



Guidance Document - Residency Training

(last update 29 December 2022 - based on the AoA and By-laws accepted by the College in 2022)

ECVP-Approved training programmes are those that fulfil requirements as stated in the By-laws (Art. 2.2).

Individuals acceptable as **residents** are those who fulfil the criteria as stated in the By-laws (Art. 2.3).

Criteria for **ECVP-Registered Residency Training Centres** are stated in the By-laws (Art. 2.1).

Criteria for **programme director** and **supervisors** are stated in the By-laws (Art. 2.1).

Sponsor is the person responsible for the resident's application to the examination and can be either the programme director or a supervisor.

Objectives of an ECVP-Approved training 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 and/or poultry, 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. Residents are expected to become competent at relating tissue alterations to clinical and functional parameters of diseases. 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 residents for the ECVP certifying examination. Residents 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. annual ESVP/ECVP conference) and to scientific publications.
- (4) The training value depends to a large extent on the initiative of the resident, 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 (etiological diagnosis),
 - perform a necropsy 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.

Total **time requirements** are those as stated in the By-laws (Art. 2.2).

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 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.

Study and education

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

Formal course work

The individual study plan should allow for the successful preparation for the certifying examination of the ECVP. Residents 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.

Training in veterinary pathology

- (1) The training must be a directed educational process. Unsupervised diagnostic work alone is not suitable. However, the level of responsibility on the residents for their own education is high and demands extensive independent study of specimens for diagnosis and interpretation, texts, journals and consultation with qualified pathologists, clinicians and other specialists.
- (2) The ECVP certifying examination is the culmination of years of intensive preparation involving a wide range of animal species. The resident 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 ECVP certifying exam and must be expected as generally successful only if the preceding training has been suitable in breadth and depth.
- (3) The resident should be given sufficient time off duty for research, independent study and revision. In general, time should be dedicated to a) diagnostic duty, b) research and c) independent study including extramural attendance of formal courses. Self-assessment opportunities for the resident need to be available.

Research activities

Institutions organising a residency training programme must provide an opportunity for original or collaborative research, so that the resident can fulfil requirements as stated in the By-laws (Art. 2.4).

Evaluation and re-evaluation of an ECVP-Registered Residency Training Centre is as stated in the By-laws (Art. 2.1).

Alternative training programmes are defined in the By-laws (Art. 2.2). For information on the modular programme see the corresponding document.

Credentials to sit the College Examination are defined in the By-laws (Art. 2.4).

Appeals against decisions should be communicated to the ECVP Secretary. See By-laws Art. 4 for details.