PETITION to THE AMERICAN BOARD OF VETERINARY SPECIALTIES

for

PROVISIONAL RECOGNITION

of a

RECOGNIZED VETERINARY SPECIALTY

in

EQUINE DENTISTRY

under the

AMERICAN VETERINARY DENTAL COLLEGE

NOVEMBER 1, 2013

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# Table of Contents

25 Introduction

26 I. History and Progress of Equine Dentistry
   A. History Prior to Specialty Organizing Committee (SOC) Formation 6
   B. History of the Specialty Organizing Committee 7

29 II. Organizational Structure of Equine Dental Specialty 9
   A. Constitution and Bylaws 9
      1. Charter Diplomates 9
      2. Intention to seek Full Recognition 10
      3. Representation to the ABVS 10
      4. Committees and Representatives 10
      5. Censoring and Suspending Diplomates 10
      6. Amendments to the Constitution and/or Bylaws 10
   B. Incorporation, Finances, and Liability Insurance 11

38 III. Fulfillment of Requirements for a New RVS 11
   A. Equine Dentistry as a Distinct and Identifiable Specialty 11
      1. Scientific Basis of the Proposed Specialty 12
      2. Equine Dentistry Related to Professional/Postgraduate Curriculum 12
      3. Anticipated Impact of Equine Dental Specialty in Multiple Venues 14
      4. Diplomates in Public, Institutional, and Private Practice 15
      5. Equine Dentistry: Relationships to other RVSOs 15
         a. Relationships and Commonalities to other RVSOs 15
         b. Why AVDC is suitable as the RVSO for Equine Dentistry 16
   B. Improved Veterinary Services Offered to the Public 17
   C. Potential Diplomates 19
   D. Commentary Period 19

50 IV. Candidate Education and Qualification 20
   A. Admission to AVDC Equine Specialty Training Program 21
   B. Terminology for Training Programs 21
   C. Qualifications of Training Supervision 21
   D. Training Goals 22
   E. Specialty Training Pathways and Requirements 23
      1. Specialty Training Pathways 23
         a. Full-time Residency Training Program 23
         b. Part-time Residency Training Program 24
      2. Specialty Training Requirements 25
         a. Annual Report 25
         b. Anesthesia, Radiology, and Surgery Training Hours 25
         c. Equine Dental Radiograph Set 25
         d. Publication Requirement 26
Appendices

1. Contact List of individuals interested in an equine dental specialty
2 A. Letter announcing the start of the specialty organization process, July 2011
2 B. Letter of intent to petition AVBS for establishment of an equine dental specialty under AVDC, January 2012
3. Letter requesting interest in formation of the Equine Dental SOC, Dec 2011
4. Questionnaire sent to potential SOC members, Dec 2011
5 A - N. Curricula vitae of SOC Members
6 A. Current AVDC Constitution
6 B. Current AVDC By-Laws
7. AVDC Equine Dental Specialty Bylaws
8. Literature Supporting Specialty – Peer-reviewed Articles in Veterinary Journals
9. Historical and modern books, chapters, and PhD theses on Equine Dentistry
10 A - K. Curricula vitae of Potential ‘Advanced Standing’ Individuals
11. AVDC Job Analysis Report, 2011
13. AVDC Specialty Training Hours Instructions, 2012
14. AVDC Leave of Absence Policy, 2012
15. AVDC Credentials Application Instructions, 2012
16. AVDC Credentials Application Form, 2012
17. AVDC Residency Site Approval Application Form, 2012
18. AVDC Residency Program Site Requirements, 2012
20. AVDC Examination Disability Accommodation Request Form
22. Equine Dental Examination blue-print derived from AVDC Job Analysis.
23. Equine Dental Examination Question Guidelines.
24. Equine Dental Reading List.
INTRODUCTION

This document has been written to petition the American Board of Veterinary Specialties (ABVS) and the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) for provisional recognition of an Equine Dental Specialty as a Recognized Veterinary Specialty (RVS) under the auspices of the American Veterinary Dental College (AVDC), a Recognized Veterinary Specialty Organization (RVSO). As an RVS of the AVDC, the formation of this specialty will rely heavily on policy already set by the AVDC.

To gain a sense of how AVDC operates and to understand the full extent of the documentation that is made available to diplomates, to veterinarians registered in or interested in AVDC training programs, and to the public, ABVS reviewers may find it easier to view the files on-line, so that the links between sections and documents are functional.

Most of the AVDC web site content (www.AVDC.org) is available to the public including the November 2012 version of the AVDC Equine Specialty Petition and all of the documents describing AVDC training program requirements. To access the documents relating to AVDC’s training program requirements, credentialing standards and information about the AVDC examination, click the Information for Veterinarians link in the left-side navigation bar on the AVDC Home page.

- From the Information for Veterinarians page, click How to Become an AVDC Veterinary Dentist for information on registering a training program with AVDC, including information on training program requirements and access to the Mentee-Mentor Manual.
- Click Information for Registered Residents to access the comprehensive set of documents for veterinarians who are registered in an AVDC training program, including the Credentials Application document.
- All forms that are used by Residents to report training program activities, or that are used by supervisors to review progress of their mentees or residents, and those used by committee members to report reviews of documents to the committee chair, are available on-line as Word .doc files for electronic completion. They are available as links from the Information for Registered Residents page.

Some files, such as the College Constitution and By-Laws, committee membership lists, and SOPs of major committees are available only by password-protected login to a limited access site, the AVDC Document Management System (DMS). In this petition, files that can be accessed by the public will be referenced via the website-file name. Files with limited access will be included as appendices at the end of the petition.

If you have any questions about how to navigate the AVDC web site, please send an e-mail message to ExecSec@AVDC.org, or call Dr. Colin Harvey, the AVDC Executive Secretary, at 267-804-4004 (personal cell phone).
I. **HISTORY and PROGRESS of EQUINE DENTISTRY**

I A. History prior to formal organization for specialty creation:

Equine dentistry has been practiced in many forms for hundreds, even thousands, of years by individuals of various levels of training. From domestication (circa 4000 BCE) through the end of World War II, the horse played a critical role in the development, expansion, and survivability of civilizations. The armies of the world used horses as a means of tactical and strategic battlefield maneuverability as well as a resource for both logistical and troop transportation. Stable civilizations further utilized horses for both commercial transportation and agricultural labor. Dependent on healthy horses for both military and economic success, equine dentistry was a standard part of veterinary practice until motorized vehicles and machinery replaced the horse. The foundations for modern equine veterinary dentistry in North America began after the Civil War during the same period as the veterinary profession was being established. In fact, veterinary dentistry began with equine dentistry, as the horse was the animal most commonly treated by veterinarians until the mid-twentieth century. In 1855, E. Mayhew wrote *The Horse’s Mouth*, which included a section on dental abnormalities. In 1865, Robert Jennings wrote *Diseases of the Horses Teeth* and in 1889, T.D. Hinebach wrote *Veterinary Dental Surgery*. In his 1906 text, *Animal Dentistry and Diseases of the Teeth*, A. Merillat commented that “the principle objective of dentistry is to promote the general health (of the horse) by improving mastication and relieving pain,” (page 13) and many would argue that this remains the objective of veterinary dentistry today. Interestingly, Merillat opined, “In canine and feline species…the animal dentist meets only the occasional condition demanding attention. It is evident, therefore, that animal dentistry naturally center upon the horse,” (page 14) and many of the procedures described in this text are still performed on horses today. Equine dentistry remained an important part of equine practice until after World War II, when the focus of veterinary care and research was redirected toward livestock. With the exception of Dr. Erwin Becker and his colleagues in Germany, equine dental care remained relatively unexplored and saw a decline in clinical practice between 1950-1980. For a more complete list of historical references relevant to equine teeth, mouth and dental conditions, see the Historical Book section in Appendix 9.

Over the past three decades, the hard work of a core group of determined and focused veterinarians seeking to improve the art and science of dentistry created the Academy of Veterinary Dentistry (AVD) in 1987. The American Veterinary Dental College (AVDC) was provisionally approved by ABVS-AVMA in 1988, and AVDC was awarded full recognition as an ABVS-AVMA specialty organization in July 1997. Although both organizations were created to improve and promote veterinary dentistry without a species-specific limitation, historically, the focus of these organizations was small animal dentistry. While the founders of the AVD and AVDC were focused on improving dentistry through organization, other North American, European, and Australian veterinarians involved in academia and private practice developed equine dental research programs and training opportunities, and published a wide array of articles regarding equine dentistry. Equine dentistry has expanded beyond “floating” and extractions to encompass all dental disciplines including oral surgery, endodontics, management of occlusal abnormalities, periodontics, and restorative dentistry.
I B. History of the Specialty Organizing Committee (SOC):

In early 2000, the Academy of Veterinary Dentistry, a non-ABVS recognized organization, acknowledged the potential and importance of equine dentistry, and created an equine specific training program and certifying examination. Currently, there are seven Fellows of the Academy of Veterinary Dentistry (Equine), and the program has been growing steadily since its inception. About seven years ago, the AVDC also started to recognize the importance of equine dentistry as some AVDC Diplomates’ interest in equine dentistry blossomed. In 2009, the American Veterinary Dental College (AVDC) and the Academy of Veterinary Dentistry (AVD) formed a joint committee, the AVDC-AVD Equine Specialty Development Committee. The charge of the Committee follows. “With meeting the stated requirements of the American Board of Veterinary Specialists (ABVS) for development of a new specialty under the umbrella of the American Veterinary Dental College as a goal, the committee is to develop a preliminary plan designed to achieve this goal, including gathering information on the extent of interest in this goal, on organizations and individuals that could be important partners in supporting development of this potential specialty, and consideration of how membership of a formal Organizing Committee for Development of a New Specialty (as defined by ABVS) should be determined.” Four members were appointed to this committee:

Jennifer Rawlinson, DVM, Dip AVDC (Chair)
Colin Harvey BVSc, FRCVS, Dip ACVS, Dip AVDC
Randi Brannan DVM, Dip AVDC
David Klugh DVM, Fellow AVD Equine

As the Committee began to explore the scope of its charge, it became apparent that the size of the Committee needed to be increased. Additional equine focused members from the AVDC and the AVD were appointed, as well as two members from the European Veterinary Dental College (EVDC). The diplomates from the EVDC were included because the EVDC was also organizing a similar equine dental-focused committee to create an EVDC supported petition for the development of an Equine Dental Subspecialty and collaboration between the two committees would potentially expedite the process for both. The following members were added:

