



Annual General Meeting 2023 of ECVCN members
University of Trás-os-Montes and Alto Douro- Aula Magna,
Magna, 08/09/2023, 08h30-09h55 UTC+00:00,

The members of the European College of Veterinary and Comparative Nutrition were invited to take part in the Annual General Meeting scheduled on the 08th of September at 08h30 UTC+00:00, at University of Trás-os-Montes and Alto Douro- Aula Magna, to discuss the points of the Agenda enclosed to this report.

The AGM was chaired by the Board, composed of the President (Anne Mösseler), the vice President (Ronald J Corbee), the Secretary (Ana Lourenço), the Treasurer (Veerle Vandendriessche) and the Past President (Annette Liesegang).

The presence of the members of the AGM was registered and reported by the Secretary in a list enclosed to this report. A total of 35 ECVCN members took part in the AGM 2023.

The President (Anne Mösseler) opened the AGM and presented the following points:

1st point:

- **welcome to the new diplomats:** Hans Opsomer; Marco Fantinati
- **Acknowledges to the members of all the college committee's (listed below) and to the intervenients in the Residency class:** Ronald J Corbee (organization), residents and Supervisors (content and participation) and Residency class speakers.

Cred. Comm	Ed Comm.	Ex Comm + ad hoc	Board
S. Handl	R. Ricci	M. Diez	R. Corbee
A. Verbrugghe	N. Priymenko	E. Hagen-Plantinga	A. Mösseler
K. Gerstner	L. Colliard	L. Böswald	A. Lourenco
J. Fritz	C. Bjornvad	M. Hervera	V. Vandendriessche
M. Clauss	W. Wambacq	E. Valle	A. Liesegang
	P. Wolf		

2nd point:

- **Approval of the minutes of the 2022 Virtual AGM:**

The minutes were approved with no votes against by the attending diplomates.

3rd point: Overview 2022-till present

ECVCN board update:

- **President**

➤ **Current members:**

- **President:** A. Mösseler (2023-2026)
- **Past President:** A. Liesegang (2023-2026)
- **Vice President:** R. Corbee (2023-2026)
- **Secretary:** A. Lourenco (2023-2026)
- **Treasurer:** V. Vandendriessche (2023-2026)

➤ **The meetings the board held during 2022-2023 were:**

Board meetings only: 2 (2022.12.02; 2023.04.17)

Board meetings held with Com chairs: 2 (2023.02.13; 2023.09.06)

ESVCN and ECVCN board meeting for common goals held on the 2023.09.06 focus on joint efforts to support Nutrition and to better guide students:

Meeting with EBVS (Heiko Nathues & Julie Rosser):

The topics discussed where:

- Social media
- “one pager” information

The EBVS Annual General Business Meeting was in April 20-21 Alfort, Paris, France. The important points of their agenda for the ECVCN were presented by Ronald Corbee, because he was the Board member attending the meeting.

The topics discussed where:

- New board
- Education
- Safe environment for residents
- Have resident representative for the board
- Possibilities for more residents per Diplomate
- Standard, alternative, flexible programme

EBVS B.3. Policies on Re-certification of Diplomates

- Diplomates of an EBVS-recognised College must be evaluated every 5 years for re-certification. The College is responsible for establishing a standard procedure in which the prerequisites for re-certification of the diplomates are described (example in the procedures). After re-evaluation, the successful diplomates may be registered for another five years in the EBVS Directory, but only in one speciality.

The requirements to remain certified are:

1. **Practice:** to practise their speciality for 60% of their time, with a minimum of 24 hours per week (based on a normal working week of 40 hours) over the past five years.
2. **Activity:** to show a satisfying degree of activity during the last 5 years to keep level of competences at a specialist level.
3. **AGM:** to have attended the Annual General Meeting of the College, at least twice in 5 years, unless previous dispensation from the College has been granted.

