



## EVPC Policies and procedures

### *European Veterinary Parasitology College*

#### EVPC

#### POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

(Amended, 9 February 2024)

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## EVPC Policies and procedures

### INTRODUCTION

The European Veterinary Parasitology College was established in 2003 to advance Veterinary Parasitology and promote high standards within this speciality in Europe. It represents an organised effort to establish criteria for training and experience to qualify as a specialist in Veterinary Parasitology. The organisation encourages veterinarians entering Veterinary Parasitology 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. The activities of the EVPC are outlined on its website [www.eurovetpar.org](http://www.eurovetpar.org) which, *inter alia*, provides guidelines for some key functions (e.g. guidelines for prospective residents and guidelines for prospective course directors) as well as application forms.

The World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology (WAAVP) initiated the EVPC Project at its XV<sup>th</sup> International Congress in Stresa (Italy) on August 2001. The proposal to form a College resulted from a growing desire to harmonize postgraduate training and provide certification in Veterinary Parasitology in Europe and from a current need in the profession for well-educated veterinary parasitologists with certified experience for leading positions in veterinary schools or faculties, research, private and government laboratories, industry etc. This project was also supported by the European Federation of Parasitology and by several National Societies of Parasitology from Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Portugal, United Kingdom and Spain.

Veterinary Parasitology is a discipline-oriented specialization, which focuses on parasites, their pathogenicity and their effects on animal health, in particular the epidemiology, clinical signs, diagnosis, prognosis, treatment, control and monitoring of animal parasitic diseases. The study of Veterinary Parasitology also includes the understanding and control of parasitic zoonosis. In some (parts of) European countries (Italy, France, Belgium), Veterinary Parasitology also includes the study of pathogenic fungi and associated diseases in animals.

This document describes the Policies and Procedures of the European Veterinary Parasitology College (EVPC) as accepted by the European Board of Veterinary Specialisation and implemented by the EVPC at its inaugural meeting on 23 September, 2003 and subsequently amended on 12 May 2005, 3 June 2009, 28 June 2011, 19 August 2015, 4 May 2018, 27 May 2022, 28 June 2023 and 9 February 2024. It includes description of the requirements for admission to the College, the residency and training programmes, the application and examination procedures and the reaccreditation process.

### 1- Objectives of the *European Veterinary Parasitology College*

The primary objectives of the College shall be the promotion of study, research and practice of Veterinary Parasitology in Europe, and increase the competency of those who practise in this field by:

- a. establishing guidelines for post-graduate education and training as a prerequisite to become a specialist in the speciality of Veterinary Parasitology;
- b. examining and authenticating veterinarians as specialists in Veterinary Parasitology to serve the veterinary patient, its owner and the public in general, by providing expert care for animals with parasitic disease;
- c. encouraging research and other contributions to knowledge in all aspects of Parasitology, and promoting communication and dissemination of this knowledge;
- d. the development, supervision and assessment of continuing education programs in Veterinary Parasitology;
- e. Committing itself to the development of a culture, which recognises the importance of quality, and quality assurance, in its activities, and to this end, the College should develop and implement a strategy for the continuous enhancement of quality.
- f. Guaranteeing and maintaining the highest level of specialisation in Parasitology, according to European Qualifications Framework (EQF) level 8.



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### 2- Definition and membership

Veterinary Parasitology is a discipline-oriented specialisation, which focuses on parasites and their effects on animal health, in particular on parasite biology, epidemiology, diagnosis, prognosis, treatment and control of animal parasitic diseases. The study of Veterinary Parasitology also includes the prevention of parasitic zoonoses important in human health.

Membership in the EVPC includes veterinarians with a wide variety of career pathways and employments such as veterinary faculties and schools, research institutes, pharmaceutical research laboratories, diagnostic laboratories and private clinical practice. A veterinarian who has satisfied the requirements as to character, training, experience and competence in Veterinary Parasitology, including satisfactory completion of the certifying examination, is eligible for membership.

The College must only certify veterinarians who i) Have demonstrated fitness and ability to practice the specialty by meeting the established training and experience requirements and by attaining acceptable scores on comprehensive examinations administered by the College; ii) Have demonstrated satisfactory moral and ethical standing in the profession; iii) Practice scientific, evidence-based veterinary medicine, which complies with animal welfare legislation; iv) Have gained their veterinary degree at least 48 months previously.

The use of the European Veterinary Specialist Trade Mark is permitted to Diplomates who are registered as a European Veterinary Specialist by the EBVS, only after reading and acknowledging by signature the content of the Regulations for the EBVS European Veterinary Specialist Logo.