Gary Goldstein, DVM, Dip AVDC
Edward Earley, DVM, Fellow AVD Equine
Cedric Tutt, BVSc, Dip EVDC (Chair of the EVDC Equine Committee)
Alessandro De Simoi, BVSc, Dip EVDC

During 2010, the committee initiated discussion on how to create a Specialty Organizing Committee (SOC) that would fulfill requirements set forth by the ABVS. The goal was to use the momentum of both the AVDC-AVD and EBVS-EVDC equine initiatives in a mutually beneficial manner. It was decided that possible membership to the SOC should not be restricted to North America as the AVDC has many international diplomates and the ABVS does not impose geographical restrictions. Involvement of well-qualified international equine veterinary dentists would also lend expertise, credibility, and breadth of opinion to create a more robust Equine Specialty. An Equine Veterinary Dental Specialist Contact List was created which included the names of all known veterinarians with an expressed and demonstrated interest in equine dentistry (Appendix 1). This initial list contained 78 names of veterinarians from around the world. The contact list also included 10 critical Equine Veterinary and Equine Dental
Organizations, all North American Veterinary Colleges, and all state Veterinary Medical Associations. The committee created an Announcement Letter in July 2011 (Appendix 2 A) expressing the intent of the Committee to form an Equine Veterinary Dental Specialty. The letter requested recipient veterinarians to contact the AVDC Executive Secretary to indicate interest in joining a SOC and to forward the letter to any other veterinarian they knew who might be interested. Sixty-two veterinarians indicated an interest in SOC membership, and in December 2011, a second letter (Appendix 3) was sent to these 62 veterinarians requesting a Curriculum Vitae and completed questionnaire (Appendix 4). The second letter indicated the CV and questionnaire would be used to determine if an individual met the qualifications to join a SOC outlined in ABVS Policy section II, part D1 and D2.

The Delphi system for selection (Delphi process: [http://www.iit.edu/~it/delphi.html](http://www.iit.edu/~it/delphi.html)) was used to review individual credentials. The Delphi system relies on the collective opinion of well-recognized leaders in the field under question. In order for the Delphi system to work in this situation, additional committee members were needed. Two more leaders in equine dentistry were asked to join the Committee for SOC credentials review. The individuals added to the Committee were:

- Padriac Dixon MVB, PhD, MRCVS
- Jack Easley, DVM, Dip ABVP (Equine)

In 2011, the International College of Equine Veterinary Odontology (ICEVO), founded in Alberta, Canada, submitted a letter of intent to the ABVS to form a Recognized Veterinary Specialty Organization (RVSO). The ABVS advised the ICEVO that, given existing ABVS policy, it could not form an RVSO in the absence of a formal agreement with the AVDC; ICEVO leadership was encouraged to engage with the AVDC-AVD Committee, and agreed to participate in a joint effort. The AVDC-AVD-EVDC Committee added ICEVO as a participating organization and asked Gary Wilson, MVSc, MACVSc (Veterinary Dentistry), a well-known equine dentist and ICEVO leader, to join the Committee. A report describing progress in establishing an equine dental specialty under AVDC was submitted to ABVS in October 2011. A formal letter of intent to petition ABVS for recognition of an equine dental specialty under AVDC was submitted to ABVS in January 2012 (Appendix 2 B).

Sixty veterinarians submitted credentials for review including 6 members of the AVDC-AVD-EVDC-ICEVO Equine Specialty Development Committee. Members of the AVDC-AVD-EVDC-ICEVO Equine Specialty Development Committee were not allowed to evaluate themselves. Using the Delphi system, two rounds of voting identified 21 highly qualified persons for a Global Equine Veterinary Dental SOC. All 21 individuals were offered SOC membership and all 21 accepted. Due to the international composition of the SOC, the initial focus of the SOC was to establish standards for training, credentialing, examination, and recertification that would be acceptable to the different specialty certifying authorities. The document containing these standards was referred to as the “Global Petition” and from this document regional petitions were fashioned.

As 2012 progressed, it became apparent from discussions within AVMA-ABVS and EVDC-EBVS that an effort to agree on an internationally acceptable standard for equine veterinary dental specialists was not immediately practical. The effort to construct a “Global Option” that
could be presented jointly to ABVS and EBVS was put on hold, and the SOC refocused its
 efforts on crafting an AVDC-ABVS petition that would be appropriate for North America. Since
 neither AVDC nor ABVS policy restricts AVMA specialist recognition to veterinarians licensed
 by North American jurisdictions, all Global SOC members were invited to join the AVDC
 Equine Specialty Organizing Committee. Of 21 initial members, 15 accepted membership to the
 AVDC Equine SOC. The AVDC Equine SOC has 11 North Americans and 4 international
 members. Members of the AVDC Equine SOC are committed to creating a viable and
 successful Equine Veterinary Dental Specialty recognized by the ABVS-AVMA.

All members of the AVDC Equine SOC meet ABVS standards for inclusion in a specialty
organizing committee. As described above, the Delphi process and ABVS criteria were used to
determine the AVDC Equine SOC members. Members include seven professors and eight
private practitioners, many of whom either have dual or adjunct appointments with colleges of
veterinary medicine. Four SOC members are Diplomates of ABVS specialties. Four members
are AVD Equine Fellows. Members are recognized leaders in equine dental research, education,
and clinical service. The SOC has collectively published more than 80 papers on equine
dentistry, and many of these individuals are working with industry and government to improve
the state of equine dental care. The membership originates from diverse professional and
geographic backgrounds with almost all regions of the United States and Canada represented.
Overall, the Equine SOC represents greater than 125 years of collective equine dental
experience. This wealth of accomplishment and diversity is evident in the individual SOC
member curricula vitae (Appendix 5).

II. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE of EQUINE DENTAL SPECIALTY

II A. Constitution and Bylaws

The Equine Dental Specialty will function under Article III item B of the AVDC Constitution
and By-Laws (Appendices 6 A and B) and adhere to the ADVC Constitution delineating the
operations of the RVSO. In addition, a separate set of Bylaws for the Equine Dental Specialty
(Appendix 7) has been created and has been approved by the AVDC Board of Directors.
Assuming the Equine Specialty receives provisional ABVS recognition, the chair of the Equine
Specialty Executive Committee will attend and participate in meetings of the AVDC Board of
Directors. Procedures for conducting AVDC business are described in the AVDC Constitution,
AVDC Bylaws, and the AVDC Equine Specialty Bylaws.

II A 1. Charter Diplomates

The Equine Dental Specialty Organizing Committee has voted to not admit any charter members.
All members of the Organizing Committee will be required to take and pass a certifying
examination to become a Diplomate of the AVDC Equine Specialty. All members of the
Organizing Committee will have a total of three opportunities to pass a certifying examination
over a period of five years. Organizing Committee members who pass the first certifying
examination on the first attempt will be known as Founder AVDC Equine Diplomates after the
granting of provisional recognition by the ABVS and AVMA. Examination format, content,
and passing score are described in Section V and VIII.

II A 2. Intention to Seek Full Recognition

The AVDC Equine Dental Specialty is seeking full recognition from the ABVS as a RVS. If provisional recognition is granted, members of the SOC will submit a formal request for full recognition through the AVDC after four years but not more than 10 years of operation as a provisionally recognized specialty.

II A 3. Representation to the ABVS

The Equine Dental Specialty will be represented on the ABVS through the AVDC-appointed ABVS representative.

II A 4. Committees and Representatives

The AVDC Equine Dental Specialty will be led by the Equine Specialty Executive Committee (ESEC) and will have the following standing committees, as noted in its By-Laws: Appeals Committee, By-Laws Committee, Credentials Committee, Examination Committee, and Training Support Committee.

The AVDC appoints:
- A representative on the Journal Management Committee that manages the *Journal of Veterinary Dentistry*,
- A section head for the JAVMA Diagnostic Imaging in Veterinary Dental Practice feature in JAVMA,
- Two representatives on the Veterinary Dental Oversight Committee (VDOG) that manages the annual Veterinary Dental Forum (jointly with the American Veterinary Dental Society and the Academy of Veterinary Dentistry),
- A representative to the World Veterinary Dental Congress committee.

Upon provisional recognition, the AVDC Equine Dental Specialty will request participation in these groups to adequately represent and communicate equine dental issues.

II A 5. Censoring or Suspending Diplomates or Canceling Certification

Censoring, suspending, or canceling diplomate(s) or diplomate certification is described in the AVDC Constitution Article IX. The AVDC Equine Specialty intends to follow all predetermined AVDC policy regarding these matters. Procedures for amendments to the AVDC Equine Specialty Bylaws are described in Article VIII.

II A 6. Amendments to the Constitution and/or By-Laws

The AVDC Equine Specialty will function under the AVDC Constitution, and changes to the Constitution can only be made according to Article XII of the AVDC Constitution. Procedures for amendments to the AVDC Equine Specialty By-Laws are described in Article VI of the AVDC Equine Specialty By-Laws.
II. Incorporation, Finances, and Liability Insurance

The Equine Dental Specialty will exist under the umbrella of the AVDC. The AVDC is registered with the IRS as a tax-exempt corporation under section 501(C)(6) of the U.S. IRS Code and Regulations and incorporated in the State of Michigan. Upon approval of provisional recognition, the Equine Specialty Executive Committee will commence discussions with the AVDC to determine the structuring of the Equine Dental Specialty Treasury and Finances. Income for the specialty will be derived from annual dues, training program and credentialing fees, examination fees, and continuing education monies generated from AVDC Equine Dental Specialty supported course offerings; AVDC provided a loan to facilitate formation of EVDC, and has indicated willingness to consider financial support of AVDC Equine during the start-up period.

The AVDC carries Directors & Officers liability coverage ($5,000 deductible, $1,000,000 maximum coverage). The policy includes Errors and Omissions coverage ($5,000 deductible, $250,000 maximum coverage). The policy is a product of CNA Company. As an AVDC entity, AVDC Equine will be covered by the AVDC liability insurance policy.

III. FULFILLMENT of REQUIREMENTS for a NEW RVS

III A. Equine Dentistry as a distinct and identifiable specialty

There is ample evidence that equine veterinary dentistry is a readily identifiable and distinct discipline of veterinary practice. Veterinary dentistry is included within the scope of professional veterinary practice in both the AVMA and the AAVSB Model Practice Acts, and all United States and Canadian Provinces, except for the state of New York, currently include dentistry within the scope of licensed veterinary practice. According to the American Association of Equine Practitioners, most equine veterinarians in North America provide professional equine dental services. Most general equine practices provide primary level dental care including oral examination, reduction of sharp enamel points and dental overgrowths with either hand-held or motorized instruments, simple extractions of deciduous and severely disease teeth, and emergency management of oral trauma. The primary level dental care offered by these practitioners is necessary for maintaining oral health and function in the equid, but it is only the tip of the iceberg regarding dental services required to address oral, dental, and maxillofacial pathology.

