



RESIDENCY PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Residency Program – Definition and General Comments

A Residency Program approved by the American Veterinary Dental College (AVDC) is a full- or part-time, structured training program allowing an individual to gain in-depth knowledge of veterinary dentistry and related basic sciences, under direct supervision and guidance of an active Diplomate of the American Veterinary Dental College. The program is to include educational opportunities, supervised training and opportunities to gain experience in all major aspects of dentistry: Oral Embryology, Histology, and Anatomy; Prosthodontics; Oral Pathology; Restorative Dentistry; Oral Medicine; Orthodontics; Periodontics; Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery; Endodontics; and Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology and other Oral Diagnostic Procedures.

AVDC recommends that the Program Director and additional diplomate supervisors read the AVDC Mentor Manual, available as a link from the [Information for Diplomates](http://www.avdc.org/members/index.html) page of the AVDC web site (<http://www.avdc.org/members/index.html>).

Approval of a Residency Program requires approval of the site and general aspects of the program, and separate approval of an application for entry to the program by an individual candidate. Residency site approval is subject to re-evaluation every five years.

Completion of an AVDC-approved residency program does not guarantee that the individual will become a diplomate of the AVDC. Following successful completion of a residency program, and approval of a credentials application, the resident is eligible to take the AVDC examination. The resident must pass all parts of the AVDC examination to become an AVDC diplomate.

Objectives of a Residency Program

- To promote aptitude and clinical proficiency in the diagnosis, treatment and aftercare of animals with oral disease(s).
- To provide learning opportunities to review the basic sciences pertaining to veterinary dentistry.
- To provide exposure to a wide range of dental products and instruments.
- To provide instruction, mentoring and supervision of the resident to adequately prepare the resident for the AVDC certification examination.
- To provide the opportunity to pursue career goals in teaching, research, clinical service and/or specialty practice.

General Program Description

Prerequisites for the Resident:

1. The applicant must either be a graduate of a college or school of veterinary medicine accredited or approved by AVMA; possess a certificate issued by the Educational Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates (ECFVG); or be legally qualified to practice veterinary medicine in some state, province, territory or possession of the United States, Canada or other country.
2. The applicant must have completed a 12 month general medicine/surgery internship, or equivalent in clinical practice, prior to entering the Residency Program.

Program Requirements:

1. The Residency Program shall consist of a minimum of 30 months of supervised training, postgraduate education, and clinical experience in the science and practice of veterinary dentistry and its supporting

disciplines under the direct supervision of at least one Diplomate who participates actively in that program (30 months includes allowance for vacation).

2. Candidates who have successfully completed other relevant forms of extensive, formal, full-time training (e.g. an ACVS or ACVIM residency program, or training that has led to RDH certification) may petition for partial reduction of the 30 month full-time veterinary dentistry training requirement via the Advanced Standing option. Approval of advanced standing must be completed before the residency program starts.
3. Graduate degree studies related to dentistry may be included in the program; however, at least 78 weeks of the time in a combined graduate degree-residency program must be allocated to clinical case responsibility.

Definitions Relating to Residency Training and Supervision:

Residency Director is an active AVDC Diplomate responsible for submitting the Residency Program Site application, overseeing the AVDC residency training program(s) at the approved site, signing documentation verifying completion of the program by individual residents, the integrity and continuity of the program, and correspondence with the AVDC.

Supervising Diplomate is an active AVDC Diplomate responsible for direct supervision of a resident while this person is in clinical training. In programs with a single AVDC Diplomate, the Supervising Diplomate is the Residency Director.

Diplomate Direct Supervision is defined as the Residency Director/Supervisor or any Diplomate acting as a temporary mentor, and the resident are participating in clinical practice together and in which both the Diplomate and the resident are on duty interactively and concurrently managing cases. **Direct supervision** means a **Board-Certified Veterinary Dentist™** or **Board-Certified Equine Veterinary Dentist™** (depending on residency program) is readily available **on the premises** where the patient is being treated and has assumed responsibility for the veterinary care given to the patient by a person working under his or her direction. For all residents, >50% of direct supervision time must be under the Residency Supervisor or Residency Director.

