

Bylaws¹ on Quality Assurance in the European College of Veterinary Public Health (ECVPH)

The mission of the College is to contribute significantly to the maintenance and enhancement of the quality of European Veterinary Specialists in Veterinary Public Health across all European countries at the highest possible level so as to ensure that improved optimal veterinary medical services will be provided to the public.

Towards achieving this goal, ECVPH:

1. imposes special training beyond the professional veterinary degree to enhance the ability of candidates to meet certification requirements and to update the competence of specialists, and has:
2. established a policy and associated formal mechanisms for the approval, periodic review and monitoring for the assurance of the standards and quality of the programmes and awards is offering;
3. established a system of collection, analysis and use of up to date, impartial and objective, relevant information for the effective management of the training programmes and other activities of the College, to be regularly submitted to the EBVS;
4. established a clear policy and the procedures, including a re-evaluation form, for re-certification of the Diplomates for membership of the Colleges every five years;
5. conflict of interest avoidance mechanisms in place on all levels, e.g. applications for enrolment as a resident, approval of residency programmes, approval of credentials, examinations, appeals procedures and so on;
6. established a policy and the procedures for complaints or appeals, and disciplinary actions against Diplomates or Residents/Candidates.
7. Moreover, working under the umbrella of the European Board of Veterinary Specialisation, ECVPH also contributes to its goals by ensuring that:
8. the College commits itself to the development of a culture, which recognises the importance of quality, and quality assurance, in its activities, and to achieve this, it develops and implement a strategy for the continuous enhancement of quality;
9. the interests of society and veterinary profession in the quality and standards of specialist education and training are safeguarded;

¹ *Bylaws in accordance with Article 18 of the Constitution. This bylaw was created and approved by the ECVPH Council on the 30th of January 2017.

10. any specified experience requirement is clearly defined, relevant to the objectives of the specialities, and amenable to evaluation;
11. the constitution/bylaws, policy and procedures, and all major documents of the College are publicly available;
12. residents are assessed using published criteria, regulations and procedures which are applied consistently;
13. staff involved with the training of residents are qualified and competent to do so;
14. the resources available for the support of resident learning are adequate and appropriate for each programme offered;

Accountability procedures

ECPVH has in place its own procedures which include the following:

- i. a published policy for the assurance of the quality of the agency itself, made available on its website
- ii. documentation which demonstrates that:
 - a. the processes and results reflect its mission and goals of quality assurance;
 - b. enforces, a no-conflict-of-interest mechanism in its own activities or in the activities of its Diplomates and Residents/Candidates;
 - c. has reliable mechanisms that ensure the quality of any of its activities and material produced;

In accordance with its objective to function as an Organisation developing, and enhancing standards and guidelines on quality assurance in the area of Veterinary Public Health, and to maintain and develop co-operation with other appropriate European stakeholder organisations, ECVPH is committed to a continuing cooperation with partner organisations in Europe and beyond. These mainly include the other EBVS-recognised Colleges, the respective Associations in Europe and specialist Colleges in other parts of the world (e.g. North America, and Australasia).