Many of the well established specialty colleges are separated into species-specific or large and small animal specialties because of the distinctive anatomical and physiological differences between species. Due to the youth and size of the AVDC, the membership elected initially to not divide its organization based of species differences although the training and clinical experiences of the majority of AVDC diplomates was limited to small animal species. Although veterinary dental principles and knowledge apply to most mammalian species, there is an additional knowledge base required for equine dentistry that is not applicable to small animal dentistry. The development, function, attrition, and dynamic nature of the equid hypsodont dentition and the significance of the equine sinuses and other regional anatomic structures in equine dental cases makes equine dentistry a specialty very different from small animal brachydont dentistry.
Equine dentistry is a particularly demanding branch of veterinary dentistry due to the physicality of practice and the unique structure and function of the equid oral cavity. To be a successful equine veterinary dentist requires an in-depth understanding of equine dental and maxillofacial surgical principles, a command of the literature, a large array of dental and surgical instruments, years of experience, and physical health. Primary care practitioners are not prepared to handle advanced dental and oral surgical cases due to lack of training, experience, and instrumentation. Most AVDC Diplomates are not interested, equipped, or willing to work with equids; therefore, there is only a small pool of veterinary dentists currently willing and capable of providing this advanced service. Therefore, equine dentistry has become a very distinct and identifiable specialty as a veterinary dental discipline steeped in literature and research with only a small number of veterinarians qualified to perform specialist-level clinical service. The proposed AVDC Equine Specialty seeks to address this deficiency in veterinary dentistry.

III A 1. Scientific basis of the proposed specialty

The number of books, book chapters, and peer-reviewed original research-based articles on equine dentistry has exploded in the last two decades. Evidenced-based equine veterinary dentistry has been growing, and the body of literature available supports the claim that the specialty is distinct and identifiable. Included in this petition is a list of 177 published articles (Appendix 8) and 79 books, book chapters, and PhD/Master theses (Appendix 9) focused solely on equine dentistry. This list of published materials demonstrates the extent of knowledge related to equine veterinary dentistry. Funding sources for veterinary dental research include the Academy of Veterinary Dentistry, various equine and/or dental foundations, pharmaceutical and nutrition companies, governmental resources, and academic departmental funds worldwide. Journals frequently publishing articles regarding equine veterinary dentistry are the Journal of Veterinary Dentistry, Equine Veterinary Journal, Australian Equine Veterinarian, Veterinary Clinics of North America - Equine Practice, Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association, Equine Veterinary Education, Journal of Veterinary Surgery, American Journal of Veterinary Research, The Veterinary Journal, Journal of Clinical Techniques in Equine Practice, The Veterinary Record, Veterinary Radiology and Ultrasound, Canadian Veterinary Journal, and the Compendium on Continuing Education for the Practicing Veterinarian. Members of the Equine Dental SOC act as reviewers for equine dental articles in these journals as evidenced in their curricula vitae. The record shows that equine veterinary dentistry has a solid scientific base to claim it is a unique and identifiable specialty supported by science.

III A 2. Equine dentistry related to current professional and postgraduate veterinary medical curriculum

Equine dentistry needs both general practitioners comfortable and competent in providing primary equine dental care and AVDC Equine Specialists ready to assist with primary care and tackle referral cases and advanced dental pathology. The way to achieve a solid two-tiered system for providing equine dental care is education of the veterinary student and veterinarian. Outreach to veterinary students through schools and seminars is high, and equine dental continuing education for veterinarians is quickly growing. A list including all the educational activities performed by SOC members was started, but it quickly became apparent that the list...
was too long to be practical and the activities could stand alone in individuals’ curriculum vitae.

Educational venues included, but were not limited to, universities, teaching hospitals, referral institutions, private practices, conferences, professional CE facilities, private practices, and privately owned barns. Students are demanding veterinary dentistry in their curriculum, including students oriented towards a career as an equine practitioner. Colleges of Veterinary Medicine are increasing their equine dental curricular content. Student opportunities range from basic lectures and practical laboratory sessions taught by university faculty to AAEP funded weekend wet-labs. A handful of colleges are now able to offer extensive training in equine dentistry through clinical rotations, elective courses, and externships. Cornell University is a prime example of this increase in effort to teach veterinary students equine dentistry. In just 7 years, Cornell went from offering 3 hours of equine dental education to over 35 hours including additional exposure during senior student clinical rotations. Universities in Colorado, Georgia, Minnesota, California, Texas, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, and Canada have similar student exposure to equine dentistry.

The 2010 AAEP Continuing Education Needs Assessment Analysis reported that equine dentistry was the 5th most requested CE topic (behind Lameness, Wound Management, Ambulatory Practice, and Pain Management) in Equine Companion Animal and Mixed Large Animal Practice. The AAEP responded by increasing dental CE offerings at its annual meeting and by having dentistry as the lead topic for both the Focus series (a three-day lecture event) in 2006, 2011, and 2013 and the “360” intensive wet lab series in 2010 and 2012. Overall, the Focus series has helped educate approximately 750 primary care practitioners. The “360” program has trained nearly 40 veterinarians. For the last decade, the Veterinary Dental Forum Equine Program has provided 1-2 days of lecture and one wet lab on an annual basis with an average annual attendance of 40-50 veterinarians. Equine Dentistry has become a regular topic at the major national CE programs such as the AVMA Convention, NAVC, CVC, and WVC. Other Equine Professional Organizations and local/regional Veterinary Medical Associations host frequent lectures and wet labs regarding equine dentistry. Industry leaders have also initiated equine dental continuing education programs. Zoetis is probably the most visible of all these sponsors funding multiple regional events including both wet labs and lectures for veterinarians, but smaller dental equipment and nutritional companies need also be recognized for their enthusiastic support of educational opportunities through donation/lending of equipment and financial backing. Equine SOC members have been and are tremendous supporters of these programs putting countless hours into proceedings, lectures, wet lab creation, and teaching.

More than 90% of AVDC Diplomates focus their practice on small animal dentistry with a few treating exotics and wildlife patients in addition to their small animal caseload. Although the AVDC currently has no species-specific limitation, there are no formal AVDC residency programs that include a significant amount of equine training. In the last few years, four AVDC Diplomates have started mentoring six part-time residents whose practice focus is equine dentistry. In 2011, the AVDC expressed interest in expanding their Oquendo Center contract in Las Vegas, Nevada to include a multi-tiered equine dental training program. The goal is to provide 2-3 basic and advanced training opportunities for both general practitioners and specialty residents starting in 2014. The Academy of Veterinary Dentistry has been leading the way in providing advanced training for equine veterinary dental practitioners. The AVD recognized a deficiency in equine dental training and created programs to train and certify veterinarians.
Although this organization is not capable of certifying specialists via ABVS-AVMA policy, it contributed extensively to the development of equine dentistry as a distinct and identifiable specialty. With the addition of an ABVS-recognized AVDC Equine Specialty, veterinarians would have an appropriate training pathway to become certified equine veterinary dental specialists.

III A 3. Anticipated impact of an Equine Dental Specialty in multiple venues (organized veterinary medicine, private practice, industry, government & public)

The development of an AVDC Equine Specialty will have a great impact in equine veterinary practice. With a central organization responsible for training and certifying veterinarians, high standards for specialist-level equine oral and dental care will be established and improved providing more reliable and predictable service. As the certification structure is put in place, veterinarians will be better trained at the student, primary care practitioner, and specialist level. Specialists in turn will continue to develop equine dental services at universities improving veterinary student education in equine dentistry. Graduating students will be more proficient in performing oral examinations, providing primary level dental care, and knowing when to refer cases. With more exposure in veterinary colleges, some students will recognize the opportunities in equine dentistry and pursue advanced training and specialization. With specialists available for state-of-the-art clinical care, the horse will benefit through improved pathology recognition, diagnostic imaging, and dental therapies. The horse owner will be better served not only through improved clinical work but also by more direct and cost-efficient service.

The establishment of an AVDC Equine Specialty will stimulate further industrial innovation regarding equine dental instrumentation, imaging, and nutrition. Greater than 50% of the Equine SOC has worked with industry to design instruments, develop new surgical techniques and materials, and create improved equine dental imaging systems. This form of cooperation between the already existing equine veterinary dentists and industry leaders is anticipated to grow since the results of past initiatives have been so successful.

The regulation and ethical practice of equine veterinary dentistry will be impacted significantly by the creation of an AVDC Equine Specialty. The equine dental services provided by Non-Veterinarian Dental Care Providers (NVDCP) have been a tremendously controversial welfare, political, and professional issue for the past decade. Anti-veterinary political stakeholders across North America have used the issue of “who can provide equine dental services” as the platform to deregulate not only equine dentistry (Minnesota, Texas), but also veterinary dental services in all species (New York), as well as other veterinary services such as reproductive services (Oklahoma). In the absence of a recognized certification program in veterinary equine dentistry, several unaccredited equine dental schools and associations in North America are producing “certified equine dentists” who through aggressive marketing are enjoying the perception of legitimacy and competency by the North American public, as well as by many veterinary professionals who ignorantly enable the practices of NVDCPs. While most of these “equine dentists” are well intentioned, all are misrepresenting their level of expertise to the public and jeopardizing the welfare of the horse. This RVS will not only provide a recognized certification program in veterinary equine dentistry but also will establish leadership within our profession to guide both the legal and ethical practice of equine dentistry in North America. This RVS can
provide the AVMA, state VMAs and state regulatory boards with a resource in education and experts against future deregulatory efforts.

### III A 4. Diplomates in public, institutional, and private practice

a. We anticipate approximately 65% of diplomates to be employed in private clinical veterinary practice and referral centers.

b. We anticipate approximately 30% of diplomates to be employed in institutions including colleges of veterinary medicine, veterinary medical teaching hospitals, and rescue centers.

c. We anticipate approximately 5% of diplomates to be employed by government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and industry.

### III A 5. Equine Dentistry: Relationships to other RVSOs

#### III A 5 a. Description of relationships and commonalities to other RVSOs

Veterinary dentistry is a discipline-diverse specialty. Diplomates of the AVDC are qualified in the dental disciplines of oral/maxillofacial surgery, oral traumatology, oral oncology, oral medicine, maxillofacial imaging, periodontology, endodontics, orthodontics, restorative dentistry, and prosthodontics. An equine veterinary dentist would be expected to master all of the above-mentioned disciplines as well.

