



Changes for 2015

This document describes changes made by the Academy of Veterinary Dentistry ('Academy') or the American Veterinary Dental College ('College') in training program, credentials and examination requirements that take effect January 1st, 2015. **It includes additional changes approved in May 2015 in case logging requirements.**

As of the end of December 2014, the Annual Report and Examination Information online documents had been revised for the 2015 cycle. Other documents will be revised shortly to accommodate the changes described below – they will have Revised {date} stated on them. Please be sure that you are using the correct document – if you have a question about the validity of an online document, please send an email note to ExecSec@AVDC.org.

There were no specific changes made in the **Academy** credentials requirements for 2015 (though the forms on the web site are out-dated and will be brought up to date), with the exception of case log changes noted in the College Changes list (below) that are applicable to DMS listing of Academy cases.

There are some significant changes in **College** requirements this year. These are largely the result of discussions over the last two years by an ad-hoc committee of Credentials and Training Support Committee members, which provided the opportunity to consider what was working well and what needed improvement; comments from trainees were considered. There was agreement that some of the work in generating case logs and in reviewing case logs was wasted effort – that it was overly time-consuming and provided little or no training benefit to the resident, and caused the review process to be, at times, overwhelming for the committee reviewers. The work of this ad-hoc committee has now been migrated to an on-going group consisting of the chairs and chair-designates of the Credentials and Training Support Committees and the Equine TSS Committee.

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Training Program Annual Reports

In past years, all Annual Report were due on the same date.

Reports from trainees considering a credentials application were given priority in the review 'queue', with the result that was often a long delay between the submission deadline and the completion of the review for some trainees. This system also resulted in a major 'crunch' of review work for TSC reviewers.

For **2015**, Annual Report submission deadlines are staggered, as described below:

1. Trainees considering **submitting a credentials application in July** receive priority in Annual Report review. Submission deadline for the Annual Report for these trainees is **January 31st**. **Supervisor Reports are to be submitted by February 14th**. If both items are submitted by the deadline, the initial review report is expected to be made available to the trainee by April 15th.
2. **Trainees who were registered for the entire calendar Annual Report year**, or who have a program registration date in January or February of the Annual Report year, and who are not considering submitting a credentials application are to submit their Annual Report materials by **March 15th**, with **Supervisor reports dues March 31st**. Initial reviews are expected to be made available to the trainee by June 30th.
3. **Trainees whose training programs have a registered start date from March 1st – June 30th** of the Annual Report year (i.e. they have not completed a full calendar year in their training program) are to submit a simplified Annual Report document by **June 15th**, with **submission of the Supervisor report by July 1st**. Initial reviews are expected to be made available to the trainee by September 15th.
4. **Trainees whose training programs have a registered start date from July 1st to September 30th** of the Annual Report year are to submit a simplified Annual Report by **August 15th**, with **Supervisor report by August 31st**. Initial reviews are expected to be made available to the trainee by November 15th.
5. **Trainees whose training programs were registered later than October 1st** are to submit a simplified Annual Report by **November 1st**, with Supervisor report due by **November 15th**. Initial reviews are expected to be made available to the trainee by January 15th.

Please be sure to check that you are using the Annual Report Form appropriate for your training program registration date. Click the link in the online Annual Report screen (available as a link from the Information for Registered Trainees web page <http://www.avdc.org/traineeinfo.html>) to access the correct form.

Changes in the College Training Program and Credentials Requirements

The basic training program requirements for the College Equine Diploma and College non-Equine Diploma are the same. Unless specifically stated otherwise, changes reported in this document apply to both the Equine Diploma track and the non-Equine Diploma track.

Where there are separate Equine and non-Equine documents online, please be sure to read the document specific to the Diploma track that you are registered for.

There are some significant changes in case log requirements this year. These are largely the result of discussions over the last two years by an ad-hoc committee of Credentials and Training Support Committee members, which provided the opportunity to consider what was working well and what needed improvement. There was agreement that some of the work in generating case logs and in reviewing case logs was wasted effort – that it was overly time-consuming and provided little or no training benefit to the resident, and caused the review process to be, at times, overwhelming for the committee reviewers. The work of this ad-hoc committee has now been migrated to an on-going group consisting of the chairs and chair-designates of the Credentials and Training Support Committees and the Equine TSS Committee.