A person, veterinarian or not, who has contributed in an extraordinary manner to the advancement of Veterinary Parasitology may be elected as an Honorary Member of the College. Election of an Honorary member shall be accomplished by an at least **two-thirds** vote of the Board, and by an at least **two-thirds** majority of the voting members present (including those abstaining) at the Annual General Meeting of the College. They shall have all the privileges of membership except the right to vote and shall not be required to pay Dues.

A scientist of international repute with at least 7 years of experience and who has contributed significantly to research in veterinary parasitology can become Associate Member. Election of an Associate Member shall be accomplished by a majority secret ballot of the Board and a majority secret ballot of the Annual General Business Meeting. Associate Members shall have all the privileges of membership except the right to vote at the Annual General Business Meeting. They can be co-opted to committees as advisors. They shall be required to pay dues. They can use the designation of Associate Member of EVPC. Associate Members are encouraged to participate in the training of residents together with EVPC Diplomates. They are not entitled to act as resident supervisors without a Diplomat responsible for the training program.

### 3- Training programme for Diplomat status

#### 3.1 Definition

Either a Standard or an Alternative Training Programme (see below) allows graduate veterinarians to acquire in-depth knowledge of Veterinary Parasitology and its supporting disciplines under the supervision and guidance of a Diplomat or Diplomates of the EVPC.



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### 3.2 Objectives of a Veterinary Parasitology Training Programme

#### General objectives

- i) To promote aptitude and proficiency in Veterinary Parasitology
- ii) To instruct graduate veterinarians in the science and practice of Veterinary Parasitology and its supporting disciplines (zoology, immunology, general epidemiology, pathology, pharmacology)
- iii) To provide graduate veterinarians with the opportunity to pursue a career in the teaching, research, diagnostic, industrial or regulatory/governmental practice of Veterinary Parasitology
- iv) To advance Veterinary Parasitology through promotion of research and publications.

#### Specific objectives - knowledge and skills

##### i) Generic knowledge and skills

To a standard consistent with postgraduate level, the Diplomate should:

- be able to communicate clearly in oral and written form in the English language
- be able to approach problems in an analytical, scientific way to find solutions and to be able to assign priorities for these solutions
- be able to organise work efficiently and effectively
- be able to document observations and results methodically and accurately
- be able to find reliable information in all aspects of the discipline
- be able to develop scientific activities in order to contribute to the development of Veterinary Parasitology
- be aware of contemporary standards of quality and safety relevant to the execution of the speciality
- be aware of up-to-date developments in the speciality
- be acquainted with the structures, objectives, approaches and problems of the veterinary profession and specifically with regard to Veterinary Parasitology
- be aware of the social role of the speciality
- understand the possibilities that other specialities have to offer and the value of multidisciplinary
- have developed the self-confidence, self-criticism and sense of responsibility essential for practice of the speciality, including the requisite ethical and professional standards
- have developed the ability and motivation for continued life-long learning

##### ii) Knowledge and skills concerning General Parasitology

The Diplomate should:

- be familiar with the broad taxonomy of parasites and their relationship to non-parasite species
- have knowledge of comparative (human) parasitology and its bearing on veterinary parasitology

With respect to the major parasites of veterinary and zoonotic interest:

- have a thorough knowledge of their biology and life cycle, including, where relevant, their intermediate hosts and vectors
- have an up-to-date knowledge of their global prevalence and distribution and an awareness of their economic effects and relative importance
- be expert on the morphology and identification of the most common European parasites and also typical examples of less common or important groups (spirurids, for example)
- understand their host-parasite relationships particularly in respect of their pathology, host-immune responses and mechanisms to evade such immune responses



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- understand their epidemiology and the factors which determine it and may modify it, and be aware of the zoonotic risk
- be familiar with World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) recommendations as applied to parasitic infections
- understand the principles of control strategies through a knowledge of historic as well as current experience

### iii) Knowledge and skills concerning Clinical Veterinary Parasitology

Particularly with respect to parasitic infection of domesticated animals but also, where relevant, with respect to those of non-domesticated species, the Diplomate should:

- be familiar with the clinical presentation of parasitic diseases and be competent in their clinical examination and diagnosis
- know what diagnostic investigations to undertake and be skilled in their execution at individual or population levels
- be able to appropriately treat and instigate control measures at individual or population levels, including those against vectors
- be able to advise and implement prophylactic measures
- be able to develop, advise and implement national or international surveillance or public health measures, including those in abattoirs or food-processing operations

