this committee are:

- a. Further scientific progress in veterinary clinical pathology in Europe
- b. Organise an annual European scientific meeting of veterinary clinical pathology
- c. Maintain an official journal of the ECVCP and active membership of the editorial board of that journal
- d. Maintain electronic media for dissemination of scientific information and for a forum to address issues in veterinary clinical pathology
- e. Maintain a newsletter to disseminate ECVCP information to diplomates.

#### **Article 4 - DUES**

4.1 The dues shall be as follows:

- a. Diplomates and founding diplomates: The dues shall be recommended by the Council and approved by a majority of the membership present and voting at an ordinary or extraordinary meeting of the College or voting by mail.
- b. Honorary diplomates will not be required to pay dues.
- c. Non-practising Diplomates will pay reduced dues.
- d. Non-veterinary members will be required to pay dues as for diplomates.

4.2. Dues shall be payable on January 1st of each year and shall be remitted to the Treasurer.

4.3. Fees connected with examination and certification of candidates shall be determined by the Council.

#### **Article 5 - MEMBERSHIP AND REGISTRATION**

5.1. Each individual elected to membership in the College shall be registered as a Diplomate of the European College of Veterinary Clinical Pathology, and shall be authorised to use the designation of Diplomate of the European College of Veterinary Clinical Pathology.

5.2. Each diplomate is required to keep records of their professional and scientific activities. The Council may from time to time require any diplomate to submit their record for inspection.

5.3. Diplomates are required to regularly (at least once every third year) attend annual general meetings and to participate in continuing education as determined by the Education Committee. When the speciality is practised insufficiently (less than 25% time) as determined by the Examination Committee or when the speciality has not been practised for two continuous years or the equivalent of two years during a period of 5 years, registration ceases by default. In the register this will be denoted as "Non practising Diplomate". During the non-practising period members are not allowed to use the designation Diplomate of the European College of Veterinary Clinical Pathology. A member seeking to revert to full Diplomate status needs to satisfy the Council that they now again meet the criteria for full Diplomate status, such as through practice of veterinary clinical pathology, and evidence of continuing educational activities.

5.4 Voluntary cessation of registration requires notice in writing to be received by the Executive Secretary before June 30 and will be published at the next annual general meeting.

#### **Article 6- DISCIPLINARY ACTION AND APPEALS PROCEDURE**

6.1. In case of improper conduct, the Council shall have the authority to recommend censure, suspension, or cancellation of membership. All deliberations shall be guided by highest standards to ensure fair and objective review. The accused member shall therefore have the opportunity to appear before the Council in person.

6.2. In the event of an adverse decision by the Council including denial of certification, denial of adequacy of credentials prior to examination for certification or to reregistration as a full Diplomate, and censure, suspension, or cancellation of membership, the affected person may submit a written appeal to Council for consideration within 30 days of the adverse decision. Council will reconsider on the grounds that the decision may have been made erroneously by (1) disregarding or failing to follow stated College procedures, and/or (2) failing to consider relevant documentation presented. Council will deliver in writing its final decision within 90 days after the appeal. If the affected person is not satisfied with the final decision, he or she may request mediation with representatives of the European Board of Veterinary Specialisation.

#### **Article 7 - CONDUCT OF BUSINESS**

##### **7.1. Quorum**

a. A Quorum of the College shall consist of 25 percent of the members of the College eligible to vote. The quorum shall apply to all meetings of the College.

b. A Quorum of the Council shall consist of a simple majority of that Council.

c. Meetings of the College shall be called by the President, subsequent to the approval of the Council. Should the President fail to set a date and place for an ordinary or for extraordinary meetings, the Council or the membership may, by majority action, set a date and place for such meetings.

##### **7.2. Frequency of meetings**

a. Meetings of the College shall be held at least once a year.

b. Meetings of the Council of the college shall be held at least once a year.

c. An extraordinary meeting of the College shall be held at any time at the written request, containing the explanation for such a meeting, of not less than 10% of the members. This meeting must be held within 3 months of the request.

