



European College of Veterinary Clinical Pathology

INFORMATION BROCHURE

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European College of Veterinary Clinical Pathology

The European College of Veterinary Clinical Pathology (ECVCP) was established in 2001 and obtained official recognition from the European Board of Veterinary Specialisation (EBVS) in 2007. The mandate of the ECVCP is to advance Veterinary Clinical Pathology and promote high standards within the speciality in Europe. This includes facilitating 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. Those who meet the standards of training and competence established by the College will be awarded a suitable Certificate.

A **List of Approved Training Laboratories and Programmes** is maintained for guidance for institutions and the public.

All official communication should be directed to the secretariat@ecvcp.org who will coordinate distribution and processing.



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1. Objectives

The objectives of the ECVCP include:

- Promotion of recognition of Clinical Pathology as an independent Veterinary speciality.
- Establishment of standards of training, experience, and examination for qualification as a specialist in Veterinary Clinical Pathology in Europe.
- Recognition of European Veterinary Clinical Pathology specialists by suitable certification.
- Provision of continuing education programmes in Veterinary Clinical Pathology in Europe.
- Establishment of standards for analytical methods, performance and interpretation of laboratory procedures and laboratory management in Europe.
- Promotion of research and scientific progress in Veterinary Clinical Pathology in Europe.
- Guarantee and maintain the highest level of specialisation in Veterinary Clinical Pathology, according to **European Qualifications Framework (EQF) level 8**”.

2. Definition

Veterinary Clinical Pathology focuses on the development, application, generation and interpretation of diagnostic laboratory testing for diagnosis, prognosis, treatment and monitoring of spontaneous animal disease, animal models of disease and preclinical safety studies.

Veterinary Clinical Pathologists are employed to practice, research and teach this speciality in a wide variety of professional environments, including :

- (i) Veterinary Schools;
- (ii) Private, commercial, and government diagnostic laboratories;
- (iii) Pharmaceutical discovery and safety evaluation; and
- (iv) Other research institutes and industry.

There are four primary areas of Veterinary Clinical Pathology:

- (i) General Clinical pathology, including aspects of laboratory management.
- (ii) Clinical biochemistry, endocrinology, immunology testing and molecular diagnostics.
- (iii) Haematology
- (iv) Cytology



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General Clinical Pathology is the foundation of the three other areas. It is based on the understanding of pathophysiologic disease mechanisms which result in changes in laboratory data and their medical interpretation. It also includes aspects of laboratory management with special attention to the development of new analytical methods and their validation, Quality Assurance and Quality Control. This requires a thorough understanding of laboratory methodology and its performance capabilities.

Effective acquisition and interpretation of Veterinary Clinical Pathology data requires a comprehensive knowledge of the theory, application and administration of laboratory methods from which the data is generated and a broad Veterinary Medical background. Development and introduction of new assays into veterinary diagnostics, their application, validation and evaluation of their diagnostic significance for each species require particular in-depth knowledge, experience and training in Veterinary Clinical Pathology that are not found to a sufficient extent within the other European Veterinary specialities.

3. Membership

There are 5 different types of membership within the ECVCP:-

i. Diplomate:

A Diplomate is a Veterinarian who satisfies the ECVCP requirements as to training, experience, and competence in Veterinary Clinical Pathology and achieved Diplomate status (Dipl.ECVCP) by passing the ECVCP examination (section 5). Alternatively, Veterinarians who satisfy these ECVCP requirements, but have passed Board Examinations by comparable Colleges outside Europe established prior to the ECVCP being established and satisfy the ECVCP publication requirements, may be eligible. Election of such Candidates shall be accomplished by majority vote of the Executive Board after review of their application.

In accordance with the latest version of EBVS policies and procedures in some non-European countries or areas, the training and examinations of specialists is equivalent to that provided by ECVCP. However, membership should be restricted to those who have a connection to Europe. The credentials of the Applicant and their activity in making a major contribution to the EBVS College are more important than the place of residence or nationality. The College may, if it so wishes, temporarily grant ECVCP Diplomate status, provided that the Applicant can meet the following minimum conditions, evaluated by the ECVCP Diplomate Certification Committee:



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- Has credentials, in relation to training, publications and contributions to the subject, equal to those required to sit for the examination of an ECVCP Diplomate;
- Has passed an examination of equal rigor, and covering the same material as that of the equivalent ECVCP Diplomate;
- Passes the College's re-certification process;
- Is practising in a European country and intends to remain so for the foreseeable future.