Of all the ABVS RVSOs, veterinary dentistry overlaps most with the American College of Veterinary Surgeons (ACVS) in the disciplines of oral/maxillofacial surgery, oral traumatology, and management of oral oncology. The ACVS requires its Residents to perform and log ‘head and neck’ procedures to satisfy residency requirements, but veterinary surgeons and dentists often take a different approach to addressing the teeth within the maxillofacial space. The veterinary dentist has a unique understanding of how the maxillofacial region is shaped and maintained by healthy teeth. In addition, the dentist understands both the regional and systemic impact of oral pathology. It is not uncommon in academic institutions for surgical residents to request rotations with the Dentistry Section to broaden their understanding of basic dental principles and acquire the necessary maxillofacial surgical cases. In this way, veterinary dentists are helping surgical residents become better maxillofacial surgeons.

Equine veterinary dentistry consists of the application of general dental principles to the unique nature of hypsodont equid teeth. Knowledge of all dental disciplines and how they apply to the horse is critical for the functioning of an equine veterinary dentist. Equine dentistry lags behind small animal dentistry in the application of some dental principles. Although many reasons have been listed for this lag, one major reason is that over the last century primary level equine dentistry has been delegated to non-professionals by the veterinary profession. The NVDCPs filed sharp points, and veterinary surgeons extracted diseased teeth, fixed jaw fractures, and performed other necessary maxillofacial surgical procedures. While equine dentistry was ignored by the majority of the veterinary profession, surgeons who were bold enough to realize the potential of more advanced dental therapies, often consulted human dentists to perform any necessary advanced dental procedures. In the last 20 years, a small handful of surgeons with a keen interest in teeth explored how modern dental research and practice could be applied to the
horse. This small group of veterinary surgeons along with a few innovative private practitioners led the way for a renaissance in equine dentistry. By demonstrating that teeth were more than inanimate objects within the oral cavity, they inspired others to start to blend the work of the veterinary surgeon and dentist. With a background in the spectrum of dental disciplines, the equine veterinary dentist is primed to sustain the continuum that was started by these innovative individuals. In conclusion, equine veterinary dentists have the in-depth and diverse background to expand dental treatments in the equid beyond oral surgery, and while oral surgery will be a significant portion of an equine veterinary dentists’ caseload, it will be the training beyond oral surgery that will move equine oral health care into the twenty-first century.

III A 5 b. Explanation of why AVDC is suitable as the RVSO for Equine Dentistry

AVDC was founded without distinction relative to species. Initially the AVDC diplomates were all small animal (and occasionally zoo) oriented, but as the AVDC has grown, the awareness of the importance of dental health in the equine world has also grown. There are now AVDC diplomates who have a professional interest and expertise in equine dentistry. Several non-AVDC veterinarians have also developed a specific interest and level of skill in equine dentistry, and some have practices completely limited to dentistry. In addition, equine general practitioners and owners have become increasingly aware of the importance of oral health and high-quality dental services. With an increasingly interested member body and a supportive veterinary and public sector, the time is right for the AVDC to establish an Equine Dental Specialty.

Over the last several years, the AVDC leadership has recognized the importance of embracing a pan-species approach. Specific references to species were removed from the AVDC training program and exam rubric, and wording within the recent AVDC Job Analysis was purposefully non-species-specific. There are still some facets of the AVDC training program and certifying exam that are difficult to modify to be species neutral, especially with respect to the species with hypsodont dentition and associated maxillofacial structures. An equine specialty would allow for the teaching of general dental principles within an already established AVDC framework while addressing concerns regarding the ability of the AVDC to adequately train and certify equine specialists. Adding an equine specialty augments the veterinary dental education provided by the AVDC and places the AVDC in a stronger position as the leader in veterinary dentistry.

Several programs already administered by the AVDC would greatly benefit from increased equine dental representation. The Annual Veterinary Dental Forum has offered a one to two-day lecture program, and a one-day wet lab Equine Program since early 2000. Over 95% of speakers have been either general practitioners, surgeons, Academy of Veterinary Dentistry Fellows, or internationally recognized equine veterinary dentists. Though the numbers of AVDC Diplomates presenting in the Equine program has grown, an AVDC Equine Specialty would greatly support the AVDC mission of providing diverse high-quality educational opportunities in veterinary dentistry. The AVDC also owns and operates the Veterinary Oral Health Council (VOHC), which awards its VOHC Accepted Seal to products that meet or exceed pre-set standards of effectiveness of dental products available to the public. Currently, this program focuses on small animal dental products, but there is a growing market in equine dental health
that could benefit from VOHC certification. In conjunction with the AVD and the American Veterinary Dental Society (AVDS), the AVDC supports the Veterinary Dental Organizing Group (VDOG) and the Journal of Veterinary Dentistry. Both organizations rely on non-AVDC equine veterinary dentists to represent the interests of the horse. Upon provisional recognition, the AVDC Equine Specialty will act as a valuable resource for supplying these programs with individuals trained to AVDC and ABVS standards. In addition, there is already a subcommittee within the AVDC Nomenclature Committee committed to developing equine dental terminology, and the majority of members on the subcommittee are Equine SOC members. With shared disciplines and only variation by species, the equine specialty will help fulfill AVDC’s objective to be the leader in veterinary dentistry.

III B. Improved Veterinary Medical Services Offered to the Public

An AVDC Equine Specialty will provide the public with a clear definition of an equine veterinary dental specialist, differentiating them from all other certifications that veterinarians and NVDCPs can receive from private organizations that supply the title “certified equine dentist.” This will place the standard of care for equine veterinary dental services squarely on the shoulders of ABVS-recognized board-certified equine dentists, a group that the public can identify as the definitive experts in this area of veterinary practice. When an equine specialty is established under the AVDC umbrella, AVDC will expect the equine specialty to take a leadership role in discussions involving the ethical practice of equine dentistry. The primary means of assuring high quality veterinary medical service is certification, via the credentials and examination processes, of diplomates who provide specialist-level care in private or university-based practice. These processes are directed at ensuring that AVDC Equine Diplomates have attained the level of knowledge and ability to apply the skills expected of an ‘entry-level specialist’.

As discussed previously, a significant portion of the dental services provided to horses in North America is illegally performed by NVDCPs whose practices have neither professional nor regulatory oversight. Unfortunately for the clients and patients, NVDCPs lack the veterinary training and resources to provide services within the current standards of professional veterinary care and cases of misdiagnosis, inappropriate treatments, and both patient and client injury are common. This public disservice is further complicated by NVDCPs purposely ignoring oral pathology beyond their scope of practice and rarely referring cases to veterinarians for appropriate care.

In the past, many veterinarians have relied on NVDCPs to perform dental work, as they felt unprepared by their education. Now, veterinary schools and the AAEP are providing students with intensive equine dental learning opportunities, and pro-active equine veterinary dentists, many who are on the AVDC Equine SOC, are making a tremendous effort to provide continuing education opportunities for veterinarians and extensive training courses for students and veterinarians. Working within the AVDC infrastructure would greatly enhance current efforts to train veterinarians and students through increased resources and organization. As noted previously, a list of presentations made by the SOC was started for inclusion in this report, but rapidly became too voluminous to include (see CVs in Appendix 5). Suffice to say that every recent major national and international veterinary continuing education meeting has included
sessions on dentistry, equine dentistry and dental wet-labs. The enthusiasm of students and 
veternarians for learning equine dentistry is very high, and the days when equine veterinarians 
felt unqualified to perform dental work are numbered.

Owners are quickly realizing the value in requesting veterinary dental care, and referring 
veterinarians are relieved to find highly trained veterinarians with equine dental skills. Owners 
are increasingly educated in appropriate equine health care via marketing by veterinary 
stakesholders (e.g. AAEP), industry for equine oral health products, and literature published in 
owner-level journals. Owners are researching, via the Internet, the benefits of veterinary dental 
care and how to locate specialized veterinarians. The lack of an equine veterinary dental 
specialty organization has been confusing to horse owners. An AVDC Equine Specialty could 
tap into the computing resources already provided by the AVDC making it easy for owners to 
locate equine veterinary dental specialists. Owners would be able to use this resource to find 
reliable high quality dental care for their equine companions.

Equine veterinary dental experts provide improved care for advanced dental cases. Already 
members of the SOC and other highly trained equine dental veterinarians provide referral and 
consultation services for surgeons, universities, referral practices, and private practitioners. The 
requests for case review, consultation, and referral are continual and expanding. General 
practice veterinarians deeply appreciate having a resource for advice and assistance on dental 
cases. Surgeons with advanced dental knowledge and experience and/or access to equine dental 
experts are more comfortable performing oral surgery and provide better services. Horses with 
oral pathology receive improved care in a more direct manner when experienced equine 
veterinary dental experts are involved. An example of enhanced service for equine patients is 
superior dental imaging. Experienced dental ‘eyes and hands’ produce improved quality dental 
radiographs, and detect dental pathology on radiographs with increased precision and accuracy. 
This dramatically reduces the amount of advanced imaging (computed tomography, magnetic 
resonance imaging, nuclear medicine) performed to diagnose a dental condition and 
consequently, reduces the risks of general anesthesia to the horse and the expense to the owner. 
When equine veterinary dental specialists are involved in oral and maxillofacial procedures the 
horse benefits from their in-depth knowledge of regional and dental anatomy, oral pathology, 
dental imaging, and diverse background in dental therapeutics.

Overall, the Equine Dental Specialty will improve and promote:

• the quality of equine dentistry and oral health care by making specialist knowledge and skills 
in equine dentistry available for the benefit of animals,
• the quality of equine dentistry in practice through encouragement of contact between general 
practitioners and registered veterinary equine dental specialists,
• the quality of service provided to the public, including the protection of the public against 
inadequately qualified “experts”,
• the structure of dentistry and oral health care services provided for equids, thereby improving 
its perception amongst owners, veterinarians and other members of the public,
• further development and research in equid veterinary dentistry and oral surgery practice,
• the base of knowledge in equine dental practice and provision of training for future equine 
dental specialists.
III C. Potential Diplomates

A primary objective of the College and its diplomates is the training, credentialing, and examination of candidates. Almost all members of the Equine SOC are currently training future equine veterinary dental specialists through residency, fellowship, or post-graduate programs associated with the AVDC, AVD, and regional certified training routes. Eight Equine SOC members either work at a university or provide locum/consultation services for regional veterinary schools. These individuals are poised to not only start formal residency programs within their school but also have a tremendous opportunity to recruit and train veterinary students, interns, and residents. Part-time training programs will be critical to growing the Diplomate base in the next 5 years while SOC members and other highly trained individuals are taking the certifying examination and setting up formal residencies within their institutions. The part-time residency-training program allows veterinarians in private practice to pursue board certification as an equine dental specialist without leaving their practice to enter a full-time residency program.

