

# **Guidelines for applying to take the ECVN examination as internationally recognized specialist (without approved residency)**

(Approved by the Executive Committee, March 2024)

These guidelines have been written to help the candidates to understand the way the Credential Committee will examine their application.

The College may certify veterinarians who have passed the College's examinations, which they were allowed to sit based on being judged to be Internationally recognized specialists: Application to take the ECVN examination without having previously undertaken an approved residency. The applicant must provide evidence that they are equivalent to, or exceed, the standard of a candidate that has been approved to sit the College's examination after undergoing an approved residency. In order to demonstrate this the following must be submitted:

- a) Curriculum vitae CV - to cover entire professional career (university onwards)
- b) Published papers: a complete list should be in the CV.
  - i. The quality of the papers shall be evaluated by members of the ECVN Credentials Committee.
  - ii. At least 10 papers should relate to the veterinary neurology and have been published within the preceding 7 years.

Candidates are required to demonstrate that they have contributed to research within the field of neurology. In order to facilitate this, the candidate should have written, submitted and provided proof of publication at least 10 articles pertaining to clinical veterinary neurology or the field of neuroscience as first author or last author in a peer-reviewed scientific international journal publishing. Seven publications « covering various aspects of veterinary neurology,» must be prospective or retrospective scientific studies or original laboratory-based research studies (minimal number of 5 animals) in neuroscience with a minimum impact factor of 0.5 the year of publication. The other publications can be either case reports or retrospective or prospective scientific studies in a peer-reviewed scientific international journal publishing. Systematic reviews are not suitable publications for either category. The publications must be submitted in an international journal. Journals will be considered as international if their articles are referenced in PubMed database and registered to the International Citation Index.

- iii. There should be evidence of current activity in veterinary neurology demonstrated through recent publication in peer reviewed international journals.
- iv. If these 10 papers are in a language other than English, an English translation, performed by the applicant, should be provided (if at least 10 papers are in English, any additional papers in another language do not need to be translated).

- v. Where papers are multi-author papers and the applicant is not first author, the applicant's role in the study should be explained.
- c) 2 Case reports - required as an assessment of complex case management. These must describe cases managed by the applicant in the last 5 years. Published case reports are acceptable.
- d) Case log (100 cases): Cases must be of a complexity and type similar to that which would be expected of a resident to gain satisfactory approval by the credentials committee. They must be cases managed by the applicant during the last 5 years.

A case log of exactly 100 cases, presented in a condensed (3 to 4 cases per page) tabular form and landscape (see Case Log Form on website). At least 25% of the cases must be neurosurgically managed cases. The applicant has to be involved in surgery, but doesn't need to be the primary surgeon.

At least 5% (5 large animal cases) must be included in the case log.

- e) Evidence of any relevant postgraduate qualification in the field of veterinary neurology should be submitted.

Post-graduate qualification include PhD and veterinary neurology specialized internship with an ECVN diplomate (one year minimum). National certificates of advanced veterinary practice might be considered by the credential committees (the candidates submits the detailed program). Attendance to international or national congress, CPD, training or courses do not qualify as post-graduate qualification.

- f) A covering letter should be provided (3-5 pages) in support of their application. This should include the following:
  - i. career highlights,
  - ii. relevant experience (scholarly, clinical, legal, political),
  - iii. contributions to veterinary neurology (education, research) - applicant to select 5 most significant contributions to the veterinary neurology with a brief statement of impact (< 250 words each) supporting each contribution. Contributions may be research (single paper or group of related papers, or a systematic review), teaching (at national or international level) or service (e.g. contribution to a national or international organization which could be governmental, or multinational).
  - iv. applicants should explain what they will bring to the membership of the college and how they intend to contribute to the development of the specialty, for instance through resident training.
- g) Applicants should not have followed an approved residency programme.
- h) Applicants must demonstrate that they have spent a minimum of 60% of their time working in veterinary neurology during the last 10 years.

- i) The applicant should be working in a setting that provides access to facilities of a sufficient standard to allow the practice of the specialty at an appropriate level.

Applicant should provide a list of facilities/equipment they have access to (see ECVN Residency Training Programme Registration Form PART 1 – DETAILS OF THE RESIDENCY TRAINING PROGRAMME HOST INSTITUTION). All facilities required for a standard or alternative residency programme must therefore be met (library and access to literature, medical records, availability or access to diagnostic and treatment facilities, availability or access to pathological services,...)

- j) Applicant must submit a list of suggested up to five referees, from which a minimum of three references will be sought. At least two of these referees should be existing diplomates of the ECVN. Referees will be requested to comment specifically on the applicant's
  - i. professional, ethical and legal conduct,
  - ii. clinical abilities, and
  - iii. contribution to the veterinary neurology.

A minimum of two ECVN certified diplomates are required. Referees should all be EBVS certified veterinary specialists. All referees should clearly state they believe the candidate should be allowed to sit to the ECVN exam on the basis of being judged to be Internationally recognised specialist. The referees must attest they have been working directly with the candidates for a minimum period of time of 3 months.

- k) Letters of Good standing from all licensing bodies with which applicant is licensed to practice.
- l) Applicants from outside Europe (as defined by the Council of Europe) will be considered (with the above requirement that 2 EU ECVN Diplomates are required to provide letters of support).