4. **Evidence of good standing:** Colleges must develop methods to document the professional ethics and good standing of specialists. This can be either
 - a. letters of reference from two EBVS specialists
 - b. **a self-declaration by the individual**

B.4.1.3. Rules for other routes to qualify to sit the college examination

- **Internationally recognised specialists:** Application to take a European Specialist EBVS approved College examination without having previously undertaken an approved residency (criteria to be regarded as "internationally recognised").
- The applicant has to provide evidence that they are equivalent to, or exceed, the standard of a candidate that has been approved to sit the College's examination after undergoing an approved residency. In order to demonstrate this the following must be submitted.
 1. Curriculum vitae - to cover entire professional career (university onwards)
 2. Published papers: a complete list should be in the CV.
 - The quality of the papers shall be evaluated by members of the relevant College's Credentials Committee.
 - At least 10 papers should relate to the speciality of the College and have been published within the preceding 7 years.
 - There should be evidence of current activity in the speciality field demonstrated through recent publication in peer reviewed international journals.
 - If these 10 papers are in a language other than English, an English translation, performed by the applicant, should be provided (if at least 10 papers are in English, any additional papers in another language do not need to be translated).
 - Where papers are multi-author papers and the applicant is not first author, the applicant's role in the study should be explained.
 3. Case reports (2) - required as an assessment of complex case management. These must describe cases managed by the applicant in the last 5 years. Published case reports are acceptable.
 4. Case log (100 cases): Cases must be of a complexity and type similar to that which would be expected of a resident to gain satisfactory approval by the credentials committee. They must be cases managed by the applicant during the last 5 years.
 5. Evidence of any relevant postgraduate qualification in a related field should be submitted.
 6. A covering letter should be provided (3-5 pages) in support of their application. This should include the following
 - career highlights,
 - relevant experience (scholarly, clinical, legal, political),
 - contributions to the speciality (education, research) - applicant to select 5 most significant contributions to the veterinary speciality with a brief statement of impact (< 250 words each) supporting each contribution. Contributions may be research (single paper or group of related papers, or a systematic review), teaching (at national or international level) or service (e.g. contribution to a national or international organisation which could be governmental, or multinational).
 - applicants should explain what they will bring to the membership of the college and how they intend to contribute to the development of the speciality, for instance through resident training.
 7. Applicants should not have followed an approved residency programme
 8. Applicants must demonstrate that they have spent a minimum of 60% of their time working in the speciality during the last 10 years
 9. The applicant should be working in a setting that provides access to facilities of a sufficient standard to allow the practice of the speciality at an appropriate level.
 10. Applicant must submit a list of suggested up to five referees, from which a minimum of three references will be sought. Where possible at least two of these

referees should be existing diplomates of speciality colleges. Referees will be requested to comment specifically on the applicant's

- professional, ethical and legal conduct,
- clinical abilities, and
- contribution to the veterinary speciality.

11. Letters of good standing from all licensing bodies with which applicant is licensed to practise

12. Applicants from outside Europe will be considered (with the above requirement that 2EC (speciality) Diplomates are required to provide letters of support).

- **Dissociation of publications:** Disassociation of publication requirements from examination may be allowed, if approved by the College's Credential Committee. Publication requirements must be satisfied within the timespan set by the college, which may not exceed two years after successful completion of the examination. The title of diplomate or specialist may not be used until all of the requirements in B.4.2.1 Rules for Residency Programmes have been met.

➤ Acknowledgments

Thanks to sponsors! Thanks to Ana Lourenço☺!

- Gold sponsor: Nestle Purina
- Silver sponsor: Royal Canin

➤ Thanks to the Berlin Group for organizing the Journal Club that Residents can attend!

➤ ECVCN Goals 2023

- Diplomates were asked to contribute to increase visibility of the college and of Animal nutrition related issues to specialists; vets and animal owners

Examples: One pager, Fact shields ... Myths...

- Focus on improving resident performance
 - ESVCN newsletter/website online will allow residents to publish case reports there too
- Separate website almost launched → common website under EBVS in 2024 (Ron Corbee)
 - The new website will facilitate the input of the Residents and the input of Diplomates
 - There will be downloadable forms and automatic reminders of important dates
 - Although the development of the new website is ongoing it takes time and we need to have a bit more patience.
 - The new website in “privately” running already <https://ebvs-ecvcn.03.prod.cyim.com/>

➤ **Travel Grant**

There is a College Grant for Externship:

500 euros to help residents to visit a different institution, but it is not meant to visit their supervisors.