### iv) Knowledge and skills concerning Laboratory Veterinary Parasitology

The Diplomate should:

- be competent in the handling and storage of laboratory samples for parasitological examination, including compliance with health and safety regulations in the laboratory and in transit
- be skilled in methods for the qualitative and quantitative examination of samples for evidence of parasitic infection by either direct or indirect means including immunological, biochemical and nucleic-acid-based methods
- understand the diagnostic and analytical validity (sensitivity and specificity) of diagnostic methods and also their limitations
- be able to apply diagnostic methods in the identification of parasites in samples, including in tissues
- be competent in the methods of sampling the environment for parasites
- be able to recognise parasite vectors and be familiar with methods for their identification and for the detection and identification of parasites they might transmit to hosts.

### v) Knowledge and skills concerning Research in Veterinary Parasitology

The Diplomate should:

- understand the principles of scientific method, and hypothesis generation and testing
- have a basic knowledge of statistical methods, including the ability to design experiments and efficacy trials which will achieve statistically meaningful results with due regards to animal welfare
- be familiar with legislation affecting research including ethical approval
- be aware of the regulatory processes for vaccine and drug approval
- understand the mechanisms and pathways of drug or vaccine discovery and development
- be able to produce precise and concise reports and manuscripts, including analysis of data and valid interpretations and conclusions, that can meet the expectations of peer review.

### **3.3 General Programme description**



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Whichever route (Standard Residency or Alternative Pathway) is followed, the following minimum criteria must be met:

- The training programme shall be a minimum of 48 months duration (36 months of advanced post-graduate training and appropriate experience in Veterinary Parasitology, preceded by a one-year internship, or equivalent practical experience as approved by the college) that is acceptable to the Board. Acceptable means "a training programme that is directed by a Diplomate of the EVPC and approved by the EVPC accomplished within 6 consecutive years".
- The programme shall be supervised by a Diplomate of the EVPC (the Main Supervisor), who may be assisted by other (maximum 2) appropriately qualified advisers (the Co-Supervisors) who will either be Diplomates or Associate Members of the EVPC, or Diplomates/Associate Members of an EBVS or ABVS college or alternatively qualified, in which case their CVs should be submitted with the application for approval by the board and the Education Committee. Additional procedures should be in place in the primary host institution to support the candidate and arbitrate in the event of problems with supervision.

### 3.4 Roles of participants

#### i) Role of the Residency Programme Director

- Each standard training (Residency) programme shall have a Residency Programme Director, who shall be a Diplomate of the EVPC, and a senior member of staff at the institution hosting the residency.
- The Programme Director is responsible for the application for approval of the Residency Programme to the EVPC Education Committee and for ensuring it continues to meet the requirements of the EVPC notwithstanding that formal reapproval is required only every 5 years.
- The Residency Programme Director can act as a Supervisor.
- The Education Committee will receive the required periodic reports from directors of resident training on the annual progress of each candidate in every Parasitology residency.

#### ii) Role of the Supervisor(s)

- One Diplomate may supervise up to 3 residents concurrently.
- The Main Supervisor shall be responsible for the administration and supervision of the candidate's progress through the Training Programme. This will require frequent contact and at least four formal, recorded meetings per year to assess progress and performance, and to review the Portfolio of Activity. The Co-Supervisor(s) assist(s) the Main Supervisor throughout the training programme in order to achieve an optimal training of the candidates.
- The Supervisors shall be responsible for ensuring that all facilities (including case material) required by the minimum specifications are available in each phase of the programme.

#### iii) Role of the Candidate

The candidate must maintain a Portfolio of Activity which documents:

- Training activities undertaken, with objectives, dates, outcomes;
- Clinical cases or outbreaks investigated, with history, methods, interventions and outcomes;
- Presentations, seminars, conferences, continuing education given/attended, with dates and titles;
- Publications by the candidate.

Annually, the candidate must submit, to the Education Committee (see mail of chairman in the website), a statement, co-signed by the Supervisor, confirming that the four supervisory meetings have been held, and that progress has been deemed satisfactory. Failure to submit such a statement within 3 months of each annual review date will be taken as withdrawal from the programme.



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### 3.5 Types of Training Programme

#### i) Standard Residency Training Programme (SRTP)

This comprises an integrated programme specifically for the purpose of preparing candidates for the EVPC, conducted mainly at one site (but with external rotations).