One of the limitations to growth of the College is identification of supervisors for training programs. The Equine SOC will provide potentially 13 supervisors for training programs. Within the first three years, we expect 17 individuals not participating in the SOC to apply for Advanced Standing to sit the certifying Examination, some of whom may be granted immediate entrance to the examination and others after credentials acceptance and examination. (Appendix 10) These 17 individuals were identified during the SOC selection process but did not meet ABVS requirements for SOC membership. Therefore, within the first three years of the Specialty there will be potentially 20+ members to act as training program supervisors. The contact list initially created to alert all equine veterinary dental enthusiasts of the Equine Specialty creation includes 25 individuals interested in pursuing formal training and certification with the AVDC Equine Specialty (Appendix 1). In order to connect these potential Residents with supervisors the AVDC provides a Mentor Requested page on its web site. Veterinarians wishing to enter a part-time training pathway can submit a completed Mentor Requested information form to AVDC, and the form is posted on a Mentors Requested page on the Diplomate-only section of the AVDC web site. AVDC stipulates a maximum of three Residents per diplomate; the Board occasionally permits exceptions to this policy when one Resident has completed a training program but has not completed some of the pre-requisites for a complete credentials application, and the supervising diplomate wishes to start another Resident under his or her supervision.

In summary, we anticipate certifying 25 individuals within the first three years. In the subsequent 2-3 years, we anticipate certifying an additional 10-15 diplomates. For the next 10 years, we anticipate that about 5-10 individuals will initiate training every year and half or more will complete the certification process. These numbers are based on a discussion exploring the number of training requests currently received by SOC individuals on an annual basis and the chair’s experience within the AVDC Examination Committee.

III D. Commentary Period

As per ABVS Policy and Procedures, the 2012 AVDC Equine Specialty Petition was made
available for professional and public commentary after initial review by the Committee on the Development of New Specialties (CDNS). CDNS required a Commentary Solicitation Letter (Appendix 21) be provided by the Organizing Committee for publication in various professional and public journals. The Chair of the Organizing Committee submitted the Commentary Solicitation Letter to the CDNS January 1, 2013 for publication. The Commentary Solicitation Letter was published in January 2013, which opened the Commentary Period for the proposed Equine Dental Specialty. The Commentary Period lasted until September 1, 2013. Dr. Bob Murtaugh informed the Organizing Committee Chair that as of September 1, 2013 two emails were received. The two emails and the Organizing Committee’s formal response follow.

Email 1: “I really don’t know enough to say equine dentistry should be a subspecialty in dentistry. It seems that equine dentistry techniques/knowledge would be encompassed in other fields of dentistry, but maybe I just don’t know enough of the new info.”

Email 1 Response from Organizing Committee: The main concern of this email as perceived by the Organizing Committee is that of inclusion and/or differentiation of equine dentistry within the already recognized AVDC. The Petition provides a detailed account regarding this exact topic in Section III A introduction, Section III A 5 parts a and b, and Section III B. In a nutshell, the hypsodont equid dentition and regional maxillofacial anatomy is substantially different from brachydont small animal (e.g. canine, feline) dentition and maxillofacial anatomy. Greater than 90% of AVDC Diplomates base the majority of their dental practice, training, and writing on small animals and have little to no experience with equids. Therefore, an AVDC Equine Specialty would appropriately address the College’s desire to provide improved educational, training, and certifying opportunities for those wishing to become a veterinary specialist in equine dentistry. Section III B reviews how the creation of an Equine Dental Specialty would positively impact equine health and veterinary medical services to the public.

Email 2: “Is there really a critical mass of people and research data to justify either of these 2 new groups but especially equine dentistry. My concern is that we went so long with no new groups that we are now trying to "play catch-up" and recognizing those with less than minimum critical mass. "Better to delay than fail."

Email 2 Response from Organizing Committee: The main concern of Email 2 as perceived by the Organizing Committee is that of a “critical mass” of equine dental scientific literature and equine veterinary dentists. Although definitions quantifying “critical mass” will vary per individual, the Organizing Committee feels that both the current state of literature and personnel justify the creation of an Equine Dental Specialty. The Petition covers these topics extensively in Section I B, Section III A parts 1, 3, and 4, Section III C, and Appendices 5 (A-N), 8, 9, and 10 (A-K). The Organizing Committee feels it is in a position to succeed in this endeavor. No comment or response is given regarding the implication of the ABVS-AVMA is trying to “play catch-up.”

IV. CANDIDATE EDUCATION and QUALIFICATION

All relevant information, with links to related AVDC documents, and all required forms, shall be
available on the AVDC web site.

IV A. Admission to AVDC Equine Specialty Training Program

To be eligible to enroll in an Approved Residency Program, all candidates must meet the following criteria:

1. The applicant must be of high ethical, moral and professional standing.
2. The applicant must be a veterinarian who has graduated from an accredited school of veterinary medicine, or be a graduate of an equivalent higher educational body recognized by the country of residence.
3. The applicant must be licensed or qualified to become licensed to practice veterinary medicine and surgery in his/her country of residence.
4. The applicant shall have spent a minimum of 1 year in an equine rotating internship or equivalent as approved by the Credentials Committee.

Applicants in any training pathway who have successfully completed relevant forms of other extensive, formal, full-time training (e.g. ACVS-Equine, ECVS, or ACVIM residency program) may petition AVDC for partial reduction of the AVDC training program time requirement. The time required for completion of an AVDC training program would be reduced by six months for such an individual.

Applicants will follow the directions on the AVDC webpage “How to Register for a Training Program” (http://www.avdc.org/register.html) to register for an Equine Specialty Training Program. The only difference in policy for the Equine Specialty shall be that the AVDC Executive Secretary submits the applicant’s materials to the Equine Training Support Committee for review. The Equine Training Support Committee shall make a recommendation to the Equine Specialty Executive Committee, which will decide whether the application is sufficiently complete to accept. The AVDC Executive Secretary will notify applicants of the decision.

IV B. Terminology for Training Programs

1. The word *resident* is used when referring to veterinarians who are registered in an AVDC Equine Specialty-approved training program. Residents include veterinarians registered in both full-time and part-time residency training programs.
2. An *applicant* is a veterinarian who is applying for registration of a training program with AVDC.
3. A veterinarian who has completed an AVDC-approved training program and whose credentials have been approved is known as a *candidate*.
4. Every Resident has a residency program director.

IV C. Qualifications of Residency Directors

Residency Directors shall be responsible for the administration and continuity of approved training programs. The Residency Directors must be AVDC Equine Specialty Diplomates in good standing of the College. Diplomates can supervise no more than three residents at a time.
IV. Training Goals

The general aims of the AVDC Equine Specialty Residency Program are

- to acquire in-depth knowledge of general veterinary dentistry
- to promote the highest level of knowledge and clinical proficiency in the diagnosis, treatment and management of equids with dental and oral surgical conditions
- to train the resident in all domains of equine dentistry and oral surgery and its supporting disciplines

Successful completion of a residency program provides the resident with the opportunity to pursue a career in teaching, research, clinical service, and/or specialty practice in the field of equine dentistry and oral surgery, and to be an equine dentistry specialist.

The following list of attributes gives a broad outline concerning knowledge and skills a specialist should acquire.

1. Professional contacts and transfer of knowledge
   An equine dentistry specialist should be able to:
   a. express himself/herself clearly, in oral as well as written form
   b. approach problems in an analytical, scientific way and attempt to find solutions
   c. assign priorities to identified problems and develop differential diagnoses lists
   d. organize work efficiently
   e. find required information quickly
   f. develop clinical research and other scientific activities in order to contribute to improving equine dentistry and oral surgery knowledge.

2. Equine veterinary dentistry and oral surgery
   The specialist shall:
   a. be acquainted with the current theories, principles and problems of the specialty
   b. maintain up-to-date knowledge by attending appropriate meetings and keeping abreast of current literature
   c. be acquainted with the structure, objectives, approaches and problems of the veterinary profession and specifically with regard to the specialty of equine dentistry and oral surgery
   d. be acquainted with the social role of the specialist and specifically the responsibilities of the specialist with regard to animals, animal welfare, clients, colleagues, public health and the environment
   e. have the highest standards of skills and use current equipment and materials

3. Obtaining help for problems that lie outside of the specialty and/or facilities
   The specialist shall:
   a. keep abreast of new developments in the specialty and become familiar with new techniques and materials, before applying these in practice
   b. understand the limitations of his/her own specialty
   c. understand the advantages of and participate in multidisciplinary cooperation

4. Working as a professional specialist
   By his/her expertise, the specialist should have developed the self-confidence, self-criticism and sense of responsibility that are essential for the practice of the specialty.
5. Practicing the specialty of Equine Dentistry and Oral Surgery in its different domains

The specialist shall be able to recognize and investigate problems in equids associated with dentition, oral medicine and surgery, and digestive disorders that may be dental-related. Training Program content shall be a reflection of entry-level professional activities expected of Diplomates. In 2011, AVDC completed a Job Analysis under the guidance of Allied Measurement Professionals (Appendix 11). The Chair of the Equine Specialty Organizing Committee, Jennifer Rawlinson, was a member of the AVDC Job Analysis Committee and has in-depth understanding regarding the creation of the AVDC document. When the document was created, the Job Analysis Committee went to great lengths to exclude any species-specific reference or requirement; therefore, the AVDC Job Analysis acted as an appropriate template for an equine training program. Due to species differences specific to the equid, emphasis placed on each domain and subdomain varied from a non-specialized AVDC training program. In the spring of 2013, the Organizing Committee undertook the task of creating the Equine Job Analysis. This involved assigning domain and subdomain emphasis scores, and provided further detail in subdomains appropriate for equine specific anatomy, pathology, diagnostics, and therapies. The Organizing Committee voted on emphasis scores of the domains and subdomains and submitted changes in subdomain wording for Committee consideration. The final Equine Job Analysis (Appendix 22) was approved by the Organizing Committee in April 2013.

IV E. Specialty Training Pathways and Requirements

IV E 1. Specialty Training Pathways

IV E 1 a. Full-time Residency Program (RP-FT)

1. The Residency Program shall be a full-time residency program at an institution or facility approved by the AVDC Equine Training Support Committee. The Residency Director must be an AVDC Equine Diplomate.

2. The Residency Director/Site application includes review of the facilities, equipment, and supplies available at the Residency Director’s site; approval is for five years and can be renewed.