#### **ECVCP interim arrangements**

1. An organising committee consisting of the executive of the European Society of Veterinary Clinical Pathology (ESVCP) and of the prospective Charter Diplomates shall prepare an application to the European Board of Veterinary Specialisation for provisional recognition of the College. Input from the membership of the ESVCP shall be sought in preparation of the application.
2. This organising committee shall widely publicise its activities.
3. The application for provisional recognition shall include a review by the European Board of Veterinary Specialisation of the curriculum vitae of the members of the organising committee.
4. After provisional recognition of the College by the European Board of Veterinary Specialisation the members of the organising committee shall become Charter Diplomates. These will immediately appoint defacto diplomates according to the criteria identified in the constitution section 3.3 who will assist in the formation of committees
5. The Charter Diplomates shall immediately establish an Interim Council of the College and solicit applications for defacto diplomat status
6. Applicants for defacto diplomat status should submit material to the secretary to enable assessment of the application using the constitution Article 3 section 3 as the criteria for review.
7. Applications shall be considered by at least three Charter Diplomates, and all applications shall be either approved by the current Council, or deferred to the Council elected in the second year.

8. Within one year of provisional recognition an election, by Charter and defacto diplomates will take place, to establish a Council for the second year of the College's existence with provisional recognition.
9. The procedure to consider applications for De-facto recognised Diplomate status shall continue for three years after the date of provisional recognition of the College by the European Board of Veterinary Specialisation.
10. After this time in 9. above entry to the College will be by examination by the ECVCP or diplomate status of comparable colleges from outside Europe or established prior to the establishment of the ECVCP according to the constitution Article 3 section 4.

**THE EUROPEAN COLLEGE OF VETERINARY CLINICAL PATHOLOGY INFORMATION BROCHURE**

The European College of Veterinary Clinical Pathology was established in 2002 to advance veterinary clinical pathology and promote high standards within the specialty in Europe. The European College of Veterinary Clinical Pathology represents an organised effort to establish criteria for training and experience to qualify as a specialist in veterinary clinical pathology. The organisation encourages veterinarians entering veterinary clinical pathology to acquire training and competence based on approved standards. Those who meet the standards of training and competence established by the College will be awarded a suitable certificate. A list of diplomates is maintained for guidance of institutions and the public.

### **OBJECTIVES**

1. To further scientific progress in veterinary clinical pathology in Europe.
2. To establish standards of training, experience, and examination for qualification as a specialist in veterinary clinical pathology in Europe.
3. To further the recognition of such qualified specialists by suitable certification and other means in Europe.
4. To develop and supervise continuing education programmes in veterinary clinical pathology in Europe.
5. To encourage and promote the establishment of standards for the performance of laboratory procedures in veterinary clinical pathology in Europe.

### **DEFINITION AND MEMBERSHIP**

Veterinary clinical pathology is a discipline-oriented specialisation, which focuses on the diagnostic laboratory procedures for monitoring animal health and the diagnosis, prognosis, treatment and the monitoring of animal disease.

Membership includes veterinary pathologists with a wide variety of career pathways and employments such as in private clinical pathology practice, commercial and government diagnostic laboratories, academia, research institutes, pharmaceutical discovery and development, and other industry. A veterinarian who has satisfied the requirements as to character, training and experience and competence in veterinary clinical pathology, including satisfactory completion of the certifying examination, is eligible for membership. Election of such candidates is accomplished by majority vote of the Council.

Any member who has retired from the practice or teaching of veterinary clinical pathology may be designated a Non-practicing Diplomate by the Council, at the member's request. Non-practicing members will be requested to pay a reduced fee in order to maintain all the privileges of diplomates, except the right to hold office.