#### ii) Alternative Residency Training Programme (ARTP)

The College recognizes that many veterinary parasitologists have acquired and will continue to acquire their expertise in other ways. Alternative Programmes can be constructed by the supervising Diplomate for each candidate and may, for example, include a taught Masters programme, a research degree, and periods of relevant practical experience. In every case, the minimum specifications as defined above must be met, including the suitability of the learning environment for each component. Taught programmes may be approved as suitable elements within an Alternative Programme by application to the Education Committee.

### 3.6 Learning environment

The environment should provide the intellectual and physical facilities for the advancement of the knowledge of pathophysiologic mechanisms of parasitic diseases at a molecular, cellular, organ and whole animal level and their consequences. Services and equipment required for standard or alternative training programmes preparing candidates for EVPC examination must be approved by Education Committee and include:

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

*Clinical and necropsy facilities:* Key facilities must meet the requirements of the European system of evaluation of veterinary training including animal welfare and hygiene

*Laboratory facilities:* Veterinary Parasitology Laboratory standards that must be met include: compliance with health and 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; the documentation of personnel training and development; and a duty parasitologist (Practising Diplomate or Associate).

### 3.7 Approval of programmes

#### Standard Residency Training Programme, (SRTP)

Standard Residency training programmes (SRTPs) must be approved by the Education Committee after application by the Programme Director, using the Residency Training Programme Approval Application Form, three months in advance of the first residency commencing. Approval of a Residency Programme shall apply for 5 years for any number of candidates commencing within that time. Residency training programmes must be submitted for renewed approval every 5 years. A list of approved Residency Programmes is maintained on the EVPC website.

#### Alternative Training Programme (ATP)

For each applicant pursuing an Alternative Programme (ATP), individual application must be made by the candidate, countersigned by the supervising Diplomate(s), for approval by the Education Committee, using the Alternative Training Programme Application Form. Application must be made 3 months prior to commencement of the programme. Each element and environment involved in the Alternative Programme is subject to the same scrutiny and standards as a Standard Residency Programme.



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### 3.8 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 Veterinary Parasitology College and WAAVP and/or European Federation of Parasitologists and/or of National Societies of Parasitology Congresses and Meetings.

### 3.9 Preparation for the Examination

The candidate's goal should be to acquire sufficient knowledge to assume responsibility for the broad spectrum of problems encountered by veterinary parasitologists. The College believes training can be best accomplished in units (departments, institutions) where there are several Diplomates of the College and where there is training in veterinary clinical parasitology. The College recognizes that training also occurs effectively in other settings but believes, in general, it may require more time. Periods of attendance in 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 veterinary parasitology, the candidates must have practical experience in performing their professional duties. These should include the application of all standard methods and procedures of clinical veterinary parasitology to any given case, with a view to demonstrating the nature of the disease process, or to making a diagnosis, or both. 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 parasitologist.

## 4. EVPC examination

The examination will be held annually at a selected central location in Europe and will be conducted in English. Non-native speakers may use an English dictionary during the examination

### 4.1 Board general requirements for examination

Before any candidate can undertake the Board Examination in Veterinary Parasitology, they must satisfy the following prerequisites as determined by the Board.

1. **Moral and ethical standing:** The candidate must demonstrate satisfactory moral and ethical standing in relation to the practice of veterinary medicine.
2. **Activity in veterinary parasitology:** The candidate should be actively engaged in Veterinary Parasitology for at least 60% of their normal working time.
3. **Educational qualification:** The candidate must have received their veterinary qualification from an EAEVE-approved establishment. Candidates from non-EAEVE approved establishments must submit an application to the Education Committee along with a letter of support from their Supervisor. The Education Committee will review the application, including the candidate's CV and residency training program, and advise the Board on acceptance.
4. **License to practice:** The candidate must be licensed to practice veterinary medicine in European Union countries. Exceptions may be considered by the EVPC Board based on the candidate's education, experience, and commitment to Veterinary Parasitology in a European context. It's important to note that holding an EVPC Diploma does not authorize the holder to practice veterinary medicine in European Union countries.



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5. **Training and experience:** The candidate must have completed training and gained experience in veterinary parasitology under the supervision of an EVPC Diplomate, as approved by the EVPC.
6. **Publication requirements:** The candidate must meet publication criteria:
  - One original research paper published in an international peer-reviewed parasitology journal indexed in major databases such as PubMed and CABI, contributing substantially to the presented data.
  - One case report, series of clinical cases, or original paper published in an international peer-reviewed parasitology journal indexed in major databases such as PubMed and CABI.
  - The candidate must be the first author or share first-authorship, with primary responsibility in both cases.