Applicants may be relieved of this requirement in exceptional cases.

A Diploma which is awarded to a non-EBVS recognised Diplomate without sitting the College's Examination is not valid when the conditions under which the Diploma was awarded do not exist anymore.

Diplomates can use the title EBVS® Specialist in Veterinary Clinical Pathology.

ii. **Non-Practising Diplomate:**

A Diplomate who (i) has not practised the speciality for two continuous years or the equivalent of two years during the previous five years or (ii) has not fulfilled the requirements for the re-certification procedure or (iii) has not attended two Annual General Meetings in a five- year period, without previous dispensation from the College.

A non-practising Diplomate is not allowed to use the title EBVS® Specialist in Veterinary Clinical Pathology but can use the credential "Dipl.ECVCP" and/or title "Diplomate of the European College of Veterinary Clinical Pathology".

The non-practising Diplomate is removed from the EBVS specialist register.

A non-practising Diplomate seeking to revert to full Diplomate status needs to satisfy the requirements of the College's Diplomate Certification Committee.

iii. **Retired Diplomate:**

A Diplomate who voluntarily, permanently and irrevocably stops practicing, is entitled to the Retired Diplomate status.

Retired Diplomates maintain all privileges of Diplomates including advisory tasks, except the right to vote or hold office.

A Retired Diplomate is not allowed to use the title EBVS® Specialist in Veterinary Clinical



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Pathology but can use the credential “Dipl.ECVCP” and/or title “Diplomate of the European College of Veterinary Clinical Pathology”.

The Retired Diplomate is removed from the EBVS specialist register.

iv. Honorary member:

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 member. Nomination for Honorary Member status shall be made through the sponsorship of two ECVCP Diplomates. The Sponsors shall furnish the College’s Secretary with relevant information concerning the Nominee, e.g. Curriculum Vitae. Election of an Honorary Member shall be accomplished by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Board and by a two-thirds vote of the Annual General Meeting of the ECVCP.

Honorary member status does not confer the right to act as a specialist in Veterinary Clinical Pathology or include specialist status in a diagnostic document.

A Honorary member is not allowed to use the credential “Dipl.ECVCP” or the title “EBVS® Specialist in Veterinary Clinical Pathology”.

Honorary members shall have all the privileges of membership except the right to vote or hold office and shall pay no fees.

v. Associate member:

The College may confer Associate member status on scientists who have contributed significantly to research in Veterinary medicine. Admission criteria for Associate Members are defined by the Executive Committee of the College. These criteria have to ascertain that only scientists of international repute who are active in the field covered by the College are admitted as Associate Members. Moreover:-

- a) Associate Members are not conferred any diplomas and are not entitled to use the credential “Dipl.ECVCP” or the title “EBVS® Specialist in Veterinary Clinical Pathology”.
- b) Associate Members are encouraged to participate in the training of Residents together with Diplomates of the College. Associate Members are not entitled to act as Resident Supervisors without a Diplomate responsible for the Training Programme.



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- c) Associate Members are not allowed to hold office within the College or to vote at the Annual General Meeting. They can be co-opted to College committees as advisors.
- d) Associate Members are encouraged to participate in scientific meetings and workshops organised by the College.
- e) Associate Members are not allowed to advertise their title.

3.1 Re-certification

Diplomates wishing to retain the title of EBVS® Specialist in Veterinary Clinical Pathology will be required to follow a re-certification process every 5 years.