Diplomate Indirect Supervision is defined as a Residency Director/Supervisor or any Diplomate acting as a temporary mentor, that is a **Board-Certified Veterinary Dentist™** or **Board-Certified Equine Veterinary Dentist™** (depending on residency program) that *may or may not* be on the premises with the resident and who has provided either written or oral instructions for treatment of the patient. The Residency Director/Supervisor or any Diplomate acting as a temporary mentor is to be readily available by telephone or other forms of immediate communication.

Number of Residents Supervised: An AVDC Diplomate may have a total of three residents whose credentials have not yet been accepted under his/her supervision. An AVDC-approved Residency Program may have more than three residents enrolled, provided that additional Supervising Diplomate(s) are available for direct supervision to fulfill the requirement of no more than three residents directly supervised by one diplomate.

Timing of submission of a Credentials Application Relative to the end of the Residency:

The resident is expected to submit a credentials application on satisfactory completion of the residency program. Residents who have completed all of the training program requirements except for the 30 month period can submit a credentials application for preliminary approval prior to the end of the 30 month residency period. In case of residency programs with a scheduled ending date up to one month after the AVDC credentials deadline, the resident may submit the credentials application up to one month before completion, to be followed by a certificate of satisfactory completion of the program from the Residency Program Director.

Specific Program Description

Application for Resident Status:

An outline of the individual's specific program designed to meet the requirement stated below shall be

submitted to AVDC by the proposed resident prior to or within 30 days of the initiation of the residency program. Employment of a resident does not guarantee approval of the program by AVDC. The resident registration application is to be submitted via DMS and is to include:

- A completed Residency Registration Application form.
- A *curriculum vitae* of the candidate, including details of the required internship or equivalent.
- Specific arrangements with regard to meeting the specialist hours requirement.
- A summary of the AVDC-approved residency site, and pertinent details of the individual's program as agreed by the individual and the Residency Director, to demonstrate that the Residency Program Requirements will be met.

AVDC Training Program Requirements:

The resident must complete all stated AVDC training program requirements during the residency period, including:

- _Minimum Required Caseload (MRCL) in the AVDC DMS online MRCL case log.
- _Minimum directly diplomate-supervised dental and oral surgery clinical service time.

- Minimum total dental and oral surgery clinical service time.
- Submission of the Resident Annual Report for review by the Training Support Committee.
- Publications and/or case reports.
- Radiograph sets.
- Specialist training hours in anesthesia, radiology and surgery.

Clinical Dental and Oral Surgery Service Time:

To facilitate the development of knowledge, skill, and proficiency in veterinary dentistry and oral surgery via exposure to a wide variety of oral and maxillofacial diseases, at least 48 weeks must be spent on a clinical dentistry and oral surgery service under the direct supervision of an active AVDC Diplomate (or EVDC Diplomate for a maximum one third of the 48 weeks), and a total of at least 78 weeks (including the 48 weeks of directly diplomate supervised clinical time) must be spent on a dentistry and oral surgery service. The resident must have clinical patient client contact for routine dental procedures as well as referral cases. A portion of the caseload must consist of periodontal, endodontic, orthodontic, restorative and oral/maxillofacial surgery cases, as defined in the MRCL. The degree of responsibility the resident assumes shall be appropriate to the nature of the dental procedure and training experience. During the last year of training the resident shall be expected to make primary decisions for the care of most dental patients.

Additional Time in the Residency Period:

Time beyond the minimum clinical service time of 78 weeks can be spent in the following ways:

Required: Time necessary to meet all other AVDC training program requirements:

- Updating case-logs.
- Preparing case reports and publications.
- Completion of the specialist hours (anesthesiology, surgery, radiology) requirements.
- Preparing the required sets of radiographs.