 Information for supervisors

Please inform the board / the committees if:

- changes are necessary within the programme
- There are any problems with the training

Number of residents is limited to ensure supervising quality; if residency is finished (stated by the supervisor) the person is no longer a “resident” but an exam candidate; therefore, the supervisor can supervise another Resident!

Changes of mail addresses and so on – if residents stop – please report to Ana Lourenço <analou@utad.pt>

ECVCN board update:

- **Vice-President (residency class)**

Residency Class 2023

- It was held before the congress, on the 5-6th of September 2023, **under the title: “Companions versus production animals, 50 shades of grey”**

- Thank you to our sponsors: Purina and Royal Canin
 - 21 residents signed in, 2 were did not attend, 3 guests

- Time schedule of the Residency class:

Tuesday (05/09/2023)

[illegible]

Wednesday (06/09/2023)

[illegible]

- The best review is this year awarded with a visit to Amiens sponsored by Purina
- The best-case report has a slot for presentation at ESVCN 2023 and a book about animal nutrition (free of choice) sponsored by Purina

➤ **Residency Class 2024**

- **Dublin September 8th arrival**
- September 9th and 10th residency class
- Followed by reception and congress in Belfast
- Bus transportation
- Hotel has been booked
- Forage evaluation on site
- Visit National Stables
- Visit food/feed production plant
- Suggestion to reduce duration of talks and increase discussion

ECVCN board update:

- **Financial Report -Treasurer**

➤ **Financial report**

Start 1-1-2022	81202		Financial report			Budget	
IN			IN			IN	
Member	4085		43 members*	4085		45 members	4275
Exam fees	1500		5 exam fees**	2100		5 exam fees	1500
Regular sponsors	16500		Sponsors	16500		Sponsors	12000
Total	22085		Total	22685		Total	18200

OUT			OUT			OUT	
Bank costs	57		Bank costs	57		Bank costs	80
Board meetings	353		Board meetings	353		Board meetings	2000
EBVS meetings	760		EBVS meetings	760		EBVS meetings	1500
EBVS	2754		EBVS	2754		EBVS	3000
Insurance	1610		Insurance	1610		Insurance	1610
Exams	2490		Exams	2490		Exams	3000
Residency class	1479		Residency class	1479		Residency class	2000
Website	0		Website	0		Website	1500
Total	9501		Total	9501		Total	14690
			Result	13184		Result	3511
Total IN	22085						
Total OUT	9501		Bank account				
Balance	12584		44562	81202			
			44926	93786			
*1 member did not pay and became inactive							
**600 to receive from ESVCN							

- **Overview of the college membership:**

2022

44 active members
 1 not paid, so inactive member
 3 associate members
 19 retired

2023

51 active members
 1 not paid, so inactive member
 3 associate members
 17 retired

- The statement of approval of the financial administration 2022 was presented signed by Geert Janssens and Wendy Wambacq. They agree to be Auditors for 2023 if the members of the college agree.

The proposal to maintain Geert Janssens and Wendy Wambacq as Auditors for 2023 was approved by the AGM assembly without any votes against

Committees update:

- **Education & Residency committee report (2022-2023) presented by Rebecca Ricci**

➤ Current members:

- **Rebecca Ricci(Chair)**
- Charlotte Bjørnvad

- Laurence Colliard
- Nathalie Priymenko
- Cecilia Villaverde
- Wendy Wambacq
- Petra Wolf

➤ **Activity of the Committee:**

- **New standard training program approval:** ECG - Equine Care Group in Lummen, Belgium (in collaboration with ECAN – Equine and companion animal nutrition, Ghent University) (Wambacq & Hesta)
- **Standard training program reapproved this year:** Zurich (Liesegang)