Diplomates (except for non-practicing Diplomates and Retired Diplomates) are required to send in each 5 years a summary of their professional activities in which evidence of fulfilling these requirements and evidence of continuous education must be included. The format of this recertification summary has to be approved by the European Board of Veterinary Specialisation (EBVS Policies on Re-certification of Diplomates B.3,) and will be evaluated by members of the Diplomate Certification Committee. This standard procedure will be performed according to a credit point system. In this credit point system, the following items can be included:

- Publications
- Presentations at National Congresses or Continuing Education
- Presentations at International Congresses
- Attendance at National or International Congresses
- Online/distance learning
- Preparing examination questions
- Supervision of Residents
- Membership of the Executive Board or College Committees

For each item, a maximum number of points can be given. A total minimum amount of points has to be collected during a 5 year period.

If a Diplomate does not meet the required number of points, one year extra may be given in which to achieve this; if they do not succeed, or if any Diplomate does not submit recertification documents, they will be removed from the EBVS Specialist Register and may only use the credential Dipl.ECVCP and /or title



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“Diplomate of the European College of Veterinary Clinical Pathology”. A non-practising Diplomate seeking to revert to full Diplomate status needs to satisfy the Diplomate Certification Committee.

4. Veterinary Clinical Pathology Training Programme (Residency) for

Diplomate Status

4.1 Definition

A Veterinary Clinical Pathology Training Programme allows Graduate Veterinarians, who have either completed a 1 year rotating internship Programme, or 2 years full time equivalent working in Veterinary practice after graduation, or equivalent clinical practice deemed acceptable by the Education & Credentials Committee and the ECVCP Board (whose decision shall be final), to acquire in-depth knowledge of Veterinary Clinical Pathology and its supporting disciplines in an ECVCP approved Standard or Alternative Training Programme taking place in an ECVCP approved Laboratory.

4.2 Programme Director – Supervisor

- i) The Programme Director is responsible for the administration and continuity of the training programme. It is the responsibility of the Programme Director to obtain approval of the training programme and Laboratory and inform the Education & Credentials Committee of any changes in the programme.
- ii) The Supervisor is responsible for the Resident’s training, evaluation of performance at regular intervals (at least every 6 months) and progress towards sitting the ECVCP Examination.

The Programme Director and Supervisor may be the same individual.

The Programme Director and/or Supervisor must be an active ECVCP Diplomate, or a Diplomate of the American College of Pathologists [Dipl.ACVP (Clinical Pathology)], subject to approval by the Education & Credentials Committee.

- iii) Co-supervisor: In some circumstances it may be appropriate to have a co-supervisor who holds a qualification title equivalent to the ECVCP Diploma or is an internationally recognized expert in the field of veterinary clinical pathology. If co-supervisors are included in a Training Programme, they



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should show a certain commitment for the further development of Veterinary Clinical Pathology in their particular veterinary medicine environment. Based on the recommendations of the Education & Credentials Committee, the Executive Board must approve their CV.

4.3 Objectives of a Veterinary Clinical Pathology Training Programme

ECVCP Training Programmes are intended to help trainees to acquire knowledge, ability and skills in all areas of veterinary clinical pathology. They are meant to promote young specialists in clinical pathology, who are dedicated to further and develop the speciality and be valued members of the professional community. This includes also aspects which cannot be tested in the certifying examination, but represent integral qualities of a Diplomate of the ECVCP:-

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

4.4 General Programme Outline

Specific topics to be covered in the training include the four core disciplines of General Clinical Pathology, Clinical Biochemistry, Haematology, and Cytology, primarily for companion animals, large animals, and laboratory animals, but also for exotic animals, birds, and fish.

Prerequisites for all Training Programmes

Prior to starting a Training Programme all Residents need to register with the ECVCP and pay a **250€** administration fee (non-refundable). ***Please notice that this fee has been temporarily waived for Residents registering from 1st October 2023 until 30th September 2026.***

The Institution/Laboratory where the training will take place must obtain approval by both the Education & Credentials Committee and the Laboratory Standards Committee as a ECVCP approved training prior to recruiting/admitting a Resident/trainee.

The application for a Training Programme must be approved prior to the starting date of the Programme.