3. An AVDC Equine Diplomate can supervise up to three AVDC residents at one time.

4. If the Residency Director/Site is already approved by AVDC, only review of the Application for Registration of a New Resident is required.

5. The minimum length for a RP-FT program is three and a half years from the time of graduation as a veterinarian. The first year is to entail a one-year internship or equivalent in clinical veterinary practice. The minimum program length requirement for RP-FT is 30 months.

6. A minimum of 78 weeks must be spent on clinical dental service during the residency. A minimum of 48 of those 78 weeks of clinical dental service time shall be spent on-site under the direct supervision of the Residency Director, or, if approved by the Residency Director and the AVDC Equine Training Support Committee, with another diplomate either at the Residency Director’s facility or at the other diplomate’s facility.
supervising Diplomate can be an AVDC Diplomate or AVDC-EQ Diplomate, or, for a maximum of one third of the required 48 directly-diplomate-supervised clinical dental service weeks, an EVDC Diplomate or EVDC (Eq) Diplomate; twenty-four of the 48 week direct-diplomate-supervision time must be spent with an Equine Specialty Diploma.

7. Time spent with an anesthesia, radiology or surgery specialist in a dental service cannot be counted simultaneously toward the AVDC Residency diplomate-supervised clinical dental service and the Anesthesia, Radiology or Surgery training requirements, even if the diplomate is board-certified in both dentistry and the other specialty discipline.

8. A minimum of 20 weeks in addition to the required 78 weeks of clinical service shall be spent pursuing scholarly activity (research, writing, teaching, attending advanced specialty programs or scientific meetings, etc.) and meeting the remainder of the AVDC training program requirements (radiograph set, specialty hours, etc.). Residency Directors can elect to require longer than the 30-month minimum for the full-time residency program they offer.

9. The AVDC case log and all other AVDC Training Program requirements must be met.

**IV E 1 b. Part-time Residency Program (RP-PT)**

1. The RP-PT program is designed for veterinarians who desire to complete the training requirements while working mostly in private practice because family or financial constraints do not permit them to undertake a full-time residency program. The purpose is to permit part-time training that is equivalent in total experience to the 30 months of full time training in veterinary dentistry required of full-time residents at approved sites.

2. A part-time residency program is conducted under the supervision of an AVDC-approved Residency Director. The Residency Director must be an AVDC-EQ Diplomate.

3. An AVDC-EQ Diplomate can supervise up to three AVDC residents at any one time, whether the residents are part-time or full time.

4. The minimum length for a RP-PT program is three and a half years from the time of graduation as a veterinarian. The first year is to entail a one-year internship or equivalent in clinical veterinary practice. The maximum time permitted for completion of a RP-PT program is 6 years.

5. A minimum of 78 weeks must be spent on clinical dental service during the residency. A minimum of 48 of those 78 weeks of clinical dental service time shall be spent on-site under the direct supervision of the Residency Director, or, if approved by the Residency Director and the AVDC Equine Training Support Committee, with another equine diplomate either at the Residency Director’s facility or at the other diplomate’s facility. The supervising Diplomate for clinical service can be an AVDC Diplomate or AVDC-EQ Diplomate, or, for a maximum of one third of the required 48 directly-diplomate-supervised clinical dental service weeks, an EVDC Diplomate or EVDC (Eq) Diplomate; twenty four of the 48 week direct-diplomate-supervision time must be spent with an Equine Specialty Diplomate.

6. A part-time resident can spend directly-diplomate-supervised time at the residency director’s facility, the resident's practice, or any other facility at which equine dental cases are attended to in the simultaneous presence of an AVDC or AVDC-EQ Diplomate and resident. Real-time electronic resident-supervisor interaction regarding discussion of
an active case, case rounds, or teaching rounds will be reviewed for possible inclusion in
supervised clinical time. Time spent together on other occasions, e.g. at meetings and
continuing education programs, does not count toward the direct diplomate supervision
requirement.
7. The first four weeks directly following the registration date of a resident’s program must
be spent at the Residency Director’s facility, working under the supervision of the
Residency Director. An additional 8 weeks of the first 12 months of a training program
must be spent at the Residency Program Director’s facility, working under the
supervision of the Residency Director.
8. Time spent with an anesthesia, radiology or surgery specialist in a dental service cannot
be counted simultaneously toward the AVDC Residency clinical service supervision and
the Anesthesia, Radiology or Surgery training requirements, even if the diplomate is
board-certified in both dentistry and the other specialty discipline.
9. The AVDC case log and all other Training Program requirements must be met.
10. In addition, a part-time resident must submit an equine dental chart used in her/his
practice and an equipment-instruments-supplies list. The dental chart is to be submitted
for Pre-Approval review within one year of the date of registration of the program, and
the equipment list is to be submitted for review within two years of the program
registration date.

IV E 2. Specialty Training Requirements

IV E 2 a. Annual Report

An Annual Training Report is to be submitted to the Executive Secretary to monitor the progress
of an AVDC Equine Specialty resident. The Equine Training Support Committee (ETSC) exists
to help residents prepare for the credentials application process. ETSC reviews the progress of
the training programs of all residents, to recognize progress, point out deficiencies, and make
suggestions for improving the individual resident’s program. To allow ETSC to perform these
tasks, all residents registered with AVDC Equine Specialty are required to submit an annual
report each year. The Equine Annual Report content shall be the same as the AVDC Annual
Report. (Appendix 12)

Residents who have been on a leave-of-absence for the entire year are required to submit only a
brief report, updating AVDC on their leave-of-absence status.

IV E 2 b. Anesthesia, Radiology, and Surgery Training Hours

AVDC Equine Specialty shall require its residents to have received 40 hours of post-graduate
training in each of three related disciplines – anesthesiology, radiology, and surgery. Hours shall
be fulfilled with a Diplomate of the American or European Colleges of Anesthesiology,
Radiology/Diagnostic Imaging, and Surgery. Specifics of this requirement will be the same as
AVDC policy; please see the AVDC Anesthesiology, Radiology, and Surgery Instructions for
Residents. (Appendix 13)

IV E 2 c. Equine Dental Radiograph Set
Equine Dental residents must be able to demonstrate proficiency in radiographing teeth and other oral structures. Residents will be required to submit a full series of equine dental radiographs.

The Equine Credentials Committee will develop the guidelines for the radiographic series, similar to the guidelines and examples on the AVDC web site Radiographic Sets page. A cadaver head is to be used to generate the radiographs. A radiograph set is to be submitted for review by the end of the first year as a registered resident, and approval is expected to have been obtained by the end of the second year.

**IV E 2 d. Publication Requirement**

The Equine Training Support and Credentials Committees have been charged with development of a specific document describing the details of the publication requirement. The guidelines developed will closely mirror the guidelines set forth by the AVDC. In general, a minimum of two publications will be required. There are two categories of publications required, one “major” and one “minor”.

A “major” publication comprises a paper on veterinary dental or dental-related topics containing original data (e.g. a research project or a case series) or equivalent submitted to or accepted by/published in a peer-reviewed journal. The resident is to be the first or only author. A completed Residency Director form is required confirming that the resident actually conducted the research or case series follow up, conducted the literature search and wrote the first draft of the paper. If the article is accepted by or published in an AVDC EQ-approved journal, the article is automatically approved as an AVDC “major” publication without requiring Credentials Committee review. If it is submitted to but not yet accepted by an AVDC-EQ approved journal or is accepted for publication in a journal that is not on the AVDC-EQ approved-journal list, it is sent for Equine Credentials Committee review to determine approval/non-approval and whether it meets “major” publication requirements. If it does not meet “major” publication requirements, it can be reconsidered as a “minor” article.

A “minor” publication can comprise a publishable case report, a JAVMA DIVDP article, a JVD Foundations article (or similar), or another paper on any topic relevant to veterinary dentistry. If a case report is submitted, the resident must have been the ‘primary dentist’ and the case must have been treated no more than five years prior to the submission date. A completed Residency Director form confirming that the author was the primary author must accompany the submission.

The published or submitted for publication articles are to be in scientific, peer-reviewed journals. The two published articles must be in any of the following major dental disciplines: endodontics, oral medicine, oral surgery, periodontics, orthodontics, dental imaging, dental-related anesthesia and analgesia, and operative dentistry (restorative or prosthodontics); the two articles cannot be in the same dental discipline.

Articles accepted by or published in the following journals will be accepted by AVDC Equine as meeting the publication requirement without requiring review of the content of the article; however, the Equine Credentials Committee will make the determination as to whether an article
meets the criteria for a “major” or “minor” article. Approved journals for AVDC Equine are: J Veterinary Dentistry, J American Veterinary Medical Association, American Journal of Veterinary Research, Veterinary Surgery, and Veterinary Pathology. The Equine Credentials Committee may recommend additions to this list.

The Equine Credentials Committee can agree to accept for review a credentials application that does not yet include proof of publication of one or both articles provided that the Residency Director confirms that the project that will result in the delayed submission of an article. In this circumstance, the Equine Credentials Committee can approve the incomplete credentials application and the candidate can take the AVDC Equine Certifying examination; however, if the candidate passes the AVDC Equine Certifying examination and has not yet completed the publication requirement, an AVDC Equine Diploma will not be awarded until the AVDC Equine publication requirement has been satisfied.

### IV E 2 e. Case Logs

1. Each resident will be required to keep a log of clinical cases seen during the residency program. Residents will be required to use the AVDC Document Management System (DMS) on-line case log, which allows the resident and the Residency Director constant access to enter new cases, correct incorrect entries and see tabulations of critical items, such as the number of cases in particular categories.

2. AVDC Equine shall require that residents have participated in a minimum of 500 equine dental cases and a training program total of 240 Minimum Required Case Log (MRCL) cases, with a set minimum number in each of specific categories, for 50% of which in each category the Resident must have been the primary dentist (whether assisted by or under observance by a diplomate or not).

3. The Equine Credentials and Training Support Committees shall create a document establishing the Minimum Required Case Log list; the Equine Credentials Committee shall submit this document to the Equine Specialty Executive Committee who will approve this document prior to AVDC Board of Directors review. The DMS online case log allows the Resident to upload images specific to a case (e.g. clinical photos and radiographs) for review by a designated diplomate (either the diplomate who worked with the resident on that case or the Residency Director). DMS facilitates the generation of “MRCL Case Forms” for completion by the designated diplomate; one MRCL form shall be required for each of the 240 MRCL cases. The MRCL form is designed to provide feed-back from the diplomate to the resident on how the case was handled by the resident.