A person who has contributed in an extraordinary manner to the advancement of veterinary clinical pathology may be elected as an Honorary Member of the College, or if they are a veterinarian, as an Honorary Diplomate of the College. Election is by a majority vote of the Council, confirmed by a majority vote of the membership of the College. Honorary members and diplomates shall have all the privileges of membership except the right to vote or hold office and shall not be required to pay dues.

A non-veterinarian employed in a veterinary clinical pathology laboratory in a technical or managerial capacity with at least 5 years of experience. Nomination for non-veterinary associate membership shall be made through the sponsorship of two Diplomates. The sponsors shall furnish the Executive Secretary with such information concerning the nominee, as is required by the Council, e.g. curriculum vitae. Election of a non-veterinary associate member shall be accomplished by a two-thirds vote of the Council and by a two-thirds vote of the Business Meeting of the College. Non-veterinary associate members shall have all the privileges of membership except the right to vote or hold office. They shall be required to pay dues. Non-veterinary associate member status does not confer the right to act as a specialist in veterinary clinical pathology nor to using the designation Dipl ECVCP.

### **APPLICATION FOR EXAMINATION**

**The examination of the European College of Veterinary Clinical Pathology will be held in September of each year.**

Application forms, available from the Secretary, require the signature of a Diplomate of the College, who sponsors the candidate by certifying that an approved programme of training has been followed to permit sitting for the examination.

An application is valid for only one year except for repeat candidates (see "Results of the Examination")

The signing sponsor should be the person most responsible for the candidate's training. When this is not possible the applicant should provide an appropriate explanation to the Council. In cases where the supervisor of training is not a Diplomate of the ECVCP, the signature of a Diplomate must be obtained to signify that the training has been reviewed for adequacy and is consistent with the requirements of the College.

**Completed application forms accompanied by the examination fee of 500 EURO must be received by the Secretary postmarked not later than March 1st of the year of examination.**

Eligibility to sit the examination is determined by the Council in early April; applicants are promptly notified as to acceptance. If the applicant's credentials are not accepted, or if candidates withdraw from the examination prior to June 1st, fees are refunded, except for a 10 percent processing charge. No refunds are made after this date, and no fees may be carried over to be applied toward an exam in a subsequent year.

An individual who has received an unfavourable ruling regarding qualifications to sit the examination may appeal against this decision. Such an appeal must be received in writing to the secretary within 30 days of the date of the letter informing the individual of the unfavourable decision.

## GENERAL REQUIREMENTS OF BOARD EXAMINATION

The following general prerequisites must be met to the satisfaction of the Council before any candidate is eligible to sit the Board Examination in veterinary clinical pathology. An eligible candidate must:

- a. have a satisfactory moral and ethical standing in relation to the practice of veterinary medicine;
- b. be qualified to practice veterinary medicine in Europe;
- c. be resident in Europe;
- d. complete at least 3 years of post-graduate training and experience in veterinary clinical pathology that is acceptable to the Council. Acceptable means a training programme of at least three years that is directed by a Diplomate of the ECVCP and is approved by the ECVCP.

**Supportive Study:** Additional to this 3 years of training and experience, one to two year's experience in clinical practice, internship or study in either veterinary medicine or veterinary pathology is considered optimal preparation of candidates knowledge of veterinary medicine and pathology to pass the ECVCP board examinations.

**Content of Training Program:** The 3-year training programme shall consist of a minimum amount of training of similar periods of time in each of the following 4 areas: (i) general clinical pathology ie pathophysiology, including immunology, and laboratory management, (ii) clinical biochemistry including endocrinology and molecular diagnostics, (iii) haematology, and (iv) cytology. At least 20% of time during training must have been spent in one or more of the following: research or clinical investigation in veterinary clinical pathology, preparation of scientific manuscripts, graduate degree studies, or externships to other institutions.