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4.5 Content of Training

All Training Programmes shall provide adequate training in each of the following four areas: General Clinical Pathology (pathophysiology, immunology, laboratory management, quality planning, quality assurance and quality control), Clinical Biochemistry (including endocrinology, toxicologic clinical pathology and molecular diagnostics), Haematology, and Cytology. If the primary institution cannot provide training in all areas, additional training at other institutions is required. Ideally, **direct contact with other Diplomates or similarly qualified persons** in other areas pertinent to Clinical Pathology (mainly clinical medicine, e.g. internal medicine, surgery, equine and large animal medicine, laboratory, exotic and wildlife animal medicine, anatomical pathology) *should* be included.

The following species shall be included in all Training Programmes: companion animals (primarily dog, cat and rabbit), farm animals (primarily cattle, with some sheep, pigs and poultry), horses, laboratory animals (primarily dog, rat, mouse and monkey), and to a lesser extent non-traditional pet species (birds, fish, reptiles), zoo animals and wildlife.

Externships:

- 1) Compulsory **for all** Residents: attend at least one ECVCP Summer School and one ESVCP/ECVCP Congress during the duration of their residency.
- 2) Compulsory **for some** Residents: other externships may be compulsory for individual Residents in individual Training Programmes, as mandated by the Education & Credential Committee based on a review of the Training Programme and candidate's CV. The nature (scientific area of training)/ location/ duration of these externships will be specified and are intended to address deficiencies in training and/or experience.

Apart from the compulsory externships, residents are encouraged to take part in externships voluntarily, in order to broaden their training experience.

Schedules of externships for the following year should be included within the Annual Training Progress Report; a Proof of Agreement for the Resident's participation should be provided by the person responsible for the delivery of the externship.



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4.6 Learning Environment

The Programme should emphasize basic understanding of pathophysiologic mechanisms of clinical pathology changes at a molecular, cellular, organ and whole animal level in a veterinary medical context.

The training environment should provide the intellectual and physical facilities for the advancement of the science of Veterinary Clinical Pathology through structured discussion, review of current literature, practice of Veterinary Clinical Pathology, research, scientific communication (lectures, scientific courses) and scientific publication.

Mandatory Clinical Pathology Laboratory standards include adequate facilities, compliance with Health & Safety standards, written Operational Procedures and Policies, current methodologies and technologies, a Programme for quality management including quality control and proficiency testing, a laboratory information management system, documentation of personnel training and development, and an ECVCP or ACVP (Clinical Pathology) Diplomate who is responsible for all aspects of Laboratory management.

Each Primary Training Laboratory involved in Training Programmes must be approved by the Laboratory Standards Committee. The Laboratory Standards Application requires information about quality control used for testing in the core areas of clinical pathology and confirmation of the association of a Diplomate (or a co-supervisor) with the laboratory. A **250€** Administration Fee (non-refundable) must be paid prior to applying for Laboratory Standards Approval. ***Please notice that this fee has been temporarily waived for applications received from 1st October 2023 until 30th September 2026.***

4.7 Reference Material

In addition to developing practical knowledge, skills and abilities in the Laboratory, Trainees are expected to be familiar with information covered in standard textbooks and the current (up to 5 years old) peer reviewed literature on Veterinary Clinical Pathology. The Examination Committee will maintain and provide a recommended reading list of standard textbooks and journals on the ECVCP Website .

See www.esvcp.org: Reading List



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4.8 Documentation

The Trainee must maintain an Activity Log that records the nature and chronology of their training activities and that is reviewed and signed by the Supervisor **every 12 months**. This Activity Log should include:

- Relevant courses or tutorials taken.
- A list giving a qualitative and quantitative overview of diagnostic service activities in each of the three areas of clinical biochemistry, haematology, and cytology.
- Rotations or externships in other relevant disciplines or to other training sites.
- Relevant seminars, workshops or conferences attended.
- Any relevant presentations or publications.

See: www.esvcp.org “Info Centre and documents / Education/ Resident sample activity log”
Activity logs must be available for review at any time throughout the Training period, at the request of the ECVCP Education & Credentials Committee.

4.9 Standard Training Programme in Veterinary Clinical Pathology

Definition: A Standard Training Programme in Veterinary Clinical Pathology must take place on a Training Site approved by the College.

Duration of Training: The Standard Training Programme shall be a minimum of 36 months duration accomplished within 5 consecutive years.