Case Logs

- A. **Examples of case log entries** are now available as a link from the Edit Case Log Entry screen, adjacent to the Diagnosis and Procedure fields.
- B. **Logging of every case seen during a training program is no longer required, and the 500 case minimum has been deleted.** The only cases now **required** to be logged are MRCL cases. However, because of concerns that trainees may not bother to learn to log properly if they calculate that they can fill their MRCL list (including the 50% as primary dentist) later in their program, AVDC *strongly recommends logging all or at least most cases in the first six months of a training program*, so that they can be reviewed and corrected by the supervisor before bad habits become established. AVDC also **strongly recommends continuing to log additional cases in excess of the MRCL requirement** as the program continues, in case the trainee needs to ‘swap out’ some MRCL cases – *keep in mind that a case ‘swapped into’ the MRCL log must have an MRCL form dated within one year of the date of the procedure that is logged.* These are major changes (i.e. not retroactive or required to be adhered to by currently registered trainees) but they can be made use of by current trainees if they wish to do so. Deletion of non-MRCL cases from pre-2015 logs is **not required**. **Only cases logged as MRCL cases will be reviewed during Annual Report review by TSC and credential application review by the Credentials Committee.**
- C. The ‘**delimiter**’ that was used to identify the information related to the MRCL category the case is logged as is **no longer required**. **Place only information specific to the MRCL category in the Diagnosis and Procedure fields.** This is a minor change that applies to all case logs after January 1st 2015; there is no requirement for a trainee to revise case log entries dated prior to January 1st, 2015.

D. Staged Procedures. This change applies to all ‘staged procedure’ cases dated January 1st, 2015 onwards. There is no requirement for staged procedures dated prior to January 1st 2015 to be revised. A more specific requirement has been adopted: **Concept:** For specific staged procedures in the MRCL, the trainee must be physically present for the original procedure and present for follow-up and final visits - ‘present’ for follow-up or final visits can include observation via an electronic method such as video or Skype. If the trainee’s participation in the follow-up or final visit is electronic, radiographs and clinical images are to be loaded into the DMS case log entry screen to demonstrate that the trainee observed the progression of the case. If a MRCL form is completed by a diplomate before the follow-up and final patient visits, a new MRCL form is to be filled out for the follow-up/final visit. Specific staged procedures that are subject to the requirement described above are:

EN3: Luxated or avulsed teeth treated by replacement and splinting: the trainee is to be physically present at the initial procedure and ‘present’ for follow-up or final visits physically or via an electronic method such as video or Skype. If endodontic treatment is not performed, write ‘endodontic treatment recommended’ in the Procedure column in the case log.

OS3: Fracture repair using wire, splints, plates, tape muzzle: When removal of the device is indicated, the trainee is to be physically present at the initial procedure and ‘present’ for follow-up or final visits physically or via an electronic method such as video or Skype.

OR3 and OR4: Inclined planes, coronal extenders and active force appliances: The trainee is to be physically present at the initial procedure and ‘present’ for follow-up or final visits physically or via an electronic method such as video or Skype.

Additional Note: **PR:** Although crown prep and crown cementation appears to be a ‘staged procedure’, cementation is not a ‘follow-up’ procedure, but is a step requiring different skills than crown preparation. Thus the PR category requires the physical presence of the trainee at both the preparation and cementation procedures, as described in the PR section of the MRCL category description (a crown preparation procedure directly observed or performed by the trainee on one patient and a cementation procedure directly observed or performed by the trainee on another patient can still be be ‘combined’ to count as a complete MRCL PR case).

- E. Human Cases in AVDC Case Logs.** Human cases cannot be included in Academy or College case logs, due to limitations resulting from human medical record information (HIPPA) laws.
- F. PE4 Category - GTR and BG:** The following changes have been adopted. These changes do not apply to cases dated prior to January 1st, 2015.
- a. Adding a BG to an otherwise GTR case does not qualify the case for logging as a separate type of procedure.
 - b. No more than 67% of the PE4 category can be GTR, whether a BG is placed underneath the membrane or not.

- c. Doxirobe or similar perioceutical materials are NOT recognized as a GTR membrane material in AVDC case log entries.
 - d. GTR caselog entries are to state the name of the membrane material used.
- G. **Dental Implants:** As of January 1st, 2015, implant and implant-related procedures cannot be included as MRCL cases in any MRCL category. Implant procedures dated prior to January 1st, 2015 do not have to be removed from the log.
- H. **Impressions in PR Cases.** Because it is reasonable to assume that impressions were taken when a crown preparation procedure was performed, an IM notation is NOT required to be included in the log. (No changes need to be made in case log entries dated prior to January 1, 2015).
- I. **Logging of Palatal Obturators:** Although AVDC recognizes that fabrication of a palatal obturator is primarily a prosthodontic technique, palatal obturators are to be logged in the OS5 category to ensure that the number of crowns required in the PR category is not diluted.
- J. **Cadaver Work in Case Logs:** Up to 5 total cadaver cases are now permitted to fill gaps in an MRCL log at the time of submission for credentials review, with the following stipulations:
- a. Up to 4 of the 5 cadaver cases can be used to meet the PR MRCL category requirement of 10 complete PR cases.
 - b. If used in the PR category, the procedures must each be performed on different teeth, e.g. one maxillary 4th premolar; one mandibular molar, one mandibular canine tooth and one maxillary canine tooth.
 - c. Up to 2 crowns may be prepped per cadaver, and these must be completed on opposite quadrants in order to insure appropriate impressions can be produced.
 - d. One full mouth impression must be performed for each cadaver in addition to appropriate area-specific impressions and bite registrations.
 - e. A crown must be fabricated by a lab and cemented onto the prepared tooth.
 - f. A maximum of 2 cadaver procedures may be performed in categories other than PR and these two procedures cannot be within the same MRCL category.
 - g. Documentation in the form of images of all cadaver procedures and impressions must be provided at the time of credentials application submission.
- (This change brings the non-Equine cadaver case log policy into line with the Equine case log requirement).

