



Requirements for Registration of Residency Training Programmes

(last update: December 2013)

The Training Programme

1 Objectives of the Programme

A training programme approved by the ECVP is designed to

- (1) provide broadly-based theoretical and practical experience in veterinary pathology.
- (2) provide the Trainee with the opportunity to pursue career goals in teaching, research, toxicologic and diagnostic veterinary pathology.
- (3) promote high quality training in the discipline of veterinary pathology.
- (4) meet the training requirements of ECVP Council for candidates to take the ECVP certifying examination.

2 Requirements of the Programme

2.1 The Candidate/Trainee

Individuals acceptable as candidates for the training programme have to be veterinarians and must

- (1) be registered/licensed to practice as a veterinarian in a European country. The ECVP Council may waive this requirement under special circumstances.
- (2) have a satisfactory moral and ethical standing in the profession.
- (3) have have worked or undergone training as a veterinarian in a field relevant to veterinary pathology ("internship") for at least one year subsequent to graduation from veterinary school.
- (4) become registered by the programme director as a Trainee with the ECVP Council within 12 months of commencing the programme.

2.2 The Training Institution

For the standard route of training, training programmes are to be conducted at a veterinary school or other approved institution (ECVP registered residency training centre). The training institution must provide adequate space, facilities and caseload. These must be guaranteed for the duration of the programme. All training institutions must be approved by the ECVP and are subject to current ECVP guidelines. Parts of the training may be given at different institutions which offer certain facilities or caseloads not provided by another. Co-operation with other institutions is accepted and encouraged.

For certain approved institutions, co-operation with other approved institutions is a requisite for eligibility of the Trainee to sit the ECVP certifying examination. Under these circumstances an individual training plan has to be provided for the Trainee upon registration. This needs to be approved by the ECVP Council upon consultation with the Education Committee.

The parent institution must provide all equipment required for the examination and diagnostic work-up of cases. A complete and retrievable record must be maintained for each case. Library resources that include current journals and reference texts commonly used by veterinary pathologists, access to computerised literature searches and internet access must be available. In addition, archival case material or organised study sets containing case material should be available.

2.3 Supervision of Training

All training programmes must be under the supervision of a Diplomate of the ECVP or the American College of Veterinary Pathologists (ACVP), the Programme Director. The Programme Director is responsible for the administration, continuity and continuing development of the programme in general.

All Trainees must be under the supervision of a Diplomate of the ECVP or the American College of Veterinary Pathologists (ACVP), the Supervisor. The Supervisor is responsible for the direction and evaluation of an individual Trainee and the administration of his/her individual training programme. The Programme Director and the Supervisor may be the same individual. Trainee and Supervisor must have formal meetings on a regular basis (at least once a year) to evaluate the Trainee's performance and progress.

The Supervisor must take an active role in supervising the Trainee's studies and providing specific guidance in preparation for the ECVP certifying examination.

2.4 Description of the Training Programme Leading to the ECVP Certifying Examination

2.4.1 Objectives of the programme

- (1) The objective of the training is to provide broadly-based theoretical and practical experience in veterinary pathology. The experience is orientated mainly towards anatomic veterinary pathology of domestic, exotic and/or laboratory animals, complemented by an introduction to cytology.
- (2) The emphasis is on independent learning and development of skills in descriptive and diagnostic aspects of anatomic pathology, in understanding the concepts of general pathology as well as in the identification and evaluation of pathological processes leading to disease. Trainees are expected to become competent at relating tissue alterations to clinical and functional parameters of disease. Furthermore, they are expected to develop some experience in specific techniques routinely used in diagnostic and research pathology as well as in the interpretation and critical appraisal of scientific data.
- (3) The training is intended to prepare trainees for the ECVP certifying examination. It shall be flexible to meet individual interests. Trainees should be encouraged to perform a defined research project or scientific investigations of specific cases leading to presentation(s) at (inter)national scientific meetings (e.g. ESVP) and in scientific publications.
- (4) The training value depends to a large extent on the initiative of the Trainee, but close supervision and progress monitoring will ensure adequate progress.
- (5) The outcome of the training shall include the ability to:
 - recognise normal anatomy and histology
 - recognise and describe the gross and histological features of pathological changes (morphological diagnosis)
 - identify or suggest likely causes of disease (aetiological diagnosis)
 - perform and report on necropsy and surgical specimens in such a way as to provide pertinent and relevant information to submitting individuals and institutions.
 - understand the mechanisms involved in disease processes (pathogenesis)