➤ **Current active Training Sites (with last and next accreditation date)**

N	PROGRAMME	Training Site	TS LAST ACCREDITATION DATE	TS NEXT ACCREDITATION	SUPERVISOR(S)
1	Alternative residency programme	Mannheim-Strassenheim, Germany	19.11.2018		Fritz
2	Standard specialized training	Toulouse, France	01.09.2022	01.09.2027	Prymenko
3	Standard specialized training	Merelbeke, Belgium	29.05.2022	29.05.2027	Hesta and Wambacq
4	Standard specialized training	Zurich, Switzerland	01.06.2023	01.06.2028	Liesegang
5	Standard specialized training	Copenhagen, Denmark	1.11.2022	1.11.2027	Bjornvad
6	Standard specialized training	Utrecht, The Netherlands	15.02.2022	15.02.2027	Corbee
7	Standard specialized training	Turin, Italy	28.01.2020	28.01.2025	Bergero, Valle, Prola
8	Standard specialized training	Hannover, Germany	03.01.2020	03.01.2025	Visscher
9	Standard specialized training	Padua, Italy	01.03.2019	01.03.2024	Ricci
10	Standard specialized training	Berlin, Germany	11.07.2019	11.07.2024	Zentek
11	Standard specialized training	Munich, Germany	10.05.2022	10.05.2027	Dobenecker, Böswald, Kienzle
12	Standard specialized training	Guelph, Canada	1.06.2022	1.06.2027	Verbrugghe
13	Alternative residency programme	Liege, Belgium	16.02.2023		Diez
14	Standard specialized training	Lummen and Merelbeke, Belgium	09.08.2023	09.08.2028	Hesta and Wambacq

➤ **Residents:**

- 11 sitting the exam + 29 on their track
- 21 Standard + 8 Alternative
- 26 Companion + 3 Farm

➤ **New Residents:**

7 new residents (standard) since Sept 2022

- Ghent (Hesta)_ Bertolazzi Federica (standard, companion)
- Utrecht (Corbee)_ De Mik Marco (standard, farm)
- Utrecht (Corbee)_ Lonneke Noorman (standard, farm)
- Turin (Bergero)_ Lo Feudo Chiara Maria (standard, companion)
- Guelph (Verbrugghe)_ Fisher Manuela (standard, companion)
- Zurich (Liesegang)_ Seghers Tamara (standard, companion)
- Liege (Diez)_ Eppe Justine (alternative, companion)

➤ **Individual interviews with Residents:**

- Interviews held in September 7th 2022 during the ECVCN congress in Basel + online after the congress with those who did not attend.
- Next interviews will be planned online after the congress in Vila Real

➤ **New E&R Committee Members**

➤ **Current members:**

- **Rebecca Ricci (Chair)**
- Laurence Colliard
- Nathalie Priymenko
- Cecilia Villaverde
- Wendy Wambacq
- Petra Wolf

Committees update:

- **Credentials committee report (2022-2023)**

➤ **Current members:**

- Stefanie. Handl (Chair)
- Marcus Clauss
- Sarah Dodd
- Julia. Fritz
- Kerstin. Gerstner

➤ **Residents:**

• **Internship Acknowledgement**

- 7 Applications received
 - From Belgium (2), Switzerland, France, Italy, Brazil, South Africa
 - 6 approved, one pending
 - All starting Residency

➤ **Exam applications**

- Re-take: received 2
 - All approved
- 1 excused (missing publication)
- New applications: received 11
 - 9 approved
 - 2 rejected (1x missing publication, 1x rejected case reports)

➤ **Diplomates:**

➤ **Re-certification applications**

- Received 1
 - on time & accepted

1 diplomate who did not apply 2022 did also not apply 2023 and is therefore still inactive.