If the approved training site is outside Europe, a non-ECVCP Diplomate may act as a co-supervisor as defined by EBVS policy and procedures and as outlined in section 4.2. The co-supervisor and the non- European Training Site must be approved by the College before the training starts. In such cases all compulsory externships must take place in Europe under the direct supervision of the ECVCP Diplomate acting as a Supervisor.

The Training Programme (including compulsory externships) must be completed by the 31st of August of the year that the Phase 2 Examination has been scheduled to take place, in order for the resident to be eligible to take the Phase 2 Examination.



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4.10 Alternative Training Programme in Veterinary Clinical Pathology

Definition: A Veterinarian whose circumstances do not permit enrolment in a Standard Residency Programme may submit an alternative training programme to the College, in conjunction with their Supervisor outlining the resources available to them, for advanced study and experience. The Alternative Programme is not approved for anyone other than the Resident requesting its approval. The Alternative Programme must be approved by the College before the Resident embarks on it, and the total length of this Programme cannot be shorter than that of the Standard Residency Programme. The precise form of each individual Alternative Programme is at the discretion of the Education & Credentials Committee. The total time of an Alternative Programme must not exceed six years. A Resident on an Alternate Training Programme must spend the equivalent of at least 60% of three years working in the practice of the specialty, under direct supervision of a Diplomate of the College.

The application for Alternative Training Programs must be accompanied by a Curriculum Vitae and a Letter of Intent by the Candidate Resident and must be submitted to the Secretariat of the College (secretariat@ecvcp.org). These Programs are approved by the Executive Board based on a recommendation by the Education & Credentials Committee.

Duration of Training: The Alternative Training Programmes shall be a minimum of 48 months' duration accomplished within six consecutive years.

The Training Programme must be completed by the 31st of August of the year that the Phase 2 Examination has been scheduled to take place, in order for the resident to be eligible to take the Phase 2 Examination.

Arrangements regarding the external training periods/externships have to be included in the Training Application as well as a Statement of Agreement with the persons supervising those training periods/externships (see also section 4.5).



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4.11 Continuing Education

National and International Continuing Education Programmes, meetings and courses are essential additional sources for new information in Clinical Pathology or related disciplines. Suitable continuing education may include, for example, those Programmes, meetings and courses organised by or under the auspices of the ESVCP, the American Society of Veterinary Clinical Pathology (ASVCP) or the American College of Veterinary Pathology (ACVP) and the EBVS.

4.12 Submission of a Training Programme

Standard or Alternative Training Programme Applications may be submitted to the Secretariat at any time (secretariat@ecvcp.org). Review of applications by the Education & Credentials Committee can take up to 3 months. It is recommended to only submit complete Applications (i.e. including Laboratory Standard application or approval), as the request for additional documentation can delay the process.

A 250€ Administration Fee (non-refundable) must be paid prior to applying for Training Programme approval. ***Please notice that this fee has been temporarily waived for applications received from 1st October 2023 until 30th September 2026.***

See www.esvcp.com to download Laboratory Standard and Alternative Training Programme Application Forms

4.13 Application for a Residency

See www.esvcp.com Residency Application Form

4.14 Transfer of Residents from one Programme to another

In general, the transfer of a Resident from one Training Programme to another is not encouraged. Importantly, the Education & Credentials Committee has to be informed in advance. Below there is a list of accompanying documents required for the approval of a Residents transfer by the Education & Credentials Committee. Specifically, a statement from both the past and the future Supervisors are required with an explanation for the reasons for the transfer:

- The Resident should briefly explain the reasons for the transfer.
- Both the past and the future Supervisor should briefly acknowledge their supervisory



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responsibility (e.g. with an Annual Report and an evaluation of the Resident, a signed agreement for future supervision).

The Education & Credentials Committee will make every possible effort to keep the turnaround time at 1 month or less. In case of repeat Resident transfer incidents in a particular Training Programme, the Education Committee will evaluate whether additional measures are required.