\*Applications to the Board must be submitted before commencing a training programme.

### 4.2 Application for the examination

The examination of the European Veterinary Parasitology College will be held in a date fixed by the Examination Committee and validated by the board and published not later than 1<sup>st</sup> June each year.

Residents who wish to sit the exam must send the application for examination to the Credentials Committee (EVPC Secretary in cc) in a prescribed form, accompanied by the annual and final letters of approval of reports of residency progress provided by the Education Committee, a list of publications and the copy of bank transfer of examination fee fixed by the Board before 1<sup>st</sup> March each year. The application for examination will require the signature of the Main Supervisor (and Co-Supervisor(s) when applicable), who sponsors the candidate by certifying that an accepted programme of training has been followed to permit entry to the examination and it is finished or will be finished on the year of application.

Once candidates get the acknowledgement that the application has been received and that the documentation is complete and valid, candidates must submit the ten Clinical Studies Abstracts to be approved by the Examination Committee. Once the abstracts are accepted, the full description of these Clinical Studies must be submitted by the date indicated by the Examination Committee.

If all documents are submitted on 1<sup>st</sup> March, eligibility to sit the examination is decided by the Credentials Committee and promptly notified (by the 15<sup>th</sup> of March). If submitting the Credentials is delayed due to the residency only being completed after 1<sup>st</sup> March, but before the examination date, the decision of acceptance to sit the examination will be communicated not later than ten working days after submission of the credentials to Board.

An application is valid for only one year except for repeat candidates (see "Results of the Examination"). The signing sponsor should be **the Main Supervisor and when applicable, the Co-Supervisor(s)**. When this is not possible the applicant should provide an appropriate explanation to the Board.

**Candidates who withdraw from the exam before June 1<sup>st</sup> are eligible for a refund of fees.** An individual who has received an unfavourable ruling regarding qualifications to sit the examination may appeal against this decision. An appeal against a decision of denying acceptance of the Credentials may be submitted after a minimum of one week and a maximum of three weeks following the official announcement of the decision of denying acceptance of the Credentials of a resident to sit the examination.

### 4.3 Objectives of the examination

The examination is designed to test a candidate's:

- Understanding of the broad principles of Veterinary Parasitology,



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- Ability to teach and/or practice Veterinary Parasitology competently,
- Ability to synthesise data and observations in problem-solving.

The aim of the examination is to evaluate the candidate's aptitude and competency in Veterinary Parasitology and its supporting disciplines (zoology, immunology, molecular biology, general epidemiology, pathology, and pharmacology) upon completion of the Education Programme.

A list of reference books and scientific articles, is available on the website. This list is provided to help the candidate to focus their study and revision during exam preparation but is not exhaustive.

### 4.4 Format of the examination

The format of the examination shall include three parts.

#### Part A: General Parasitology

This part of the Examination will deal with the life cycles, geographical distribution, epidemiology, morphology, host-parasite relationships including cell/molecular biology and immunology, pathogenesis, pathology, clinical aspects, diagnosis, control of parasites and parasitic diseases due to Protozoa, Helminths, Arthropods and related taxa.

- Section 1-1: Forty (40) MCQ
- Section 1-2: Two Essay Questions (to be chosen by the candidate from a list of 4). A reading list of 10 updated (2 previous years) selected publications will be available at least two months before the exam.
- Section 1-3: 2 Short-answer questions (to be selected by the candidate from a list of 4).

Duration: about 3 hours; 40% of the final mark.

#### Part B: Clinical Parasitology

This part of the Examination will evaluate the candidate's clinical expertise in Veterinary Parasitology and communication skills. It will be based on the preparation of 10 Clinical Studies (either Clinical Cases or Clinical Trials (see conditions below) of which at least six studies should deal with domesticated animals (farm/companion animals): 3 studies from either ruminants, rabbits, pigs or poultry; and 3 studies from either dogs, cats or horses. The remaining four studies can be from the same species or other species such as zoo animals, wild fauna, laboratory animals, fish, honey bees, etc., conducted during the period of the residency. Clinical studies must include at least three studies dealing with different parasite groups (helminth, arthropod and protozoa).