4. AVDC Equine case logs are subject to a ‘six year’ rule – cases can continue to be logged more than six years beyond the date of registration of a residency program, but only those cases dated within the six-year period shall be eligible for inclusion in the MRCL log and to meet the 500 minimum case requirement.

5. A maximum of three procedures on any one patient on any one day can be logged as separate cases, provided that the procedures are independent of each other (e.g. extraction of a tooth and occlusal equilibration of the rest of the mouth can each be logged as separate ‘cases’). A detailed Case Log document is available on the AVDC web site for small-animal oriented residents; this document will be revised as necessary for use by
equine dental residents.

IV F 3. Leave of Absence

The AVDC Equine Specialty shall follow all rules according to the AVDC leave of Absence Policy. (Appendix 14)

IV G. Credentials Application and Time Limits

The AVDC Executive Secretary will accept only complete Credentials Applications for review.

IV G 1. Pre-Approval

To reduce the stress involved in submitting a large number of documents immediately prior to the Equine Credentials Application deadline, many credentials items can be submitted for Pre-Approval review, as explained on the AVDC Website (http://www.avdc.org/pre-approval.html). The Equine Credentials Committee will accept items for pre-approval review. The only difference in procedures for Pre-Approval review is that the AVDC Executive Secretary will process all materials to the Equine Credentials Committee for review. The Equine Credentials Committee will review all materials and generate an evaluation report including a decision of approval or non-approval. If the item in not approved, a list of reasons for non-approval will also needed to be included in the report. The Equine Credentials Committee will send reports to both the AVDC Executive Secretary and the Equine Specialty Executive Committee. The AVDC Executive Secretary will notify the resident of the decision.

IV G 2. Requirements for Credentials Application

The AVDC Equine Credentials Application will follow the same submission procedures as for all AVDC residents as stated in the AVDC Credentials Application Instructions. (Appendix 15) All requirements and contents will be the same, except as noted below.

a. Completed and signed Application Form (Appendix 16), with a photograph of the Resident in the space provided. Include a check for the Application fee of US $1,550 made out to “AVDC.” $450 of this fee is the credentials review fee, and $1,100 is the examination fee. The examination fee portion will be returned to residents whose credentials are not accepted. Note: The Credentials Application will be returned un-reviewed if the Training Program Annual Fee is in arrears. All fees are subject to annual review by the AVDC Board of Directors and may increase over time.

b. Head shot photograph of the applicant is to be submitted as a digital image in .jpg format via DMS.

c. A copy of the applicant’s Veterinary School Graduation Certificate, submitted as a scanned or photographed digital image.

d. A copy of the applicant’s Current License to Practice Veterinary Medicine, submitted as a scanned or photographed digital image.

e. Curriculum vitae of the applicant, including an account of all professional activities since graduation from veterinary school, all publications, all educational programs both attended by and presented or created by the Resident, and the names of and contact
information for individuals whom the applicant has asked to write letters of reference.

f. Documentation of Training in Related Specialty Disciplines in Anesthesia, Radiology, and Surgery. Item f is not required if Pre-Approval certification has been obtained.

g. Documentation of AVDC Equine Diplomate Supervision, as noted in the Residency Training Program section in this petition. Confirmation of completion of the clinical service requirement will be included in the Supervisor’s letter confirming completion of the program, so no separate form submitted by the applicant is required.

h. The Oral-Dental Chart and Record Forms used by the applicant. Minimally, a dental chart suitable for equids is required; records for other species may also be included. This item is not required if the resident is a full-time resident at an AVDC Equine-approved residency site, or if certification of Pre-Approval has been obtained.

i. List and photographs of Veterinary Dental Equipment, Instruments, and Supplies currently available to the resident, arranged as described in the AVDC Equine Equipment List document. This item is not required if the resident is a full-time resident at an AVDC-approved residency site or if certification of Pre-Approval of this item has been obtained.

j. Materials necessary to satisfy the AVDC Equine Publication Requirement, or certification that Pre-Approval of the publication requirement has been obtained, or certification from the Residency Director that a publication is planned based on a research project that is underway.

k. Equine Radiograph Set: Complete set of dental radiographs of the horse, or certification that Pre-Approval of the radiograph set requirement has been obtained.

l. Case Log, MRCL Case Review Forms and Cadaver Procedure Log. The applicant’s case log is available on-line in DMS; no additional formatting or submission is required. When an unsuccessful application was submitted in a previous year, the Resident is to continue to log cases through the year in which a new application is submitted.

m. Validation of Case Logs – ‘Six Cases’ Requirement: Promptly following receipt of a completed Credentials Application, the Executive Secretary will request (by e-mail) submission of dental records and associated documentation of six cases selected by the Chair of the Equine Credentials Committee from the MRCL log or the log of the most recent 12 months of clinical activity, to validate the case log entries. This material is to be sent to the AVDC Executive Secretary within 10 days of the date of the request. The resident is either to be available to comply with this request, or to inform the AVDC Executive Secretary of appropriate arrangements by which the Equine Credentials Committee can obtain the ‘six case’ materials. No exceptions to or extensions of the dead-line for this requirement will be permitted because of the tight time-line under which the Equine Credentials Committee works. Failure to supply requested records at this stage of the process may result in denial of the credentials application for the current year.

n. Cadaver Procedures: No procedures performed on cadavers are to be included in the case log. However, if the resident is unable to accumulate all of the cases required for a complete MRCL set and if the Resident has completed all other training requirements and is otherwise ready to submit a Credentials Application, documentation of cadaver procedures may be provided by the applicant in lieu of up to two MRCL clinical cases. Each cadaver case must be documented on a Cadaver Substitution Form that is scanned
or photographed and included in the DMS Credentials Application document. Only one cadaver ‘case’ can be submitted for a particular MRCL category.

o. Additional Materials. Residents are encouraged to submit any additional documentation that will help substantiate their qualifications; for example, copies of published or accepted papers related to veterinary dentistry authored or co-authored by the applicant that are not included in the publication requirement section.

p. Supervisor’s Report. The Credentials Application Supervisor’s Report, which includes certification of satisfactory completion of the residency program, is to be submitted by the Residency Director. This form is separate from the letter of reference that is to be written by the supervisor. The Supervisor’s Report form is available in the Credentials Application section of the Information for Registered Residents page of the web site.

q. Letters of Reference (minimum of two). The letters are to be sent directly to the Executive Secretary of the College by the writer of the letter, and must be received (not postmarked) on or before the application deadline. A letter of reference from the Resident’s AVDC Equine Supervisor is required, and is to be separate from the Supervisor’s Report. The second letter is to be from a veterinarian or other medical professional who has observed the resident performing dental procedures. When a resident has submitted an unsuccessful application in a prior year, either new letters of reference are required or copies of reference letters supporting a previous application may be submitted if accompanied by a note from the writer of the letter stating that s/he approves inclusion of the original letter in the current year’s package.

IV G 3. Time Limits

Credentials Applications due dates will be determined by the Equine Specialty Executive Committee upon provisional recognition by the ABVS. Applicants are informed of the result of the review of their application no later than the day following the Fall AVDC Board of Directors meeting, at which the report from the Equine Credentials Committee is considered. The AVDC Equine Specialty Executive Committee is responsible for submitting a report to the AVDC Board of Directors prior to the Fall Meeting. The time between final credentials decisions and the examination date shall be no less than 120 days. The date of the Fall Board meeting varies (the Board meeting is held the day before the Veterinary Dental Forum, which is held sometime from September to November depending on location); AVDC adapted the time line in its Appeals procedures to ensure that it is compatible with the ABVS requirement that appeals are completed prior to the examination. When practical (i.e. when the Veterinary Dental Forum is unusually late in the year), the Equine Credentials Committee shall complete its work to develop a report and recommendations for ESEC and Board consideration, and the ESEC and Board decisions on the Equine Credentials Committee recommendations are made electronically or by teleconference call so that applicants can be notified before the Forum.

IV G 4. Process Following Credentials Submission

Incomplete applications or applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

a. Applications received by the deadline are processed by the Executive Secretary, and case reports and radiograph sets are assigned code numbers and sent to Equine
Credentials Committee review teams for blinded review.

b. The online case logs are made available to the Credentials Committee chair for selection of the “six selected cases.” These cases are used to verify that case log entries are real and well-documented. The list of six cases selected by the Equine Credentials Committee Chair is sent to each applicant by the Executive Secretary, together with a note requiring return of the requested documentation within 10 days of receipt of the e-mailed list. Upon receipt by AVDC, these items are made available to the Equine Credentials Committee primary reviewer and chair.

c. The letters of reference are scanned by the Executive Secretary and included with each application before the application sets are posted electronically to the Equine Credentials Committee members.

d. Publication materials and radiograph sets submitted at the same time as an application package are sent to an Equine Credentials Committee review team for blinded review, as for a Pre-Approval submission. Completed Equine Credentials Committee evaluation reports are sent to the chair, and a decision to approve or disapprove each publication article and radiograph set is made. When a case report or radiograph set is approved, the Approval Certificate automatically appears in the applicant’s Program Summary in DMS, and the primary Equine Credentials Committee reviewer and chair are alerted that an additional item has been approved.

e. The Equine Credentials Committee meets to consider the applications. For otherwise-acceptable applications that may be deficient in minor ways, the applicant, at the discretion of the Credentials Committee chair, may be given the opportunity to make up deficiencies within a two-week grace period.

f. The Credentials Committee sends a final report to the Equine Specialty Executive Committee in time for consideration of the report at or before the Fall meeting of the Board of Directors.

g. Applicants are informed of the decisions of the Board as soon as possible following the Board meeting. All decisions are sent to applicants on the same day.

h. The non-approval note to an applicant includes specific comments as reasons for non-approval. For publication items and radiograph sets, the comments are divided into major (each of which, of itself, is reason for non-approval) and minor. The applicant is informed of the options available to him/her, which include submission of a rebuttal (which is reviewed by the original Equine Credentials Committee review team) and submission of an appeal. Resubmission of a non-approved case report or radiograph set is not permitted.

There is no required waiting period between successful completion of formal training and eligibility to sit for the certifying examination.

IV H. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS for RESIDENTS

IV H 1. Training Program Requirements

IV H 1 a. Full-Time Residency Program Site Requirements and Approval

To register a formal residency program, an Equine Diplomate completes an AVDC Equine Residency Program/Site Approval Application Form (Appendix 17) and agrees to adhere to
AVDC Equine Residency Program Requirements (Appendix 18). These forms will be available to Equine Diplomates through the AVDC website and are written in a non-species specific manner; therefore, these documents are acceptable for the AVDC Equine Specialty. Applications are to be filed electronically with the AVDC Executive Secretary and the Equine Training and Support Committee shall evaluate the application and make recommendations to the Equine Executive Committee for final approval or non-approval.