4.15 Temporary Interruption of Programmes

A Residency Programme may be temporarily interrupted for personal / family reasons, dependent on the approval of the ECVCP Executive Board. To this aim a letter from the Supervisor must be sent to the Board through the secretariat (secretariat@ecvcp.org), stating that the training must be interrupted and why, and the provisional duration of this interruption.

5. The ECVCP Examination

From 2024, the Examination will be divided into two phases:

Phase 1: General Clinical Pathology

Phase 2: Clinical Biochemistry, Haematology and Cytology

A Candidate must pass both Phase 1 and Phase 2 to complete the Examination process and receive the specialist qualification Dipl.ECVCP.

It is suggested that a Candidate passes Phase 1 before proceeding to Phase 2. A Candidate may elect to take both Phases in the same year, providing the eligibility criteria for both Examination Phases are met.

5.1 Application for Examination

Application forms are available from the website (www.esvcp.org). The Application requires the signature of the Resident's Supervisor. The signatory certifies that supervises the Candidate and that the training followed an ECVCP Approved Programme in an ECVCP Approved Training Laboratory.

An Application for Examination is valid for only one year except for repeat Candidates. (See "5.6 Results of the Examination")



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For the **Phase 1 Examination**, the completed Application form and the Examination fee of **100€** must be received by the Secretariat no later than January 15th of the year of the Examination. For the **Phase 2 Examination**, the completed Application form accompanied by the Examination fee of **500€** must be received by the Secretariat no later than March 1st of the year of the Examination. Payment of fees can be made by contacting the Treasurer (ecvcp.treasurer2017@gmail.com).

The deadline of March 1st for the Phase 2 Examination is also applicable for Candidates enrolled in Training Programmes that end later than March 1st. In this case, Candidates must submit their application by March 1st, including:

- Activity log
- Supervisor's report
- Documentation regarding the compulsory externships and activities (e.g. attendance at Summer School and ESVCP/ECVCP Congress attendance) that have been completed up to March 1st.
- A schedule of the activities to be completed in the remaining period of the residency.

In the event of acceptance, Candidates/Supervisors will be requested to submit an updated Activity log by August 31st prior to the Phase 2 Examination.

Eligibility to sit the **Phase 1** Examination is determined by the Education & Credentials Committee and the Executive Board by the end of January of the year of the examination, with the decision communicated by the middle of February. Similarly, eligibility to sit the **Phase 2** Examination is determined by the Education & Credentials Committee and the Executive Board, with the decision communicated by the middle of April.

If the Applicant's credentials are not accepted, or if the Candidate withdraws from the examination prior to August 1st, fees are refunded. No refunds are made after this date, and no fees may be carried over to be applied toward an examination in a subsequent year.



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An individual who has received an unfavourable eligibility ruling to sit the Examination may appeal against this decision. Such an appeal must be received in writing by the Secretariat of the College (secretariat@ecvcp.org) within 30 days of the date receiving the letter informing the individual of the unfavourable decision.

5.2 General Requirements for Admission to Examination

The following prerequisites must be met to the satisfaction of the Executive Board before any Candidate is eligible to undertake any ECVCP Examinations.

Phase 1 Examination

An eligible Candidate must:

- Have a satisfactory moral and ethical standing in relation to the practice of Veterinary medicine.
- By 1st of March in the year of the Examination, have completed at least 1 year of full-time residency training in Veterinary Clinical Pathology.

Phase 2 Examination

An eligible Candidate must:

- Have a satisfactory moral and ethical standing in relation to the practice of Veterinary medicine.
Have completed at least 36 months of full-time residency training in Veterinary Clinical Pathology.

Acceptable means: -

- The Training Programme must be directed and supervised by an approved Diplomate (see 4.2).
- The Training Laboratory must be approved as an ECVCP Training Site by the Laboratory Standards Committee prior to approval of an actual Training Programme.
- The Training Programme must be approved by the ECVCP Education & Credentials Committee prior to recruitment/appointment of a Resident.
- Applicable only for Phase 2 Examination: The documentation of the individual Trainee's Programme has to be approved by the ECVCP Education & Credentials Committee after completion of the training period.



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5.3 The Format of the Examination

The Examination is designed to test Candidates'.