➤ **Supervisors please notice:**

- **The Residency Supervisor must be familiar with and understand the Residency Program guidelines and the credential requirements** and must be willing and able to guide and evaluate a Resident's progress and performance
- **The Residency Supervisor is ultimately responsible** for all aspects of the Residency Program
- The Residency Supervisor endorses all relevant forms and documents as well as ensures the trainee has completed all requirements of the Program and of the ECVCN.
- Each Residency Supervisor may train no more than two (2) Residents concurrently, in exceptional cases the ESVCN Education & Residency Committee can allow three (3) Residents for a restricted period.
- **At the end of the Residency, the Residency Supervisor shall prepare a statement that the Resident has satisfactorily completed the approved time and activities of training.** This statement must be sent to the ECVCN Executive Secretary, the Chair of the ECVCN Education and Residency Committee and Chair of the ECVCN Credentials Committee within 90 days after program completion.
- Upon completion of the Resident's training program (i.e., the Resident Supervisor is no longer actively mentoring the Resident), the Resident is no longer considered a trainee regardless the stage of the Credentials.
- **Please make sure you and your Residents are familiar with the P&Ps!**
 - Programs must be approved prior to program initiation
 - Standard Residency Programs must be re-submitted by the Residency Supervisor to the ECVCN Education & Residency Committee every 5 years for evaluation and re-approval.
 - A minimum of fifty-two (52) weeks (1 week is at least five (5) days of at least eight (8) hours) of full-time on-clinic time focused in veterinary and comparative nutrition must be accomplished during the residency program.
 - The Resident must use off-clinic time to complete a research project.
 - The Resident's research must result in at least one (1) original scientific report in the area of veterinary and comparative nutrition published in an international peer reviewed journal, with the Resident as the principal author
 - Residents are required to attend the ECVCN Residency Class every year during the course of the Residency.
 - The Resident is also obliged to register with the ESVCN and pay the annual membership fee of the ESVCN before commencing the Residency Program

➤ **Call for new members was made by the chair of the committee**

Committees update:

- **Examination committee report (2022-2023)**

➤ **Comments about question submission -Suggested Guidelines changes:**

• **Questions received this year (and at the end of last year)**

- This year (including questions received at the end of last year), we have received **391** multiple choice questions and **56** Essay topics:
 - ❑ General: **141** MCQ & **10** ET
 - ❑ Companion animals: **68** MCQ & **15** ET
 - ❑ Farm animals: **78** MCQ & **17** ET
 - ❑ Horses: **52** MCQ & **9** ET
 - ❑ Exotics & Wildlife – Non-producing animals: **36** MCQ & **5** ET
 - ❑ Exotics & Wildlife – Production animals: **16** MCQ
- Two ‘special’ contributions from two diplomates, with more than 70 questions each.
- These questions have been reviewed, firstly, for compliance with the guidelines, and, secondly, substantively (either by the members of the Exam Committee or by ‘external’ members, as agreed by the last AGM).
- **Comments regarding the questions submitted (1)**
- **Compared to last year, a huge improvement can be noted, and diplomates must be thanked for that.**
- Not a reason to forget what was said last year (So, keep in mind the letter ‘*ECVCN Exam Comm. - Letter ExQ to diplomates 22.04.29*’, which was displayed last year).
- There is nevertheless still a margin for further progress.
- This lead to suggest some changes in the Guidelines.
- .

➤ **: Suggested Guidelines changes (To be approved)**

- **Change in the time schedule**
- So it looks crucial to modify the time schedule so that everything could be completed by the end of June.
- This mainly implies to bring forward the deadline for the question submission. Could (or should be) December 1st .
- It is also very important that the diplomates comply very carefully with the Guidelines (i.e. all the Guidelines), in order
 - to avoid back and forth between them and the Committee
 - as well as ‘permanent’ adjustments of the questions and the databases, for several months,
 - and above all (maybe) to simplify matters for the Exam Committee.
- **Playing on words: ‘True’ vs. ‘Correct’**
- If the question is ‘All the following proposals are true, but one. Which one?’
 - ✓ this is a negation question, which is not allowed

✓ nevertheless if answer ‘a’ is not true (while ‘b’ to ‘e’ are true), answer ‘a’ is the correct answer.

