**European College of Veterinary Clinical pathology**

**Re-certification procedure**

The Policies and Procedures of the European Board of Veterinary Specialisation, 2021 v4, states that: “Diplomates of an EBVS-recognised College must be evaluated every 5 years for re-certification. The College is responsible for establishing a standard procedure in which the prerequisites for re- certification of the diplomates are described (example in the procedures). After re-evaluation, the successful diplomates may be registered for another five years in the EBVS Directory, but only in one speciality.”

In Section B3 Procedures for Re-certification of Diplomates it is stated:

“ Each College has its own responsibility in creating a 100-credit point system for re-certification of their diplomates. The system has to be sent to and approved by the EBVS Board. The credits can be obtained by participation in research, educational or service activities and points have to be collected in at least 2 of these 3 categories. The EBVS only recognises scientific, evidence-based veterinary medicine, which complies with animal welfare legislation.”

According to EBVS, the requirements to remain certified are:

1. Practice: to practise their speciality for 60% of their time, with a minimum of 24 hours per week (based on a normal working week of 40 hours) over the past five years.
2. Activity: to show a satisfying degree of activity during the last 5 years to keep level of competences at a specialist level.
3. AGM: to have attended the Annual General Meeting of the College, at least twice in 5 years, unless previous dispensation from the College has been granted.
4. Extensions: Extensions of the 5-year period must be granted for maternity or paternity leave, serious health issues and exceptional circumstances.
5. Failure to recertify:If they do not succeed to meet the requirements above, or if for any other reason a diplomate does not re-certify, they will be removed from the EBVS specialist register, and may use the title of ‘Diplomate’, but not the title of “EBVS® European Specialist in Veterinary ...”. A non-certified diplomate is not allowed to act as programme director or supervisor.
6. Reverting to certified: A non-certified diplomate seeking to revert to certified diplomate status needs to satisfy the requirements for certification. Additionally, a fee can be required by the College for re-certification.

The following items can be included in the credit-point system:

- peer-reviewed publications

- presentations at national congresses or Continuing Education talks or courses

- presentations at international congresses

- attendanceat national or international congresses

- online/distance learning

- preparing examination questions

- supervision of Residents

- active membership of 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 five year period.

These provisions are confirmed in the ByLaws of the ECVCP:

« 8.7 All Diplomates are required to maintain activity in veterinary clinical pathology, maintain certification by continuing education in a form determined by the Education Committee, and maintain activity in the affairs of the College, particularly by regular attendance at meetings.

8.8 Diplomates (except for non-practising Diplomates and Honorary Diplomates) are required to send 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 summary has to be approved by the European Board of Veterinary Specialisation and will be evaluated by members of the CredentialsCommittee. »

# Re-certification procedure for ECVCP

To maintain Active Diplomate status, all Diplomates of the ECVCP will have to be members of the ESVCP and to fulfil recertification requirements after their 5 years of initial Board certification, then each fifth year. Failure to comply would render a Diplomate « non-practising ». Non-practising Diplomates cannot use the title of European specialist, are not allowed to supervise ECVCP training programmes, cannot be nominated as members of ECVCP Committees.

Documents for re-certification must be sent to the Chairperson of the Credentials Committee at least 1 month before expiry of certification. The EBVS will inform a diplomate before expiration of their certification and all diplomates should be aware of their own recertification expiration date.

### According to EBVS rules, the procedure is based on a credit point system. See relevant documents on the website under Info Center and Documents / Credentials / ECVCP re-certification procedure.

Recertification will be obtained after obtaining 100 credit points. Accumulation of credit points is achieved by completion of condition 1 **AND** 2 below:

**1/ Compulsory preparation of accepted ECVCP Examination questions.** These can be for any of the four areas of the examination: general pathophysiology, biochemistry, haematology, or cytology. At least 30 points worth of questions over the 5-year period must be accrued.

- 1.5 points for 1 MCQ or 1 codachrome question

- 7.5 points for 1 glass slide question/ 1 general clinical pathology essay question/ 1 clinical chemistry case

- A minimum of 30 points must be acquired

- Additional questions may be submitted, up to a maximum of 50 points

- Points are only given for questions that have been accepted by the Examination Committee

**2/ Compulsory attendance of at least 2 ECVCP AGMs in the preceding 5 years**

**3/** **Activities in the following categories of activities related to Veterinary Clinical Pathology:**

- publications

- presentations at national congresses or Continuing Education talks/ courses

- presentations at international congresses

- attendanceat national or international congresses

- online/distance learning

- preparing examination questions

- supervision of Residents

- active membership of Board or College committees