The Equine track case log allows far greater use of cadavers. Please see the information in individual Case Log Categories section in the Equine Case Log Information document.

Radiograph Set Requirement

Submission of New Radiograph Sets after a 'Not Approved' Decision

When a radiograph set is NOT approved, the same cadaver can be re-used; however, a completely new radiograph set is required (i.e. a trainee cannot swap out individual images).

Publications

Publications Policy Clarifications

‘First Article’: (additions in red)

A paper on a veterinary dental or related topic containing original data (e.g. a research project or a clinical case series) or an in-depth review article, **or an article that is a case report that includes an in-depth review of the literature because of the unique features of the case**, or equivalent, submitted to a peer-reviewed journal. The trainee/resident is to be the first or only author. A Submission Approval form must be completed and submitted by the Residency Director/Supervisor, confirming that the trainee/resident conducted the research or case series follow up **or was the primary dentist on an in-depth case report**, conducted the literature search and wrote the first draft of the article, and that the Residency Director/Supervisor has read the article.

Articles Accepted for Publication in an AVDC-approved journal:

If proof that the article **(as described above - research paper, clinical case series, in-depth review article or case report with in-depth literature review)** has been accepted by or published in an AVDC-approved journal is provided, the article is automatically approved as an AVDC credentials publication whether or not Credentials Committee review has already occurred and the article was approved or not by a Credentials Committee review team. **Determination of status as a two CREP point or one CREP point article, or as a ‘First Article’ or ‘Second Article’, will be made by the Credentials Committee chair and Chair-designate after reading the article and the Supervisor’s Report.**

Delayed Submission Publication Requirement

If a candidate does not submit the article within 2 years of the original credential deadline date, and has passed the certification examination, the candidate will be allowed an additional year for a total of 3 years to submit a paper on the same topic or an article on another topic, with no MRCL timing penalty.

‘AVDC Approved’ Journals

The list now includes:

- American Journal of Veterinary Research
- Journal of the American Animal Hospital Association
- Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association
- Journal of Small Animal Practice
- Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery
- Journal of Veterinary Dentistry
- Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine
- Veterinary Comparative Orthopedics and Traumatology
- Veterinary Pathology
- Veterinary Radiology & Ultrasound
- Veterinary & Comparative Oncology

Veterinary Surgery

Credentials Application**Timing of Credentials Application Submission and Review**

If all requirements have been met other than completion of the full 30 months of a full-time residency, a credentials application can be submitted July 15 after completion of 24 months of the residency. The committee will review the application and recommend provisional credentials approval. Certification by the Residency Supervisor of completion of the remaining 6 months of residency time can be submitted in February; upon final approval, the candidate will be eligible to take the certification examination when next offered.

‘Six Cases’ Requirement

The ‘six cases’ requirement for a credentials application is **eliminated** as of January 1st, 2015, because there are now other mechanisms in place for ensuring that ‘ghost’ cases are not logged. **For the Equine track, the Case Review requirement stays in place for three years, until all Advanced Standing applicants have submitted credentials applications.**

Examination Policy**Number of Attempts at the Examination**

The Board has adopted the following policy, which recognizes that separation of the examination into Phases 1 and 2 created the need to extend the period of years available to complete the examination process. This change also clarifies and codifies College policy regarding requests for additional examination attempts. This policy was in the By-Laws. As a result of the changes in the Constitution made at the Annual Meeting on November 13, this policy now resides in Article IV of the Constitution.

Beginning with the first examination after acceptance of the applicant’s credentials by the College, and with the exception of one deferral year, candidates shall have a maximum of three attempts in consecutive years for each Phase of the examination, except that candidates who do not pass the Phase 1 examination will not be permitted to take the Phase 2 examination. Exceptions to this limitation on number of examination attempts may be made by the Board of Directors following petition for a maximum of one additional attempt per phase of the examination; the petition must include a proposed action plan provided by the applicant and approved by the Board of Directors. The Board shall have the right to consider extenuating circumstances.

2015 Examination and Online Examination Information Document

The Phase 1 (Written/Bench) examination will be administered on March 12th and 13th, 2015 at examination centers equipped for online examinations. Candidates will be informed about specific arrangements.

The Phase 1 examination will consist of 120 ‘Written’ questions and 80 ‘Bench’ questions. In

2015, candidates who have previously passed the written or bench examination but failed the other will be permitted to take only the part that they have not yet passed, or take the whole Phase 1 examination.

The Phase 2 (Practical) examination will be given July 21-23, 2015.

The Procedure for specimen submission at the end of the Practical examination has been made more specific.

There are revisions of the Recommended Reading list for a few of the books that have newer editions, and some additional journals have been added, to match the Credentials Committee 'AVDC-approved Journals' list.

The online Examination Information document has been revised to accommodate the changes noted above.