Subject to agreement with the Residency Program Director:

- Additional Dental and Oral Surgery clinical service time, whether directly diplomate-supervised or not (e.g. Chief Resident Clinical Service).
- Perform research or clinical investigation, and prepare manuscripts describing the research.
- Participate in graduate level courses related to dentistry or science (such as research design and statistics), or human dental school courses.
- Attending national- or international-level continuing education courses, seminars, conferences and scientific meetings related to veterinary or human dentistry, or related basic or clinical sciences.
- Rotation in an external human or veterinary dental practice or service under direct supervision of a human dentist or AVDC or EVDC Diplomate, or additional time in Radiology or Surgery, or in a related discipline such as Oncology or Pathology.
- Other activities approved by the Residency Director.

Physical Facilities, Equipment and Records Required

The following items must be available for the residency program:

- **Library:** A library must be accessible which contains recent text books and current journals representing all recognized clinical disciplines and basic sciences.
- **General veterinary services:** There must be appropriate examination room(s), waiting room and reception area, kennel and cage facilities. Clinical pathology laboratory services can on- or off-site.
- **Radiologic facilities and equipment:** The necessary equipment for taking, developing and interpreting dental radiographs must be present. Access to a whole-body radiology table, and CT and MRI equipment, must be available, though not necessarily on site.
- **Dental laboratory:** At a minimum, a work-bench with equipment for making stone models and fabricating acrylic dental devices must be available. Access to a commercial dental laboratory must be available for construction of metal devices; time spent by the resident observing creation of devices at the external dental laboratory is recommended.
- **Dental operatory:** The suite must be suitable for performing veterinary dental procedures at a specialist level, compatible with current concepts of veterinary dentistry. The dental operatory shall be

adequate in size for the dental staff, support personnel and equipment, and meet applicable regulations.

- **Surgical suite:** An operating room commensurate with the current standards of surgical practice must

- be present for major oral surgery, or access to a local surgery specialist hospital must be available.
- **Sterilization facilities** must be available for instruments and materials, and the sterilization capacity must be commensurate with the case load.
- **Equipment, instruments and supplies:** The variety, quantity and quality of dental equipment, instruments and supplies available must be commensurate with the current standards of veterinary dentistry and the list of equipment must be approved by the Training Support Committee (as part of the residency site approval).
- **Medical Records:** A comprehensive and retrievable filing system for medical records, dental records, and radiographs must be available, as well as appropriate photographic equipment.

Responsibilities

The Program Director:

- Reading the AVDC Mentor Manual.
- Obtaining approval of the residency site.
- Providing the required information for the five-yearly re-evaluation of the residency site by AVDC.
- Informing AVDC of substantial changes in the residency program, such as availability of AVDC Diplomates for direct supervision.
- Providing the infrastructure for the resident(s) to prepare the materials required by the AVDC
- Monitoring the overall progress of the resident(s).
- Monitoring the caseload available to the resident(s), ensuring that the minimum required caseload is met.
- Certifying the satisfactory completion of the residency program

The Program Director or Supervising Diplomate supervising an Individual Resident:

- Direct supervision of the clinical activities of the resident(s)
- Verifying and approving the case-log and other documentation required by the AVDC

The Resident:

- Maintaining her or his case-log and all preparing documentation required by the AVDC
- Making the case-log and all documentation required by the AVDC available for review by the Residency Director or Supervising Diplomate in a timely and organized manner.
- Complying with the requirements of the AVDC, such as the Annual Report to the Training Support Committee, and responding to Action Required reviews of Annual Reports within the stated time-line.
- Endeavoring to submit the training program requirements and credentials application package in a timely manner.
- Preparing for and taking the AVDC certification examination following successful completion of the residency.

AVDC and its respective committees:

- The Training Support Committee shall evaluate and make a decision on residency site applications, five-yearly reviews, and individual residency program applications.
- The Training Support Committee shall review the Annual Report submitted by the residents, including case-log and other required materials, and provide review reports to the residents with copies to the Residency Director.
- The Credentials Committee shall review credentials application items submitted for Pre-Approval and the credentials application packages.
- The Board of Directors shall decide on the recommendations on credentials applications made by the Credentials Committee.