e. if either the supervisor is not a Diplomate or the programme does not provide training in veterinary clinical pathology as one of its primary functions, then 4 years of training in veterinary clinical pathology are required. One of these 4 years must be spent in training under the supervision of a Diplomate or in a programme that trains veterinary clinical pathologists as one of its primary functions. At least one month per year for each of the other 3 years must be spent attending courses or at another institution for training in veterinary clinical pathology;

f. have been the first author of two original articles which demonstrate application of scientific methods on subjects that are relevant to veterinary clinical pathology. The articles must be original, and have been published or accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal. Literature reviews are excluded. The articles may include one case report, and at least one article concerning one of the following: evaluation or validation of diagnostic methodology or technology in clinical pathology, retrospective or prospective study of clinical pathology changes in a disease or toxic state, or pathophysiological studies of clinical pathology change.

g. be active in veterinary clinical pathology for at least 60% of their normal working week.

## VETERINARY CLINICAL PATHOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR DIPLOMATE STATUS

**1. Definition:** A veterinary clinical pathology Training Programme allows graduate veterinarians to acquire in-depth knowledge of veterinary clinical pathology and its supporting disciplines under the supervision and guidance of a Diplomate of the European College of Veterinary Clinical Pathology, or in selected approved Alternative Training Programmes.

### 2. Objectives of a Veterinary Clinical Pathology Training Programme

- A. To promote aptitude and proficiency in veterinary clinical pathology.
- B. To instruct graduate veterinarians in the science and practice of veterinary clinical pathology and its supporting disciplines.
- C. To provide graduate veterinarians with the opportunity to pursue a career in teaching, research, diagnostic, industrial or regulatory / governmental practice of veterinary clinical pathology.
- D. To advance veterinary clinical pathology through promotion of research and publications.

**3. General Programme Description.** To become eligible for the qualifying examination training can be obtained either through Specialised Training Programmes or Alternative Programmes.

**A: Specialised Training Programme** This training programme is supervised by a Diplomate of the European College of Veterinary Clinical Pathology and is designed to allow veterinary graduates, employed within a teaching institution, to receive the training needed to become eligible to take the Diplomate examination.

(i) **Prerequisite:** Prospective trainees should be qualified to practice veterinary medicine in Europe, or present evidence, which in the judgement of the Council of the European College of Veterinary Clinical Pathology, is an equivalent qualification.

(ii) **Diplomate supervision:** A Diplomate of the European College of Veterinary Clinical Pathology must supervise the training programme. This Diplomate shall be responsible for the administration and continuity of the programme and the evaluation at regular (at least each 6 months) intervals of performance and progress of the trainee. In approved cases (alternative training programme) other veterinary clinical pathology specialists can act as supervisors.

(iii) **Duration of Training.** The training programme shall be a minimum of 36 months duration accomplished within 5 consecutive years.

(iv) **Content of Training.** The 3-year training programme shall consist of a minimum amount of training of similar periods of time in each of the following 4 areas: general clinical pathology (pathophysiology -including immunology- and laboratory management), clinical biochemistry including endocrinology and molecular diagnostics, haematology, and cytology. Additionally, the programme will include some training by direct contact with diplomates or similarly qualified persons in clinical medicine and morphologic pathology (especially histopathology). The purpose of this training is to develop understanding and experience with the interaction of these areas with clinical pathology and not to develop expertise in these areas. Ideally this training will be regular and continuous but if this is not available then at least one months rotation in each of these specialities is acceptable.

The main species to be studied are companion animals (primarily dog and cat and rabbit), farm animals (primarily cattle, sheep, pigs, and poultry), horses, laboratory animals (primarily dog, rat, mouse, monkey), and to a lesser extent non-traditional pet species (birds, fish, reptiles), zoo animals and wildlife.

