



Changes for 2016

Several significant changes have been made since the Changes for 2015 document was released in December 2014. Some these changes were released to trainees and diplomates during 2015. It is recommended that you read the [Changes for 2015](#) document in addition to this [Changes for 2016](#) document. All of the [Changes for.....](#) documents are available via links at the top of the [Information for Registered Residents/Trainees](#) web page.

Change in administration of AVDC

Effective January 1st, 2016, Dr. Colin Harvey's term as AVDC Executive Secretary ended, and administration management by a professional association management company commenced. There is a transition process in effect for the first 2-3 months while MatrixAMC staff are settling into place. The Executive Secretary of AVDC is Chris Daniel. ExecSec@AVDC.org will continue to be the primary email address for contact with the AVDC administration. The mail address is 1404 N Main St, Suite 102, Meridian Idaho 83642. The fax number is 208-895-7872. A separate AVDC telephone number may be set up for AVDC in the Matrix office; for now, the general Matrix number 208-466-2519 can be used.

Non-Species-Specific Diploma Track: **Transition to Small Animal Diploma Track**

At the October 29th, 2015 Annual Meeting of members of the College, a change in the name of a the original AVDC diploma track was unanimously approved. From January 1st, 2016, veterinarians applying for registration as a resident in an AVDC training program will be required to select either the Small Animal (SA) Diploma Track or the Equine Diploma Track. Originally, there was no species designation for the AVDC diploma. When the AVDC Equine Diploma was approved by ABVS in February, 2014, the non-species-specific (NSS) designation for the original diploma became inappropriate. The membership was informed that the (pre-2016) (NSS) diploma had been essentially a Small Animal program from the time of establishment of the College in 1998, and that a change from (NSS) to SA in the diploma name would not require major changes in the training program or credentials requirements, or content and standard of the examination (a recent Board decision now limits the proportion of Zoo and Wildlife and Equine questions to no more than 10% of the total Phase 1 Non-Species-Specific [SA] examination question set).

Here are some follow-ups to the College members' approval of the SA diploma change:

1. The How to Become a Veterinary Dentist web page and related forms and documents have been revised to include the requirement to select either the Equine or the Small Animal Diploma program registration route.
2. Full-time or Part-time Residents and Alternate Pathway residents currently registered in the (NSS) Diploma track have the option to remain registered as a (NSS) resident or to switch to a SA resident track. This option can be exercised at any time up to awarding of the diploma. Each resident will be sent a note asking for a preference.
3. Current (NSS) diplomates may be offered the opportunity to have their diploma changed to Small Animal Diplomate – this is currently under discussion by the Board, and will likely be brought forward for a vote by the members at the next Annual Meeting.
4. The Board will also be making a recommendation to the membership on whether to change the Locate a Veterinary Dentist website page to list only Small Animal or Equine Dentist options – if this is done, diplomates who elect to retain the (NSS) diploma will be eligible for inclusion in the Small Animal Dentist List.
5. Many AVDC documents will require revision to fully reflect this change – the revisions may not be completed and uploaded prior to release of this **Changes for 2016** document.
6. Directors of AVDC-approved Residency Sites have been offered the option of changing the name of their Residency program to 'Small Animal', to avoid confusion when potential residents are browsing the site.

Use of 'Residents' vs 'Trainees' in AVDC documents.

From January 2014 onwards, all new AVDC training programs are described as Residencies, either part- or full-time.

Prior to that date, AVDC offered a non-residency Alternate Pathway training program, and the word 'trainee' was used as the general term to describe the status of a veterinarian in either training program track.

Now that the Alternate Pathway trainees are becoming fewer as they complete their programs, the Board has approved referring to every veterinarian registered in an AVDC training program as a 'Resident'. If you are registered in an Alternate Pathway program, please note that you must refer to yourself as an Alternate Pathway resident, to prevent confusion about the type of program you are registered in.

The AVDC website now includes a file with critical dates for residents and candidates. It is stated here, and is available via a link from the Information for Registered Residents web page.

Important Dates and Deadlines for AVDC Residents and Candidates

These dates apply to both [Equine](#) and NSS (SA) Residents

unless specifically stated otherwise.