- OK, we are playing on word...
- Nevertheless, we should write
 - ‘Only one answer must be true’
 - rather than ‘Only one answer must be **correct**’)
 This would make things clearer, and should definitely (hopefully, fortunately, luckily!) avoid negation questions

- **The parts of the exam (1)**

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> General | no change |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Specific: Companion animals | changed to |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Specific: Dogs & Cats | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Specific: Dogs | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Specific: Cats | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Specific: Farm animals | changed to |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Specific: Dairy & Beef Cattle | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Specific: Sheep & Goats | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Specific: Pigs | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Specific: Poultry | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Specific: Horses | replaced with |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Specific: Equines | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Specific – Exotics & Wildlife – Production animals | no change |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Specific – Exotics & Wildlife – Companion animals | no change |

- **The parts of the exam (2)**

In order to avoid the difficulties that have been raised by the reviewers and the Exam Committee, each diplomate should submit

- **no more than 1 or 2 General questions, and**
- **no more than one question per Specific part**
(no more than one question Dogs, Pigs or Equines, for instance).

- **The field of the question)**

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> General part | No change |
| • Biochemical and nutritional physiology | |
| • Food/feed safety, legislation | |
| • Nutritional requirements and feeding strategies | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Specific parts | One little change |
| • Feed science & Nutritional physiology & requirements | |
| • Applied nutrition (healthy animals/disease prevention) | |
| • Clinical nutrition & Dietetics | |

• Question distribution vs. Examination rules

	2023 (and earlier)	2024 (2023)
• General part		
○ Biochemical and nutritional physiology	Too many questions	None
○ Food/feed safety, legislation	More or less adequate	+
○ Nutritional requirements and feeding strategies	Not enough questions	+++
• Specific parts: Farm animals, Horses, and Exotics & Wildlife		
○ Feed sc., Physiology & Nutritional requirements	Too many questions	None
○ Applied nutrition (healthy animals/disease prevention)	More or less adequate	+
○ Clinical nutrition & Dietetics	Not enough questions	+++
• Specific parts: Companion animals*		
○ Feed sc., Physiology & Nutritional requirements	Too many questions	None
○ Applied nutrition (healthy animals/disease prevention)	More or less adequate	+
○ Clinical nutrition & Dietetics	Not enough questions	+++

• Coverage of important topics is missing (1)

- There are numerous very specific questions, whereas important topics are therefore never touched.
- This notably concern general (or basic) knowledge.
- **Possible explanations:**
 - ✓ Diplomates have sent general/basic questions in the past years (unfortunately older questions cannot be used, as they do not comply with the Guidelines).
 - ✓ There is a lot a new publications, which concern new and very specific (pointed) aspects of nutrition. It is nevertheless important that the ‘bases’ are also covered by the exam.

• Coverage of important topics is missing (2)

- New recommendations should be included in the Guidelines to avoid such a situation.
 - One option could be to give the opportunity to ‘recycle’ (and update) questions that could have already been submitted, but at least four or five years ago, i.e. at a time when only four answers were needed, and it was not asked for any reference, etc..
 - Another option would be to send some Teams of diplomates "old" questions... They would have to add the missing wrong answer and references?

A Team could handle, let’s say, 30 questions or so - instead creating of 5 new questions ?

• Essay topics

- Essay topics have not been extensively reviewed (except those used for this year exam).
- At first look, everything looked fine. Nevertheless, it appeared that in some cases, the keywords were not (in some cases not at all!) mentioned in the expected answer.
- Doing so does not change anything for the candidates, but just makes the exam committee’s task even more difficult.
- Last year, a diplomate wrote *‘I can of course understand that we have to formulate the questions as precisely as possible. On the other hand, we must not forget that we*

are doing a specialist exam, where we should not ask exactly 1 to 1 keyword but should see that the candidates have understood the topic and are able to articulate themselves accordingly. I personally have a problem with creating a list of answers here. From my point of view, it would be too much of a constriction to do that.'

- There is no doubt that this colleague was perfectly right, and what he mentioned is what is expected from the candidates. The expected answer and keywords are not precisely (exactly) what we must expect from the candidates. They are, above all, a 'guide' (a help) for the examiners. Please kindly keep this in mind. We suggest to write 'Suggested answer' instead of 'Expected answer'.