Clinical Cases must include the description of the history, clinical signs, diagnosis (including (parasitological) differential diagnosis), treatment, as well as preventive measures and follow-up of an animal patient (individual or group). Other contributions such as Clinical Trials may be acceptable but prior agreement must be obtained from the Examination Committee. Clinical Trials may include clinical research studies designed to answer specific questions in veterinary parasitology, i.e., new treatments (novel vaccines, drugs, etc.). Clinical trials may be experiments (i.e. conducted in a research facility) or field studies with clinical implications. Detailed instructions for the preparation of the Clinical Studies and their evaluation are provided on the EVPC website (see the document "Guidelines for EVPC clinical studies and evaluation").

The 10 structured abstracts must be submitted to ExCom for approval before the submission of the full clinical cases.

- Section 2-1: A dossier (10 Clinical Studies) must be provided on a specified date prior to the Examination in the form of reflective texts.
- Section 2-2: Oral presentation of two case studies. Candidates will be informed one month



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before the examination which ones have been chosen by the Examination Committee for oral presentation.

Duration: 60 minutes (20 mins for presentation plus 10 mins for questions for each of the two selected cases); 40% of the final mark (of which 20% is for the orally presented reports; and 20% for the 10 written reports).

### Part C: Diagnostic Parasitology

This part of the Examination will evaluate the candidate's ability to understand and use in an appropriate way clinical procedures and skills, and different techniques such as haematology, serology, coprology, histology, molecular biology, in vitro cell culture, biochemistry and medical imaging. This part of the Examination will consist of 3 sections.

- Section 3-1: Diagnostic scenarios: Ten diagnostic scenarios (consisting of up to a max of 200 words of text plus appropriate lab data) each with four associated MCQs based on the critical analysis of clinical, serological, coproscopical or biochemical data (hence a total of 40 MCQs).
- Section 3-2: Parasite identification: 15 gross or microscopic preparations (a maximum of 5 of them can be a photo) to be examined. Specimens to be identified will be accompanied by a brief history including host species and, if appropriate, organ.
- Section 3-3: Diagnostic practicum: This part may include the examination of an animal with clinical signs, taking of appropriate samples and performing appropriate laboratory (parasitological) procedures to reach a diagnosis of the case.

Duration: 3 hours: 20% of the final mark.

### 4.5 Evaluation and pass mark

*Part A: MCQs, Essay and Short Answer Questions: total 40%*

Each appointed Examiner will read the answers and award a mark Final evaluation.

Usually the final mark will be expressed as the mean of all marks, **but it will be left to the examiners' final decision.**

*Part B: Clinical studies: total 40%*

Each of the ten written clinical studies and two PowerPoint presentations (quality of the work, presentation and ability to answer questions) will be evaluated by each appointed Examiner. Final evaluation will be based on the mean of all marks.

**A table explaining evaluation is provided in the document entitled "Guidelines for EVPC clinical studies preparation and their evaluation" and available on EVPC website**

*Part C: Diagnostics: Total 20%*

Each appointed Examiner will read the answers of Section 3-1, and 3-2 and award a mark. A template on competences for the diagnostic practicum will be previously agreed among appointed Examiners to check individually while performing the exercise. Final evaluation will be based on the mean of all marks.

The candidate must score at least 70% in each part of the examination.

### 4.6 Withdrawal

**Failure to appear the day of the examination without anticipated warning to the EVPC secretary or to the Examination Committee will not constitute an attempt to sit all or any part(s) of the exam but will count as one of the three retakes available to candidates to be eligible to pass any previously failed part(s).**



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Unforeseen personal (health issue, loss of a relative, etc) or external event (“force majeure”, i.e. an external, unpredictable event beyond the control of the involved person according to the article 1218 of the French Civil Code) will not count as a failure to appear.

Any official withdrawal before the 1<sup>st</sup> of June or due to unforeseen reasons (as describe above) will be accompanied by a full refund of the examination fees and will not count as one of the three available retakes.

Each situation will be evaluated by the Board on individual cases, and the final decision will be left at the discretion of the Board (?).

### **4.7 Results of the examination**

Candidates are required to complete satisfactorily all parts of the certification examination. A candidate who takes the examination and passes **one or two of the 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.

Candidates who wish to retake the failed part(s) must announce their intention in a letter received by the Secretary, postmarked no later than March 1<sup>st</sup> 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 part as described above must re-apply as new candidates and retake all parts.

If a resident failed in the clinical part, the resident is allowed to submit an updated version of the same (10) clinical cases the following year with the option to submit two new clinical cases.

Candidates may retake the examination no more than three times. This must be done within 8 years of completion of the residency programme. Therefore, one candidate may take the exam four (4) times.