- a) Pathophysiological basis of disease
- b) Current principles and practices of Laboratory Management including :
- Selection, evaluation and validation of assay methods and technologies;
  - Sample collection and processing for clinical biochemical, haematological or cytological analysis;
  - Good laboratory practice, quality control, proficiency testing, and laboratory auditing;
  - Computerised data collection and management;
  - Statistical analysis of data and establishment of reference intervals;
  - Basics of epidemiology and study design;
  - Evaluation of diagnostic efficiency of diagnostic tests;
  - Laboratory personnel management, including supervision, training, and continuing education
- c) Current principles and practices of clinical biochemistry, haematology, and cytology, including
- Science of the discipline;
  - Current methods and technologies,
  - Current routine and esoteric parameters;
  - Species differences, primarily for companion animal, large animal, and laboratory animals, and major differences for exotic animals, poultry, and fish;
  - Integration of data with that from other areas of clinical pathology;
  - Integration of data with data/information from clinical medicine, morphologic pathology (especially histopathology) and immunology where appropriate
- (v) **Learning environment:**
- a) The programme should emphasize basic understanding of pathophysiologic mechanisms of clinical pathology changes at a molecular, cellular, organ and whole animal level,
  - b) The environment should provide the intellectual and physical facilities for the advancement of the science of veterinary clinical pathology through structured discussion, practice of veterinary clinical pathology, research and publication.
  - c) Clinical Pathology Laboratory standards that must be met include adequate facilities, compliance with health and safety standards, written operational procedures and policies, current methodologies and technologies, a program for quality management including quality control and proficiency testing, a laboratory information management system, documentation of personnel training and development, and a duty clinical pathologist, who has guided all aspects of laboratory management.
- (v) **Investigative activity.** At least 20% of time during training must be spent in one or more of the following: research or clinical investigation in veterinary clinical pathology, preparation of scientific manuscripts, graduate degree studies, or externships to other institutions.

**B. Alternative Veterinary Clinical Pathology Training Programme:** This training programme is designed to allow veterinary graduates, employed outside a teaching institution, to undertake the additional training needed to become eligible to take the Diplomate examination.

- (i) **Prerequisite:** Prospective Alternative Trainee's should be qualified to practice veterinary medicine in Europe, or present evidence, which in the judgement of the Council of the European College of Veterinary Pathologists, is an equivalent qualification.
- (ii) **Diplomate supervision:** supervision by a Diplomate of the European College of Veterinary Clinical Pathology is strongly encouraged, but also other veterinary clinical pathology specialists may act as supervisors.
- (iii) **Duration of Training:** The training programme shall be a minimum of 48 months duration accomplished within 5 consecutive years. Candidates must spend, at least, a total of one year working in an approved training programme, as described under 3A and a minimum of one month per each of the additional 3 years in formal course work or in secondment at a different institute for training in clinical pathology.
- (iv) **Content of Training:** The 4-year training programme shall consist of a minimum amount of training of similar periods of time in each of the following 4 areas: general clinical pathology (pathophysiology -including immunology- and laboratory management), clinical biochemistry including endocrinology and molecular diagnostics, haematology, and cytology. Additionally, the programme will include some training by direct contact with diplomates or similarly qualified persons in clinical medicine and morphologic pathology (especially histopathology) in order to develop understanding and experience with the interaction of these areas with clinical pathology. Ideally this training will be regular and continuous but if this is not available then at least one months rotation in each of these specialities is acceptable.

- a) Pathophysiological basis of change in clinical pathology parameters and relationship to findings in clinical medicine and morphologic pathology
- b) Current principles and practices of Laboratory Management including :
- Selection, evaluation and validation of assay methods and technologies;
  - Sample collection and processing for clinical biochemical, haematological or cytological analysis;
  - Good laboratory practice, quality control, proficiency testing, and laboratory auditing;
  - Computerised data collection, management, and analysis;
  - Statistical analysis of data and establishment of reference ranges;
  - Evaluation of diagnostic efficiency of diagnostic tests;
  - Laboratory personnel management, including supervision, training, and continuing education
- c) Current principles and practices of clinical biochemistry, haematology, and cytology, including
- Science of the discipline;
  - Current methods and technologies,
  - Current routine and esoteric parameters;
  - Species differences, primarily for companion animal, large animal, and laboratory animals, and major differences for exotic animals, poultry, and fish;
  - Integration of data with that from other areas of clinical pathology;
  - Integration of data with from clinical medicine, pathology and immunology where appropriate
- (iv) **Learning environment:**
- a) The programme should emphasize basic understanding of disease mechanisms at a molecular, cellular, organ and whole animal level.
  - b) The environment should provide the intellectual and physical facilities for the advancement of the science of veterinary clinical pathology through structured discussion, research and publication.
  - c) Clinical Pathology Laboratory standards that must be met include adequate facilities, compliance with health and safety standards, written operational procedures and policies, current methodologies and technologies, a program for quality management including quality control and