No Set Date: Residency application and registration start date: No set annual deadline. The **minimum** duration of a full-time residency program is 30 months. The **maximum** duration of a part-time residency program is six years.

Varies from January 31st – October 1st: Annual Report Submission deadline: Varies from January 31st (for residents planning to credential that year) through October 1st, depending on the registration date of your residency program (see the Annual Report section in the [Information for Registered Residents](#) webpage).

By the end of the first year: Submission of Radiograph Set(s): By the end of the first year of registration as a resident. [Equine residents](#) – Equine Radiograph Set. NSS (SA) residents – Canine and Feline Radiograph Sets.

By the end of the second year: The required radiograph sets must be **approved** by the end of the second year.

Pre-Approval Submissions: Submission of items for Credentials Committee Pre-Approval: Equipment list, Dental Charts, Specialty Training Hours, Radiograph Sets, CREP items and Publications (Book Chapter, Solicited Article, Unsolicited Article) can be submitted at any time during a residency, except that **the window for Pre-Approval submissions is closed from May 1st through September 15th**, so that the Credentials Committee can concentrate on Credentials Application reviews. **Exceptions** to this rule are Radiograph Sets (which can be submitted at any time), and items submitted by a resident who intends to submit a credentials application that year, which can be submitted until July 15th.

July 15th: Credentials Applications Deadline: July 15th each year for full- or part-time residents. Applicants whose applications are approved by the Board are then Candidates, eligible to take the examination the next time it is given. Full-time residents who have completed all residency program requirements except the full 30 month program duration requirement can submit a credentials application by July 15th; if the application is approved as complete except for the 30 month requirement, Provisional Approval will be granted, with the stipulation that the Residency Program Director must confirm that the applicant has met the full 30 month residency requirement before full Approval is granted. Upon subsequent full Approval being granted, the applicant becomes eligible as a candidate to take the Phase I examination at the next opportunity.

December 1st: Examination Security Form and Fee – Phase 1: The signed form and examination fee are to be submitted to the Executive Secretary by December 1st for the Phase 1 Examination.

Mid-March: Phase 1 Examination. Multiple choice questions written examination, given online at regional examination centers.

May 1st: **Examination Security Form and Fee – Phase 2:** The signed form and examination fee are to be submitted to the Executive Secretary by May 1st for the Phase 2 (practical examination). Candidates are eligible for entry to the Phase 2 examination only after passing the Phase 1 examination.

July or August: Phase 2 Examination. Given at the Oquendo Education Center, Las Vegas.

Changes in Training Program Requirements

Changes noted below apply to both Equine and NSS-SA diploma programs unless specifically stated otherwise, and are Minor Changes (i.e. they apply to all registered residents) unless specifically identified as a Major Change (which applies only to residents with a program registration date of January 1st, 2016 and beyond).

AVDC has started to tighten up the reporting and fee payment requirements, such as response to Action Required notifications associated with Annual Report reviews, submission/approval of Radiograph Sets and payment of Annual Fees. The status of residents not in compliance will be reviewed by the TSC chair and recommendations made to the Board of Directors; registration as a resident may be cancelled for non-compliance with AVDC requirements.

Case Logs

Change in 'Case Role'

In January, 2016, the Credentials Committee and Board approved a clarification of the 'Case Role' item in the DMS case log. The Case Role has been simplified by deleting the PA and RA categories, and adding an explanation for when more than one resident works on a patient that may be undergoing more than one procedure.

This change is not retroactive - there is no requirement to change previously entered cases marked as PA or RA, and DMS will still include cases previously entered as PA or RA when calculating the "% as Primary cases" in the summary for each MRCL category.