### **4.8 Significance of the certification**

A successful candidate shall be designated Diplomate of the European Veterinary Parasitology College (Dip. EVPC or Dipl. EVPC) until retirement and it has been recognized by EBVS as European Veterinary Specialist in Parasitology for 5 years.

**In January** the year following the exam, the personal data of the new diplomates by examination will be included in the member list and send to EBVS.

The candidates are accepted into EVPC and EBVS organisations on thorough professional requirements which equip him/her for a highly specialised service. The EVPC **acknowledges that, by certifying** an individual as meeting these requirements, it stakes its reputation on his/her conscientious rendering of such service and on the commitment of it, Diplomates must go on their own continuing professional development to maintain the College's high standards.

## **5. EVPC Re-certification**

According to article 4, paragraph 5 of the Constitution, Diplomates of the European Veterinary Parasitology College are required to undertake a process of Recertification at intervals of five (5) years to maintain the recognition as EBVS specialist and go on as certified Diplomate.

During this process, all Diplomates are required to show evidence of their professional activities and that they are continuing:

- To participate actively and to contribute to the affairs of the College
- To undertake professional development, by attending scientific meetings and continuing



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education programs

- To be actively involved in the dissemination of knowledge related to veterinary parasitology, by contributing to continuing education programs and by training veterinarians
- To publish peer-reviewed scientific articles in national and international refereed journals on topics of scientific research or clinical practice in the speciality.

According to the recommendations of the European Board of Veterinary Specialisation (EBVS) recertification of Diplomates is undertaken on a points' basis. Diplomates should accumulate at least 100 points during each 5-year period, in order to achieve recertification. There is flexibility in the manner by which Diplomates may accumulate these points; however, the EVPC requires that all Diplomates must achieve some points in all the areas mentioned above.

The EBVS recognises only scientific, evidence-based veterinary medicine which complies with animal welfare legislation and, therefore, no credit points can be granted for any activity that does not meet with these criteria.

Diplomates are expected to participate actively in the development and functioning of the College and consequently are required to attend at least one AGM each three years (unless dispensation is obtained in advance). If the Diplomat has not attended the AGM for three consecutive years without previous dispensation from the Board, the registration as certified Diplomat ceases by default.

The Diplomat is required to send every 5 years a summary of his/her professional activities. The format of this summary has to be approved of by the EBVS. Credentials and completed recertification form must be sent to the Credentials Committee by the deadline date, which is decided annually by the Board and communicated to the members. Incomplete credentials or absence of any required documents by the deadline will result in a penalty fee of €350, if the diplomate goes on wishing to recertify.

Supplementary, and based on a decision made at the EVPC meeting in Munich in April 2013, each Diplomat applying for recertification has to provide either 2 questions + 1 clinical scenario or 4 questions suitable for examination of candidates to become an "EVPC Diplomat", as it will be indicated in the Re-Certification template.

Individual summary dossiers will be evaluated by the Credentials Committee. If a Diplomat does not meet the requirements to recertify, the Diplomat can be given one year extra to do so. If succeeding, the Diplomat will then be able to be recertified four years from the end of the extra year.



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An unfavourable evaluation will lead to cessation of registration and to a Non-certified Diplomate status for a five-year period until next Recertification. During that period, the Non-certified Diplomate has to demonstrate her/his compliance with the criteria for Recertification.

Appeals can be lodged at least 60 days, but no later than 90 days, after the postmarked date of the letter communicating the relevant adverse decision.

Cessation of registration must be approved by the Board and comes into effect in 15<sup>th</sup> January next year, by eliminating his/her name in the EBVS annual report.

### 5.1 Re-certification Template

#### Section 1: Active participation and contribution in the affairs of the College

Diplomates are expected to attend regularly the annual general meetings of the College (at least one within 3 years) and to pay promptly the annual fee.

Their further involvement in the affairs of the College is also encouraged.

Contribution to continuing education programs throughout Europe, training of veterinarians, supervision of EVPC Residents, as well as preparing Questions and Clinical Scenarios for the EVPC certifying exam (in addition to the compulsory ones) are eligible activities to obtain points.

Points are awarded as detailed here below. Each Diplomate should accumulate a minimum of 10 points. No more than 80 points can be awarded for activities in this area.