proficiency testing, a laboratory information management system, documentation of personnel training and development, and a duty clinical pathologist, who has guided all aspects of laboratory management.

(v) **Investigative activity.** At least 20% of time during training must be spent in one or more of the following: research or clinical investigation in veterinary clinical pathology, preparation of scientific manuscripts, graduate degree studies, or externships to other institutions.

C. **Continuing education:** National and international continuing education programmes, meetings and courses are essential additional learning sources. Suitable continuing education may include, for example, those programmes, meetings and courses organised by or under the auspices of the European College of Veterinary Clinical Pathology and the American Society of Veterinary Clinical Pathology.

D. Facilities, services and equipment required for training programmes preparing candidates for ECVCP Board Examination include:

(i) **Veterinary / Medical Library:** A library containing current textbooks and journals relating to veterinary clinical pathology and its supporting disciplines must be readily accessible directly or electronically to the programme participant. Additionally, full electronic access to the worldwide websites concerning veterinary clinical pathology must be readily available.

(ii) **Clinical Pathological records:** A complete clinical pathological record must be maintained for each individual case and those records must be retrievable.

(iii) **Clinical Pathology facilities:**

a. **Microscopy examination room:** The room(s) for cytological and haematological examination must be designed, constructed and maintained consistent with current concepts. High quality facilities for photomicrography are mandatory. Microscopic slides and transparencies / photographs must be archived and retrievable.

b. **Laboratory:** A clinical pathology laboratory must be designed, constructed and maintained consistent with current concepts as defined by the laboratory standards committee.

## PREPARATION FOR THE EXAMINATION

The candidate's goal should be to acquire knowledge sufficient to assume responsibility for the broad spectrum of problems encountered by veterinary clinical pathologists. The College believes training can be best accomplished in units (departments, institutions) where there are several Diplomates of the College and where a primary purpose is training in veterinary clinical pathology. The College recognizes that training also occurs effectively in other settings but believes, in general, it may require more time. Periods of secondment to other institutions are necessary to broaden training and preparation for examination. In addition to academic studies calculated to provide adequate insight into basic principles of clinical pathology, the candidate must have practical experience in performing their professional duties. These should include the application of all standard methods and procedures of clinical pathology to any given case, with a view to demonstrating the nature of the disease process, or to making a diagnosis, or both. While the clinical pathologist need not be a technician in the performance of laboratory procedures, thorough familiarity with the uses, limitations, and application of such tests and instruments and the ability to supervise their performance and to interpret their data are required.

The certificate of membership of the College is granted only after the applicant has completed a period of training and has demonstrated, by thorough formal examination, the ability to perform the duties and assume the responsibilities of a veterinary clinical pathologist. Standards that must be met are strict and the study and training arduous.

## THE EXAMINATION

The examination is designed to test candidates' (a) understanding of the broad principles of clinical pathology, (b) ability to practice competently veterinary clinical pathology and (c) ability to synthesise data and observations in problem solving.

The format of the examination shall include four parts.

### 1. General Clinical Pathology

This part of the examination tests the understanding of pathophysiology of disease (including immunology) and general principles of laboratory management. It will consist of approximate 60 multiple choice questions and 4 essay questions.