• Reminders & Actions that would be helpful (1)

- This was already in the Guidelines, but only very few diplomates presented their questions accordingly, which just means a bit (!) more work for the Committee (i.e. N times the time that N diplomates would individually spend...).
- So please, sort your questions, according to the exam parts, in the following order: General – Farm animals (Cattle, pigs & poultry) - Dogs & Cats, Dogs, Cats - Equines - Exotics & Wildlife)

This is not mandatory. Just please keep in mind that this would be helpful...

- Do not submit more than two questions for the General part.
- Do not submit more than one question per Specific part.
- This should lead to submit questions in at least three exam parts (General; Farm animals; Dogs & Cats; Equines; Exotics & Wildlife).

• Reminders & Actions that would be helpful (2)

- Start each answer with a capital letter, and end it with a full stop.
- Avoid unnecessary capitals (i.e. 'A low level of vitamin D is recommended' rather than '. 'A low level of Vitamin D...').
- When mentioning unusual animal species or plant species, it would be fair to indicate the scientific Latin name.
- Please cautiously read and keep in mind
 - ECVCN Exam Comm. - Letter ExQ to diplomates 22.04.29, displayed last year
 - ECVCN Exam Comm. 2023 Comments & 2024 Guidelines for Exam Questions - 23.09.08, to come soon where everything is detailed and explained, at our best.

➤ The reasons why

• The question and examination building process

- Questions should have been received by **March 1st**. The last ones arrived on **April 11th**!

- First check (compliance with the Guidelines). Eventually, back and forth to the question authors, from March 9th. Last replies (end of back and forth) received on **April 17th**.
- Inclusion of sorted OK questions in the ‘databases’ (one database per exam part, questions also sorted according to the fields).
- Dispatching to the reviewers... done asap. Was done on **April 20th**.
- Reviews sent back by... asap. The reviews were received on **August 1st and 25th** (and one has not been received yet). Corrections and changes included in the databases (too lately).
- Dispatching of the databases to the Exam Committee members was done on May 20th (at a time when reviews were not completed!, and it was obvious then would not arrive in).
- Everything OK on **August 25th**.
- Building of the Exam forms ended on **September 3rd**, i.e. one week before the exam.
- Just a bit stressful! And part of the job was done during the summertime (Holidays!!!!)

- **Comments regarding the questions submitted (2)**

- There were still some questions that were a bit too long.
- A very few ‘questions’ were not worded as questions.
- All question had 5 answers.
- A very few questions used answers like “all above” / “none of the above” etc.
- A very few questions were negation questions, and some were not detected by the first filter.
 - ☐ *Which of the following statements is not true?*
 - ☐ *‘All the following proposals are true, but one. Which one?’*
 - ☐ *‘Which statement is false about avian renal disease and heavy metals?’*

The main problems raised by the reviewers

- Coverage of important topics is missing
 - Numerous very specific questions, whereas important topics are therefore never touched.
 - This notably concern general (or basic) knowledge.
- In farm animals, there was **no balance among the different species**
 - ✓ MCQ: 38 ruminants, 8.5 poultry, 11.5 pigs, 11 nonspecific species, 3 monogastric, 1 fish
 - ✓ Essay topics: 9 cows, 3.5 poultry, 1.5 pigs (2 companion animals and 1 general)
 - ✓ Could be also the case in Dogs & Cats, but the count has not been done yet.
- **Non adequation between question distribution and exam requirements**

- Question distribution vs. Examination rules: General, Farm animals, Horses & EXWL**

	General	Farm animals	Horses	EXWL-NPA	EXWL-PA	Exam
Biochemical and nutritional physiology	53%					40%
Food/feed safety, legislation	28%					20%
Nutritional req. and feed. strategies	19%					40%
Feed sc. & Physiol. & Nutritional req.		44%	52%	42%	38%	20%
Applied nutrition		42%	31%	42%	56%	40%
Clinical nutrition & Dietetics		14%	17%	17%	6%	40%