- (a) Understanding of the broad principles of Clinical Pathology;
- (b) Ability to competently practice Veterinary Clinical Pathology; and
- (c) Ability to synthesise data and observations in problem solving.

The Examination is divided into two phases:

Phase 1: Examination in General Clinical Pathology (**Duration: 2 hours**)

General Clinical Pathology: This section examination tests the Candidate's understanding of the pathophysiological bases of clinical pathology changes and general principles of laboratory management. It will consist of **100** multiple choice questions (MCQ), comprising a mixture of those testing knowledge, and those testing interpretative ability and understanding. Some questions may include short data sets, graphs, diagrams or tables. Questions are focused on:

- (a) Pathophysiological mechanisms responsible for haematological, biochemical or cytological changes; and
- (b) Laboratory management, including, for example, method and technology validation, good laboratory practice, quality control, laboratory statistics and reference intervals, basic epidemiology, evaluation of diagnostic efficacy and efficiency.

Phase 2: Examinations in Clinical Biochemistry, Haematology and Cytology.

- (i) **Clinical Biochemistry (Duration: 3hrs 15 minutes):** This section of the examination tests the Candidate's understanding of the diagnostic significance of clinical biochemistry including endocrinology and immunology testing, toxicological testing, molecular diagnostics and associated methodologies and technologies.

It will consist of two subsections: **a) 50 MCQ** (75 minutes, 50% of total mark) and **b) 4 Case Evaluations** (120 minutes, 50% of total mark). The Case Evaluations could include and require integrated interpretation of clinical biochemical, haematological, and urinalysis data including laboratory aspects of endocrinology and immunology testing, and laboratory animal data sets from toxicological studies. This section can include associated



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methodologies with related instrumentation and analytical test principles of instrumentation.

Questions will be designed to achieve a balance between species, systems, and diseases. Typically, two Case Evaluations will involve companion animal species, one will involve equine or farm animal species, and one will involve EITHER an exotic animal species OR a toxicological study.

(ii) **Haematology (Duration: 3hrs 30 minutes):** This section tests the Candidate's understanding of the diagnostic significance of haematology (including haemostasis) and associated methodologies and technologies. It will consist of three subsections:

- a) **40 MCQ** (60 minutes, 20% of total marks),
- b) **20 questions containing projected images** (images could include photomicrographs, instrument cytograms etc.) (30 minutes, 20% of total marks), and
- c) Evaluation of **10 haematology glass slides** (including blood and bone marrow smears) (120 minutes, 60% of total marks). Glass slide evaluation required answers include a complete description, a morphological and aetiological (if appropriate) diagnosis, or appropriate differential diagnoses with suggestions for additional diagnostic procedures.

Questions will be designed to achieve a balance between species, systems, and diseases.

(iii) **Cytology (Duration: 3hrs 40 minutes):** This section tests the Candidate's understanding of the diagnostic significance of cytology and associated methodologies and technologies. It will consist of three subsections:

- a) **25 MCQ** (40 minutes, 20% of total marks),
- b) **25 questions containing projected images** (images include mainly photomicrographs) (30 minutes, 20% of total marks), and
- c) Evaluation of **10 cytology glass slides** (150 minutes, 60% of total marks). Glass slide evaluation required answers include a complete description, a morphologic and an etiologic (if appropriate) diagnosis, or appropriate



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differential diagnoses with suggestions for additional diagnostic procedures. Questions will be designed to achieve a balance between species, systems, and diseases.

Scoring scheme

Phase 1: A score of $\geq 60\%$ is a “Pass”. A score of $< 60\%$ is a “Fail”.

Phase 2: For each of the three sections of the examination (Clinical Biochemistry, Haematology and Cytology), Candidates are awarded one final mark, which is expressed as percentage. This is calculated from the Candidate’s score in each subsection (e.g. MCQs plus projected images/glass slide evaluations/biochemistry clinical cases as relevant) and the weighting of each subsection (see above).

For each of the three sections, a score of $\geq 60\%$ is a “pass” and a score of $< 60\%$ is a “fail”.