### 2. Clinical Biochemistry

This part of the examination tests the understanding of clinical biochemistry. It will consist of approximate 50 multiple choice questions and 4 cases discussed by essay. The cases involve integrated interpretation of biochemical, hematologic, and urinalysis data. Questions will be designed to achieve a balance between species, systems, and diseases.

### 3. Haematology

This part of the examination tests the understanding of haematology. It will consist of three sections, approximately 40 multiple choice questions, 20 questions on projected 35 mm transparency illustrations, and evaluation of 10 haematology glass slides. Required answers include a complete description, a morphologic and an etiologic diagnosis, or appropriate differential diagnosis with suggestions for additional diagnostic procedures. Questions will be designed to achieve a balance between species, systems, and diseases.

### 4. Cytology

This part of the examination tests the understanding of cytology. It will consist of three sections, approximately 25 multiple choice questions, 25 questions on projected 35 mm transparency illustrations, and evaluation of 15 cytology glass slides. Required answers include a complete description, a morphologic and an etiologic diagnosis, or appropriate differential diagnosis with suggestions for additional diagnostic procedures. Questions will be designed to achieve a balance between species, systems, and diseases.

Pass-fail lines for the examination are determined prior to the examination. For each part a grade of 60 percent or more is a passing mark.

## ORGANISATION OF THE EXAMINATION

The examination will be held every year at one central location in Europe and will be taken in the English language.

## WITHDRAWAL / ILLNESS

Withdrawal prior to the examination, or failure to appear for the examination will not constitute an attempt to sit all or any part(s) of the exam, but will count as one of the years for which repeat candidates are eligible to pass any previously failed part(s). A candidate's illness during preparation for, or during the actual examination, will not be considered a valid reason to waive the rules of the College. In the event a candidate starts, but is unable to complete the examination, results will be determined for all sections for which the candidate is scheduled, regardless of the number of sections completed.

## **RESULTS OF EXAMINATION**

Candidates are required to satisfactorily complete all parts of the certification examination. Successful candidates are certified as a "Veterinary Clinical Pathologist". All certified persons are designated as Diplomates of the European College of Veterinary Clinical Pathology (Dipl. ECVCP).

A candidate who takes the examination and passes two or three parts, retains credit for the parts passed for the next four years, provided a mark of more than 30% has been attained in the failed parts. Only two additional attempts to pass the failed parts are permitted within these next four years. Candidates who wish to retake the part(s) failed must announce their intentions in a letter received by the Secretary, postmarked not later than March 1st of the year in which they wish to retake the examination accompanied by a fee of 50% of the current registration fee.

Candidates who do not pass the failed parts as described above must reapply as new candidates and retake all parts (see "Application for Certification" section for date, fee and instructions. A new application form is required).

Candidates who attempt all parts of the examination and who fail three or four parts must reapply as new candidates and must retake all parts of the examination. All such candidates must submit a new application form (for date, fee and instructions see "Application for Certification" section).

A candidate who fails a certifying examination may request that the marks of the parts failed be retotalled to verify the accuracy of the results reported. The verification process is not intended to evaluate the content or interpretation of the examination or candidate responses but to determine that the scores are correctly totalled. Such requests must be received in writing, accompanied by a fee of 100 EURO, within 30 days of the date of mailing of the results of the examination to the candidate.

## **SIGNIFICANCE OF CERTIFICATION**

The European College of Veterinary Clinical Pathology was established in 2002 with the objectives of furthering progress in the science and practice of veterinary clinical pathology and of establishing standards of training and experience which merit recognition of qualified specialists in that field.

The candidates are accepted into the organisation on the basis of exacting professional requirements which fit him/her for a highly specialised service. The European College of Veterinary Clinical Pathology realizes, too, that in identifying an individual as meeting these requirements it stakes its reputation on his/her conscientious rendering of such service and on the commitment of its Diplomates to their own continuing professional development to maintain the College's high standards.