

Categories of membership

Membership of EVPC comprises the following categories:

- Founding Diplomates
(Founding Members and *de facto* Recognised Specialists)
- Diplomates
(including Active, Non-practicing and Retired Diplomates)
- Associate Members
- Honorary Members

Diplomates:

In accordance with the policies of the European Board of Veterinary Specialisation (EBVS), only veterinarians may become Diplomates of European Veterinary Speciality Colleges.

Since 1st October 2006, Diplomate status can only be gained by sitting and passing an examination set by the EVPC.

Prior to 1st October 2006, during the period of establishment of the EVPC, veterinarians could be elected to membership of the College as outlined below.

Veterinarians who pass the examination, or who were duly elected before 1st October 2006, are designated as 'Diplomates of the European Veterinary Parasitology College'. They are authorised to use the designation of "Diplomate, European Veterinary Parasitology College" and the postnominal title "DipEVPC" for the duration of their active membership.

Diplomates of another European College of Veterinary Specialisation may be admitted as EVPC Diplomates only if they spend 60% of their working time (*i.e.* at least 24 hours a week) in the practice of Veterinary Parasitology and providing there is clear scientific and clinical compatibility between the two disciplines.

Founding Diplomates are internationally recognised specialists selected according to specified 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, *Founding Members* and *De facto* Recognised Specialists.

Founding members are invited specialists, as defined in the general scheme of veterinary specialisation, approved by the EBVS. The Founding Members become the initial Organising Committee, their number being limited to that essential to conduct the business of the speciality and to achieve provisional recognition.

De facto recognition was possible upon application for a limited period after the legal registration of the constitution of the College (*i.e.* until 1st October 2006). Candidates had

to fulfil a set of criteria agreed with the EBVS. Selection was made by the *Founding members* on the basis of a submitted CV providing satisfactory evidence of the above mentioned criteria. Election of such candidates was accomplished by a two-thirds majority secret ballot of the Organising Committee after review of their personal written application.

Associate Members:

Associate members form an important component of the College. They must be scientists of international repute with at least 7 years of experience who are not veterinarians but who have contributed significantly to research in Veterinary Parasitology. Their essential role in the development of the discipline of Veterinary Parasitology is acknowledged and their participation in the activities of EVPC is welcome. Nominations are made through the sponsorship of two Diplomates. Election of a non-veterinary associate is accomplished by a majority secret ballot of the Board and a majority secret ballot of diplomates at the annual General Business Meeting.

Associate Members have all the privileges of membership except the right to vote at General Business Meetings. They are not allowed to hold office within the College but can be co-opted to committees. Associate Members are encouraged to participate in scientific meetings and workshops organised by the College. They may participate in EVPC training programmes together with EVPC Diplomates, but are not entitled to act as supervisors without a Diplomat being responsible for the training programme.

Honorary Membership:

This honour may be conferred on a person (being a veterinarian or not) who has contributed in an extraordinary manner to the advancement of Veterinary Parasitology. Nomination shall be made through the sponsorship of two Diplomates. Election of an *Honorary Member* shall be accomplished by a two-thirds majority secret ballot of the Board and a two-thirds majority secret ballot of the Business Meeting. The number of Honorary Members is restricted to 5% of the general membership. *Honorary Members* have all the privileges of membership except the right to vote and to hold office within the College. They are not required to pay dues.

Non-Practising Diplomates:

Non-practising diplomates are those whose registration has ceased by default when the speciality is practised at a level of less than 60 per cent (*i.e.* <24 hours a week), or when the speciality has not been practised for two continuous years or the equivalent of two years during the previous period of five years, or if the re-registration (re-accreditation) criteria are not fulfilled at the end of a 5 year period, or if the diplomate has not attended an Annual General Meeting for three years without previous dispensation. A non-practising diplomate may not describe him/herself as an EVPC Diplomat but may use the designation 'Non-practising Diplomat'. Non-practising diplomates may neither vote nor act as supervisors for residency programmes. They pay reduced dues. A non-

practising diplomate seeking to revert to full diplomate status needs to satisfy and obtain the agreement of the Credentials Committee.

Retired Diplomates:

Retired diplomates are former diplomates who are permanently and irrevocably of non-practising status. They do not pay annual dues but may elect to continue to receive the EVPC newsletter. They are welcome to attend EVPC meetings.