In order to pass the Phase 2 Examination, the Candidate must pass all three sections. If a Candidate passes two sections, they only need to repeat the examination of the section that they failed (provided they achieved $\geq 30\%$ in the failed section). If a candidate scores $< 30\%$ on any individual section, then no sections may be carried forward to the next examination attempt. If a Candidate has already passed Phase 1 and passes one section of Phase 2, they only need to repeat the examination of the section they failed (provided they achieved $\geq 30\%$ in the failed section). If a Candidate has not yet passed Phase 1 and fails 2 or 3 sections of Phase 2, they must repeat the entire Phase 2 examination.

5.4 Organisation of the Examination

Phase 1: This will be held **on-line** every Northern Hemisphere spring. The Candidate/Supervisor is responsible for providing a proctor to attend the Candidate during the examination. The proctor must be a diplomate either of the ECVCP, the ACVP, or of any other EBVS- or ABVS-accredited College (e.g. ECVP, ECVIM, ECVD, ACVIM). The proctor must not be the Supervisor or Co-Supervisor of the Candidate.

Phase 2: This will be held **in person** every Northern Hemisphere autumn in a European city.



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5.5 Withdrawal/Illness

Withdrawal prior to the Examination or failure to appear for the Examination will not constitute an attempt to sit all or any section(s) of the Examination but will count as one of the years for which repeat Candidates are eligible to pass any previously failed section(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.

The examination fee will not be refunded or carried forward to the next examination attempt if the candidate withdraws from the Phase 2 Examination after August 1st in the examination year.

5.6 Results of Examination

Candidates are required to pass both Phase 1 and Phase 2 (all three sections) examinations and to fulfill the publication requirements in order to be awarded the specialist qualification of the College (Dipl.ECVCP) (see 6).

Three additional attempts within **eight years** of completion of the Training Programme (Residency) are permitted to pass any failed sections of the Examination.

Candidates who wish to retake the failed section(s) must announce their intention by an email to the Secretariat (secretariat@ecvcp.org):

For Phase 1: no later than January 1st of the year they wish to retake the Examination; a fee of **100€** euro must be paid to the Treasurer no later than January 1st of the year of the Examination.

For Phase 2: no later than January 1st of the year they wish to retake the Examination; a fee of **250€** must be paid to the Treasurer no later than January 1st of the year of the Examination.

Candidates who do not pass the failed sections within the 8 years after Training Programme completion as described above must reapply as new Candidates and retake the entire Examination (Phase 1 & 2). (see 5.1 above; a new Application Form is required).

A Candidate who fails any sections of an Examination may request that the marks of the sections



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failed be recalculated to verify the accuracy of the results reported. The verification process is not intended to re-evaluate the content of the Examination or Candidate's answers but to determine that the scores are correctly totaled. Such requests must be received by email to the Secretariat, accompanied by a fee of **100€** paid to the Treasurer within 30 days of the date of mailing of the results of the examination to the Candidate.

6. Diploma of the European College of Veterinary Clinical Pathology **(Dipl. ECVCP)**

Once a Candidate has successfully passed the ECVCP Examination, they are eligible to become Diplomates of the ECVCP providing they have fulfilled the publication requirements: The Candidate has to have ONE first author publication and ONE second publication where authorship can be stated as an author in any position in the list of authors.

These publications should demonstrate application of scientific methods on subjects that are relevant to Veterinary Clinical Pathology. At least one publication must be an original research article while the other can be a Case Report with literature review, a Technical Note/Brief Communication or a "What is Your Diagnosis" publication. The articles must have been published or accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed international journal up to 24 months after the date of the initial application for the Phase 2 examination. A failure to meet this deadline will mean that the Candidate must resit the ECVCP Examination (see section 5 above).

After Candidates have successfully passed the ECVCP Examination and meet the publication requirements, they should apply to the Diplomate Certification Committee using the Diplomate Certification Application Form for receiving the Diploma of the European College of Veterinary Clinical Pathology (Dipl. ECVCP). A recipient of the Dipl. ECVCP is a Diplomate of ECVCP and can use the title EBVS® Specialist in Veterinary Clinical Pathology (see section 3 above).