The full text of the change is:

Case Role (Resident Status): Using the drop-down menu, insert the resident status:

- **P - Primary dentist:** The case is managed primarily by the resident, whether directly supervised by a diplomate or not. There can only be one Primary Dentist on a particular logged procedure. *Note: When more than one 'procedure' is performed on the same patient, each procedure can be logged as a separate case in the case log – e.g. if two root canal procedures are performed on one patient, one can be performed by one resident and logged as Primary Dentist by that resident, and the other procedure can be performed by the other resident and logged by that resident as Primary Dentist. If both residents were present for both procedures where each was Primary Dentist for one procedure, each resident can log the procedure for which they were not Primary Dentist as Assisting Dentist.*
- **A - Assisting Dentist:** If an AVDC diplomate was the Primary Dentist and was assisted by a resident, the resident is to log the case as an Assisting Dentist case. If more than one resident observes and assists the diplomate for the entire procedure, each can log the case as Assisting Dentist.
- **S - Secondary operator, working as assistant to an Academy Fellow or human dentist (counts as 'Assisting' for calculation of % of MRCL cases as Primary or Assisting).**

Note: To complete the AVDC Credential Requirement, the resident must be listed as P (Primary Dentist) for 50% or more of the MRCL cases logged in each category.

As of January 29 2016, the no longer used Case Role Categories of PA and RA are still present in the Case Role drop-down menu in the Edit Case Log Entry screen. Do not use PA or RA for newly-logged cases. DMS will be reprogrammed shortly.

TSC Comments box for Reasons for TSC Not OK status of MRCL forms:

The Edit Case Log Entry screen now has a Comment box adjacent to the TSC MRCL Review section. It is designed to allow the TSC or Equine TSS reviewer to state the reason for assigning 'TSC Not OK' to the MRCL form, so that this information is available to the resident.

Gingivoplasty:

Gingivoplasty (GV) can qualify for correction of a malocclusion as an OR3 procedure, limited to only 1 logged case of either GV or coronal extension in an OR3 MRCL patient.

MAL cases:

A MAL patient in which more than one distinct MAL procedure was performed can now be counted as two (but not more) procedures.

NSS-SA case log - % of cases that must be dog or cat or other pets.

In a NSS or SA residency program, the maximum number of Equine or Zoo-Wildlife cases permitted in each MRCL category is 10%. This is a **Major Change**, applying to residents whose program has a registration date of January 1st, 2016.

Cadaver Work in Case Logs:

The [Equine](#) track case log allows greater use of cadavers than does the NSS-SA list.

The policy below **applies only to the NSS-SA diploma track**, and brings it into line with the equine case log policy.

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 dental laboratory 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. Images (clinical photographs and radiographs) are limited to a maximum of 20 for each cadaver case.
- h. The cadaver case must be reviewed and approved by the Credentials Committee to be included as meeting the MRCL requirement.

Reminders About Case Logs

1. As of mid-2015, Use of delimiters (//) in the Diagnosis and Procedure lines is no longer required, and the information provided in the case log is to be limited to what is relevant to the Diagnosis and Procedure for that MRCL category.
2. As of mid-2015, logging of every case seen during a residency training program is no longer required, though residents are recommended to log cases in addition to the minimum MRCL set in each category in case a case needs to be 'swapped in' during the program.
3. As of mid-2015, TSC (NSS-SA) or TSS (Equine) reviewers no longer review case log entries that are not included in the MRCL list.
4. 'Six Cases' Requirement: The 'six cases' requirement for a credentials application was eliminated as of January 1st, 2015.

5. *For the Equine track*, the Case Review (preparation of MRCL form) requirement date limit is three years (not one year), until all Equine Advanced Standing applicants have submitted credentials applications (by July 15th, 2017).

Equine Advanced Standing Applications

Equine Advanced Standing applications will be accepted for review through July 2017 (extension of one year). As a result of this change, the Advanced Standing Application document has been revised to state 'seven years' as the eligible period for inclusion of cases in the case log, rather than 'no earlier than' a specific date.

Nomenclature

The following **definition of veterinary dentistry** has been recommended by the Nomenclature Committee and approved by the Board:

Veterinary dentistry is a discipline within the scope of veterinary practice that involves the professional consultation, evaluation, diagnosis, prevention, treatment (non-surgical, surgical or related procedures) of conditions, diseases, and disorders of the oral cavity and maxillofacial area and their adjacent and associated structures; it is provided by a licensed veterinarian, within the scope of his/her education, training and experience, in accordance with the ethics of the profession and applicable law.