EVPC Meeting	Yes
YEAR 1	
YEAR 2	
YEAR 3	
YEAR 4	
YEAR 5	

To be included (one option)	Yes
2 MCQs + 1 Clinical Scenario (including 2 MCQs)	

Involvement in EVPC activities	Points per year or activity
Accepted Exam Questions in addition to the ones required for re-certification (per MCQ)	4
Accepted Clinical Scenario for Exam in addition to the ones for re-certification (per Clinical Scenario)	6
Organisation of EVPC Workshop/Webinar (points per activity)	5
Lecturer at EVPC Workshop/Webinar/Summer School (points per activity)	5
Receiving EVPC residents (points per week)	2
Development of Standard Residency Training Programme	10
Development of Alternative Residency Training Programme	8
Main Supervisor of EVPC Resident (points per year)	8
Co-Supervisor of EVPC (or EBVS) Resident (points per year)	4
Organisation of Summer School	20



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EVPC Board Member or member of EVPC Committee (points per year)	6
Any specific task approved by Credentials Committee	To be determined
Points that can be accumulated in this area	
Maximum	Minimum
80	10

### Section 2-3: Professional development

All Diplomates are expected to undertake professional development, by attending scientific meetings and continuing education programs.

Tasks related to supervision of students and lectures related to Veterinary Parasitology are also included in this section.

Points are awarded as detailed here below. Each Diplomate should accumulate a minimum of 10 points. No more than 80 points can be awarded for activities in this area.

Professional development	Number of points per activity
Attendance of Congresses/Meetings/ Courses	
International Parasitology	5
National Parasitology	2
Non-specialised congresses	1
EVPC congress, meeting, workshop (AGM excluded)	5
Teaching / supervision	
Supervision of undergraduate Students (BSc, MSc) (4 points per bachelor or master thesis student per year)	4
Supervision of postgraduate Students* (5 points per student per year)	5
Undergraduate lectures (1 point per 10 lectures/academic year)	1
Undergraduate practical lectures (1 point per 15 lectures/academic year)	1
Points that can be accumulated in this area	
Maximum	Minimum
80	10

\*No extra points will be awarded in this section if the postgraduate student is simultaneously an EVPC Resident, and points for supervision are awarded for this activity in Section 1



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### Section 4-5: Publications and presentations

Diplomates are expected to be actively involved in the dissemination of knowledge through the publication of books or chapters in the speciality as well as publishing peer-reviewed articles in national and international refereed journals on topics of scientific research or clinical practice in the speciality. They can also make presentations to scientific meetings, which are published in the meeting proceedings.

Points are awarded as detailed here below. Each Diplomat should accumulate a minimum of 10 points. Not more than 80 points can be awarded for activities in this area.

Publications and presentations	Number of points
Scientific publications/published work	
Peer reviewed Journals (Publications including reviews, national and international) - First Author	10
Peer reviewed Journals (Publications including reviews, national and international) - Last (Senior) author or corresponding author	7
Peer reviewed Journals (Publications including reviews, national and international) – other Co-Author	6
Text Book (chapters / work as editor)	14
Presentations (orally, poster)/Congress organisation	
International congress, or EVPC scientific sessions: author (presenter)	9
International congress, or EVPC scientific sessions: co-authors	3
National congress: author (only presenter)	4
National congress: co-authors	2
International congress: poster presentation (First author)	3
International congress: poster presentation (Co-authors)	2
National congress: poster presentation (First author)	2
National congress: poster presentation (Co-authors)	1
Parasitology congress organisation	15
Points that can be accumulated in this area	
Maximum	Minimum
80	10



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### Section 6: Other activities

This area is specific for those Diplomates involved in other professional activities that are highly time demanding, which may be included to obtain enough points, such as reviewing documents or professional committees' tasks. No minimal amount of points in this area is required for recertification.

Other activities		Number of points
Membership in other boards and committees, related to Parasitology		
International Committee		2
National Committee		1
International Journal Editor		5
International Advisory Board		2
International Editorial Board		2
National Advisory Board		1
National Editorial Board		1
Points that can be accumulated in this area		
Maximum		Minimum
10		None

### Summary

Each Diplomate must score a minimum of 100 points, in order to achieve Recertification. An Excel sheet with automatic calculation is available in the Website, dividing the point by sections.

	Minimum	Maximum	Type considered
Section 1: Involvement in EVPC Activities	10	80	Active participation and contribution to EVPC
Section 2: Attendance of Meetings	10	80	Professional development
Section 3: Teaching / Supervision			
Section 4: Scientific Publications/Published Work	10	80	Publications and presentations
Section 5: Presentations/Congress organisation			
Section 6: Membership on other boards and committees	no min	10	Others
Section 7: Annual EVPC Meetings	Yes/No		
Section 8: Submission of MCQs and Clinical Scenarios	Yes/No		