- Question submission & review: Carnivores**

	Total	2023 H & EXWL ^a	D & C	D & C	Exam
Field					
Feed science & Nutritional requirements	111	9	102	47%	(20%)
Applied nutrition (healthy anim./disease prev.)	54	5	49	22%	(40%)
Clinical nutrition & Dietetics	68	1	67	31%	(40%)
Total	233	15	218		
Level of difficulty					
Basic knowledge	101	3	98	45%	
Advanced knowledge	98	8	90	41%	
Expert knowledge	34	4	30	14%	
Total	233	15	218		
Validation					
Validated - No change	154	12	142	65%	(100%)
Validated - Changes have been done	53	3	50	23%	
Recommend not to use	26		26	12%	
Total	233	15	218		

➤ **Proposals in 2023 AGM**

- **Earlier delivery of the questions, instead of March 1st it will become from now on to be December 1st (this year there will be some tolerance)**

The proposal to change the deadline to deliver questions from March 1st to December 1st was approved with 2 votes against and 1abstention

- **To increase the number of MCQ delivered by each team of 3 from 10 Questions to 15 Questions.**

The proposal to increase the number of questions per team was approved without any votes against and also no abstentions.

4th Other issues

**Chat GPT / artificial intelligence
Relevance for our residents
(Case Reports)**

- **Code of conduct !**
- **Code of honour !**

→ It was discussed by the assembly if the use of Chat GPT / artificial intelligence should be forbidden or allowed and it was asked if the conclusion should be included in ECVCN P & P's

The conclusion was:

The use of artificial intelligence systems, such as ChatGPT, is only allowed as a brainstorming tool, or as a translation tool. Its use must be acknowledged and documented in any of the credentials submitted in the application package.

This decision should be included in the P & P's

Final comments:

Please keep in mind that all members of the ECVCN board and all members of the committees ... are volunteers...

**"Volunteers
do not necessarily
have the
time; they
just have
the heart."**

Elizabeth Andrew

Let's stop thinking about problems / challenges → let's search for solutions!

We ALL are aiming
 to advance the quality of animal health care in Europe by increasing the competency of those
 who are active in the field of veterinary and comparative nutrition, through:

- guidelines for post-graduate education / training
- Examining and authenticating veterinarians as specialists ...
- Encouraging research

The College is open for new ideas / improvement!

Everyone is welcome to discuss topics and work on it!

Did you ever had a look at the document „Policies and Procedures“ of ECVCN ?

PLEASE DO

6. Important Dates

6.1. For ECVCN Residents

Item	Deadline	Where to send	Committee
Acknowledgment of internship	Prior to programme initiation	✓ <u>Executive secretary</u> ✓ <u>Chair of</u> Credential Committee	Credential
Annual Membership fee ECVCN	Prior to programme initiation	✓ <u>ESVCN Website</u> ✓ <u>Treasurer</u>	NA
Registration within existing Standard Residency Programme	6 weeks prior to programme initiation	✓ <u>Executive secretary</u> ✓ <u>Chair Education &</u> Residency Committee	Education & Residency
Application Alternative Residency Programme	Prior to programme initiation (recommended 6 months prior)	✓ <u>Executive secretary</u> ✓ <u>Chair Education &</u> Residency Committee	Education & Residency
Changes to the Standard or Alternative Residency Programme	Before changes are implemented	✓ <u>Executive secretary</u> ✓ <u>Chair Education &</u> Residency Committee	Education & Residency

Residency class – Confirmation of attendance + proposed title of presentation	June 1 st <small>w</small>	✓ <u>Vice-president</u>	NA
Residency class - presentation	September 1 st <small>w</small> (or as indicated by the vice president)	✓ <u>Vice-president</u>	NA
Assessment of performance and progress (including summary from 2 yearly meetings + activity log book + future plans)	June 1st	✓ <u>Executive secretary</u> ✓ <u>Chair Education & Residency Committee</u>	Education & Residency

Acknowledgements to All the ones that put their energy and time in making our college a better every day!

Acknowledgements to the College sponsors: Purina and Royal Canin

There were no other issues to be discussed and the Meeting was closed by the President (Anne Mößeler)



The President
Anne Mößeler



The Executive Secretary
Ana Lourenço