Abbreviations Update

A revised abbreviations list, with equine additions, was uploaded to the AVDC web site in November. There are some additions to the Abbreviations list currently under consideration by the Board. All residents will be alerted when the final list is available.

Items Submitted for Credentials Committee Review:

Supervisor Approval Signature

All training program documents submitted for Credentials Committee review must now be accompanied by supervisor signature. This is already required for CREP items and Publications. It now applies to all other Credentials submissions (Radiograph set, Specialty Hours, Equipment List, and Dental Charts). Revised Submission Forms with the Supervisor signature block will be available on the AVDC website shortly. The purpose is to ensure that the Supervisor is aware of the quality of work being performed by the resident.

Radiographs Sets

The NSS-SA **Radiograph Set** review process was changed to a scoring system in the Fall of 2015. The review form is available for review and download from the Radiograph Set section of the Information for Registered Residents webpage.

Publications

For consideration as a *First Article*, a **Case Report article** must normally include a minimum of 10 cases, except that an article with fewer than 10 cases of a clinical entity can be approved as a First Article if there are unique features justified by the Supervisor in the Supervisor Report form and considered as appropriate as an exception to the '10 cases' rule by the Credentials Committee.

For **Delayed Submission Requests**, the title and research project that is expected to generate the delayed submission article must both be included in the Delayed Submission request.

Examination Policy and Procedure Changes

Recommended Reading List:

Frontiers in Veterinary Dentistry and Oral Surgery has been added to the Recommended Reading List.

Anesthesia/analgesia questions in the examination are limited to information included in anesthesia/analgesia sections of textbooks included in the reading list, anesthesia/analgesia articles included in journals listed on the reading list, and anesthesia/analgesia articles in the last 5 years from the following journals: JAVMA, AJVR, JAAHA, Veterinary Anesthesia and Analgesia.

Examination Security Form:

Supervisor signature is now required, starting with the Phase 2 examination in July 2016. The deadline for submission of the signed form and fee is December 1st for the March Phase 1 examination, and May 1st for the July-August Phase 2 examination

Examination Committee Member Policy and Mock Exam documents:

These documents are now available in the Examination section of the Information for Registered Residents web page. Diplomates joining the Examination Committee are required to sign and submit the form, and Diplomates completing their Examination Committee term and considering

presenting or participating in Mock Examination courses are recommended to sign and submit the Mock Examination document, and to have participants in Mock Exam courses sign the form. The two documents are attached to this [Changes for 2016](#) document.

Phase 1 (Multiple Choice Question) Examination:

1. Each of the two sessions of the Phase 1 examination will include 100 questions, which are a mixture of multiple choice questions with images (former “Bench” examination) and without images (former “Written” examination). The examination will follow the blueprint published in the online Examination Information document. The overall distribution of the “Written”: “Bench” questions will be a 60:40 ratio. In each session, the distribution of questions will be based on best fit and is not required to follow the 60:40 ratio.
2. The Board has approved a policy that the Phase 1 NSS(SA) examination will include no more than 10% equine questions.
3. Multiple choice questions in the NSS (SA) examination will now have four answers; the [Equine](#) Phase 1 examination questions will continue to have five answers.
4. The quality of some of the radiographs included in the Phase 1 examinations in March 2015 was subject of comment by some candidates. These will be replaced or improved.

Phase 2 (Practical) Examination:

1. **Work-space:** Materials or containers brought by candidates cannot be stacked beyond “counter top height”. Any items placed on the floor adjacent to the work-space can extend no more than 2 feet to the left and right of the workstation and no further behind the workstation than 4 feet. Space around the periphery of the practical examination room for storage of containers will be allotted as a first come, first serve basis.
2. **Initial scrutiny of specimens:** Following the end of the examination session, submitted specimens will be inspected by the Examination Committee chair. Items that are detrimental to patient care and that do not apply to a specific procedure (such as foreign material in pharynx, mouth gag left in patient, lip sutured) will be documented by photograph and then removed before the specimen is presented to the graders. A blanket 5% deduction will be applied to all procedures performed on that specimen.
3. **Equine equipment clarification:** For the Equine Practical examination, AVDC will provide tanks for Hall drills. Candidates will need to provide their own hoses and drills.