- understand the principles of established and emerging diagnostic procedures and their applications to pathology
- think independently and be critical about the interpretation of morphological observations.
- present scientific data at (inter)national meetings and prepare data for publication in peer-reviewed journals
- be familiar with the principles of experimental design and data interpretation.

2.4.2 Total Time Requirements

The candidate must complete a minimum of 36 months of training (residency) subsequent to graduation as a veterinarian and an “internship” of a minimum of 12 months. All 36 months of the residency must be spent in the field in which certification is sought (Veterinary Pathology).

2.4.3 Requirements for Facilities and Equipment

Adequate space and equipment must be available to ensure an effective programme. In particular, a necropsy room for the performance of post-mortem examinations on small and large animals, histology laboratories and laboratories performing specific diagnostic techniques (e.g. immunohistochemistry, PCR, transmission electron microscopy) must be available. Where a training institution lacks such laboratory facilities and/or experience, the required part of the training can be obtained elsewhere as long as the overall objectives of the programme are fulfilled.

2.4.4 Requirements for Practical Training

- (1) The training must provide adequate coverage of diagnostic veterinary pathology. The use of study sets, the participation in formal courses or study visits at other institutions are encouraged to complement the training.
- (2) The programme must provide a sufficient number of cases (both surgical biopsies and necropsies) to provide the Trainee with the opportunity to obtain experience in the gross and histological findings and their interpretation.
- (3) Trainees are encouraged to keep a record of their cases.

2.4.5 Study and Education

Supervisors and Trainees are expected to develop an individual study plan for adequate training of the candidate.

2.4.5.1 Formal Course Work

- (1) The individual study plan should allow for the successful preparation for the certifying examination of the ECVF. Trainees are expected to undergo formal course work dedicated to specific skills in aspects of veterinary pathology. Formal course work can be on a regional, national or international level. A list of courses recommended by the ECVF is available on the ECVF webpage.

2.4.5.2 Veterinary Pathology Training

- (1) The training must be a directed educational process. Unsupervised diagnostic work alone is not suitable. However, the level of responsibility on the trainees for their own education is high and demands extensive independent study of specimens for diagnosis and interpretation, texts, journals, and consultation with pathologists, clinicians and other specialists.
- (2) The ECVF certifying examination is the culmination of years of intensive preparation involving a wide range of animal species. The Trainee should be granted a final phase of concentrated study without specific duties to allow for extensive revision. This is strongly advised as a prerequisite to successfully sit the ECVF certifying exam and

must be expected as generally successful only if the preceding training has been suitable in breadth and depth.

- (3) The Trainee should be given sufficient time off duty for research, independent study and revision. In general, time should be dedicated to time for a) diagnostic duty, b) research and c) independent study including extramural attendance of formal courses. Self-assessment opportunities for the Trainee need to be available.

2.4.5.3 Research Activities

- (1) Institutions organising a residency programme are encouraged to provide an opportunity for original research work within the programme. This may have the form of a limited original, laboratory-based research project or may represent the prospective work-up of case material.
- (2) The Trainee should be encouraged to present data of his/her research in (inter)national conferences during the training period.
- (3) The candidate must submit, as first author or co-author, at least two original papers (in English) in the broad field of veterinary pathology to a peer-reviewed journal of international repute. A thesis or monograph will not be accepted as a publication. The publications must have been accepted by the time of application to take the ECVP certifying exam. In exceptional cases it will be sufficient to show that the publication has been received by the journal at the time of application. In such cases written confirmation by the editor of acceptance of the publication must be received by November 1, the latest.

2.4.6 Quality Assurance of Training Programmes

2.4.6.1 Programme Modification

Changes in a training programme which may create significant alterations of the programme registered with the ECVP must be reported to the ECVP Secretary immediately. This includes, but is not restricted to, decreased availability of the Supervisor, a reduction or cessation of areas of training etc.

2.4.6.2 Evaluation and Approval of a Training Programme

To apply for approval of a standard residency/training programme the Programme Director must complete a training programme evaluation sheet available on the website. Based on the information provided, the ECVP Council will evaluate the particular programme and approve or disapprove it. In case of disapproval the ECVP Council will contact the Programme Director to discuss and recommend improvements necessary for approval of the programme. For some institutions, approval will only be granted upon the condition that the training will be provided in co-operation with other approved institutions in order to provide appropriate training to fulfil the requirements of the ECVP. Under these circumstances an individual training plan will have to be provided for the Trainee upon registration, for approval by the ECVP Council.

2.4.6.3 Appeals

Appeals against decisions should be communicated to the ECVP Secretary, and will be considered by a special Appeals Committee.

3 The Alternate Route

3.1 Objectives

The objectives of the alternate route of qualification are

- (1) to provide veterinarians who work in veterinary pathology, but who are not affiliated with academic institutions that train veterinary pathologists as one of their primary functions, with the opportunity to be admitted to the ECVP certifying examination and to become Diplomates of the ECVP.

3.2 Requirements

Candidates attempting to fulfil the training in veterinary pathology via the alternate route must

- (1) be registered/licensed to practice veterinary medicine in a European country. The ECVP Board may waive this requirement under special circumstances.
- (2) have a satisfactory moral and ethical standing in the profession.
- (3) have undergone a minimum of 5 years training in the field of veterinary pathology subsequent to graduation from veterinary school.
- (4) A minimum of 12 months of the 5 years must be spent in training under the supervision of a Diplomate of the ECVP or the ACVP in an ECVP registered residency training programme institution.

3.3 Application

- (1) Candidates attempting to fulfil the requirements of training in veterinary pathology via the alternate route shall forward information on their training and professional activities to the ECVP Office at least three years before the time anticipated to take the ECVP certifying examination.
- (2) At the time of the examination, the candidate must have devoted continuously his/her professional activities to work in the field of veterinary pathology for at least 5 years.
- (3) The candidate must satisfy the requirements of the ECVP Applications Committee that his/her professional activities can be considered equivalent to a formal residency or individual training programme.
- (4) A Candidate who is accepted for qualification via the alternate route will be assigned an active ECVP Diplomate as a mentor for a 3-year period or, alternatively, a candidate can propose an active ECVP Diplomate of his/her liking as his mentor. This mentor should evaluate the candidate's performance and progress on a regular basis.

3.4 Course Work

The Candidate must participate in continuing education meetings and/or formal courses (see list of suggested events on ECVP webpage).

3.5 Research Activities [See comments in 2.4.6.3]

- (1) Candidates qualifying via the alternate route are encouraged to undertake original research in the field of veterinary pathology.
- (2) The Candidate is encouraged to present data of his/her research in (inter)national conferences during the training period.
- (3) The candidate must have published, as first author or co-author, at least two original papers in the field of veterinary pathology in a peer-reviewed journal of international repute. The publications must have been accepted by the time of application to take the ECVP certifying examination. A thesis or monograph will not be accepted as a publication.

3.6 Procedure to Evaluate a Candidate

Evaluation of a Candidate before admission to take the ECVP certifying examination will be performed as outlined for formal residencies and approved individual training programmes.

3.7 Appeals

Appeals against decisions should be communicated to the ECVP Secretary, and will be considered by a special Appeals Committee.