IV H 1 b. Part-Time Residency Site Requirements and Approval
To register a Part-time Residency Training Program, the applicant must follow the directions on the “How to Register a Training Program” page in the AVDC website. In addition to all other requirements, a Part-time Residency application must include:

a. Confirmation that an AVDC Equine diplomate has agreed to supervise the residency, and that the Residency Director/Site has been approved by AVDC Equine.

b. Proposed arrangements for meeting the anesthesia, radiology and surgery Specialty Training requirements,

c. “Initial Equipment List”, a list of the equipment and supplies available to the applicant, indicating that the applicant is equipped to commence the planned training program. (A separate “Credentials Equipment List”, including all of the equipment, instruments and supplies necessary for performing specialist-level dental and oral surgical procedures is to be submitted within two years of the registration date). AVDC Equine Specialty Initial Equipment and Credentials Equipment guidelines will be created by the Training Support Committee upon provisional recognition.

d. List of books and journals available to the applicant.

Applications are to be filed electronically with the AVDC Executive Secretary. The Equine Training and Support Committee shall evaluate the application and make recommendations to the Equine Executive Committee for final approval or non-approval.

IV H 2. Formal Training Programs and Educational Opportunities

IV H 2 a. Formal Training Programs
University-based veterinary dental programs with one or more full-time AVDC diplomates on staff are located at veterinary schools in California, Colorado, New York, Illinois, Minnesota, New York, North Carolina, Ontario Veterinary College (Guelph), Pennsylvania, Purdue, Texas, and Wisconsin and at veterinary schools in Australia and Brazil. Equine SOC members are located at veterinary schools in Colorado, Texas, Minnesota, Georgia, Australia, Europe, and Canada. It is anticipated that the AVDC Equine Dental training programs will develop at these universities and within the private practices of non-academic SOC members. In addition, there are 17 veterinarians with advanced training that will likely apply for and be approved for Advanced Standing to take the certifying examination have been identified (Appendix 10). Another approximately 25 individuals will likely focus on either establishing a formal full-time or part-time residency program in academic institutions or private practices. A list of veterinarians with advanced training and those interested and committed to pursuing advanced equine dental is attached. (Appendix 1); this list includes more than 40 such individuals and demonstrates the human resources available for to the development of a successful Equine Dental Specialty.
IV H 2 b. Educational Opportunities

Veterinary Dental Forum: The Veterinary Dental Forum is a collaborative effort by the American Veterinary Dental College, American Veterinary Dental Society, and the Academy of Veterinary Dentistry. It is managed by a commercial meeting manager who works under the supervision of the Veterinary Dental Organizing Group (VDOG), a corporation whose directors consist of two individuals appointed by each of the three veterinary dental organizations. AVDC Diplomates and AVDC-registered Residents are responsible for the majority of the presentations, which include lecture presentations and wet-labs for several levels from beginner to advanced level. AVDC Residents and candidates are exposed to all aspects and disciplines of veterinary dentistry and are encouraged to present original research as well as clinical reports. Every Forum there is a 2-3 days Equine Dental Program. Equine Specialty Residents will be encouraged to attend the general lectures and wet labs as well as the equine program. The Forum has been a success professionally and financially from its inception; net proceeds are divided equally between the three participating organizations: AVDC typically receives a net payment of about $15,000 per year from the Forum.

Specialist In Training Module: An in-depth lecture and laboratory session with a specialist in the field of veterinary anesthesia, radiology or surgery is offered each year at the Veterinary Dental Forum. This module is intended to help broaden the knowledge of potential candidates in these areas as well as provide opportunity to meet the AVDC specialist-training requirement.

Question and Answer Sessions: Training Program/Credentials and Examination Question and answer sessions will be held as lunch-time options during the Veterinary Dental Forum, attended by committee members and the AVDC Equine Secretary. Separate sessions will be scheduled for Equine Training Support/Equine Credentials Committees and the Equine Examination Committee. AVDC Equine registered Residents will be encouraged to attend. The sessions provide useful feedback on the content and procedures to be used in AVDC Equine credentialing and examination processes.

American College of Veterinary Surgeons Meeting: The ACVS Forum routinely has lectures and wet labs covering the topic of equine oral surgery, small animal oral surgery and maxillofacial surgery.

Other endorsed programs: Following favorable review of the proposed program by the AVDC Credentials Committee, AVDC provides endorsement for hands-on laboratory programs at independent site taught by appropriately qualified individuals. These programs are designed to meet the AVDC Surgery specialist-training requirement.

Co-sponsored CE programs at the Oquendo Center, Las Vegas: In 2009, AVDC signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the Oquendo Educational Center in Las Vegas, NV under which AVDC co-sponsors veterinary dental continuing education programs presented at the Oquendo Center. The AVDC examination is held at the Oquendo Center. The Oquendo Center will be an ideal location for the AVDC Equine Specialty to hold approved training wet labs in equine dentistry and oral surgery and to run the equine certifying examination as the facility has
a large barn area with four holding stalls in addition to excellent wet lab facilities and lecture halls.

V. EXAMINATION PROCEDURES and POLICIES

V A. Nature and Scope of the Certifying Examination

Once a resident’s credentialing package has been approved by the Equine Specialty Executive Committee and the AVDC Board of Directors, the resident will become a candidate for the certifying examination. The certifying examination for the AVDC Equine Specialty will test whether the candidate can perform at the level expected of an entry-level specialist in Equine Dentistry. The examination will adhere to Examination guidelines as described in the AVDC Equine Specialty Bylaws, Article IV, section 2. A summary of these Bylaws follows.

The AVDC Equine Specialty Certifying Examination shall cover equine oral anatomy, histology, embryology, pathology, examination, periodontology, oral/maxillofacial surgery, oral/craniofacial imaging, oral medicine, sinus medicine and surgery, and other topics relevant to equine veterinary dentistry. The general principles of periodontology, endodontics, odontoplasty and occlusal management, operative (restorative) dentistry and equine restraint, analgesia, anesthesia, behavior, and biting shall be included in the certifying exam.

The examination shall consist of three parts: a written section, a bench section (consisting of written questions accompanying photographs or objects) and a practical section. Candidates must pass all three parts of the examination to complete the examination process. Candidates shall have a period of five consecutive years to complete the examination process, beginning with the first examination after acceptance of the applicant’s credentials by the Equine Specialty Executive Committee. A limit of three attempts shall be granted for each part of the examination. Following petition by the applicant, the Equine Specialty Executive Committee may make exceptions to this requirement. Information on examination procedures and standards, the examination “blue print”, shall be determined by the Equine Specialty Executive Committee with recommendations from the Equine Examination Committee and approved by the AVDC Board of Directors, and shall be made publicly available on the AVDC website.

V A 1. Written Examination

The written examination shall consist of 100 or more questions (maximum 150) in a multiple-choice format with one correct answer and four distractors. Two minutes shall be allocated for each question. Depending on the final number of questions, the total examination time will vary.

V A 2. Bench Examination

The bench examination will consist of 100 questions in a multiple-choice format each associated with a digital image. The exam shall be presented either in a Power Point format or via a computer-based testing program. Two minutes shall be allowed for each question with breaks after the 33rd and 66th questions.

V A 3. Practical Examination
The practical examination will include a yet undetermined number of procedures that will involve working with live animals, cadaveric specimens, and/or materials/specimens/imaging associated with equine dentistry. Depending on the final determination of procedures to be performed, candidates will be given an appropriate amount of time to complete the practical examination. More details regarding the practical will be created following provisional recognition.

V B. Examination Fee

Examination fees are set by the Board of the AVDC and are published on the College website. Proof of payment shall be uploaded to the DMS along with the application form. Without proof of payment, the application will not be evaluated or processed, nor will access to the examination be permitted.

V C. Determination of Examination Content

The certifying examination shall be a reflection of entry level professional activities expected of specialists in equine dentistry. In 2011, AVDC completed a Job Analysis under the guidance of Allied Measurement Professionals (Appendix 11). The Chair of the Equine Specialty Organizing Committee, Jennifer Rawlinson, was a member of the AVDC Job Analysis Committee and has in-depth understanding regarding the creation of the AVDC document. In the spring of 2013, the Organizing Committee undertook the task of creating the Equine Job Analysis. This involved assigning domain and subdomain emphasis scores, and provided further detail in subdomains appropriate for equine specific anatomy, pathology, diagnostics, and therapies. The Organizing Committee voted on emphasis scores of the domains and subdomains and submitted changes in subdomain wording for consideration. The final Equine Job Analysis (Appendix 22) was approved by the Organizing Committee in April 2013 and utilized as the blueprint for the first equine certifying examination that was administered to Organizing Committee members September 27 and 28th, 2013. In addition to the blueprint provide by the Equine Job Analysis, the Organizing Committee created a Suggested Reading List (Appendix 24) that encompassed major textbooks and journals the Organizing Committee felt should be known by entry level Equine Diplomates. The publications on the Reading List act as a common resource for examination questions.

V C 1. Examination Question Development and Review

Examination question development and review for the Equine Specialty will follow AVDC procedures and standards. Two Equine Specialty SOC members are AVDC Diplomates and have served on the AVDC Examination Committee. Both are very familiar with the procedures and standards utilized by the AVDC for question generation. In May 2013, the Organizing Committee started work on creating the foundation of the Examination Question Bank. The document, Guidelines for Question Creation (Appendix 23), based on current AVDC policy and the National Board of Medical Examiners recommendations, was created and distributed to all Organizing Committee members in order to guide question creation. Organizing Committee members were assigned 25 written and bench questions to write from various subdomains from...
the Equine Job Analysis. Over 450 questions were written, Angoff scored, reviewed, and approved for use in the first certifying examination. In 2014, a similar round of question writing will be undertaken by the Founder AVDC Equine Diplomates for use in the second certifying examination. It will be the responsibility of the Equine Examination Committee after the first two certifying examinations to write new questions annually. Each member of the Equine Examination Committee will be required to write a minimum of 10 new questions per year for the certifying examination.

The following is a review of the AVDC Examination Committee question generation procedure that has and will be followed by the Equine Examination Committee.

V C 1 a. Practical Question Creation

The AVDC Examination Committee meets to design the practical examination 6-9 months prior to the actual examination date. The practical examination is created from a list of possible procedures provided to the candidates on the AVDC website. Several hours are spent considering the practical examination scenarios. At that time, the exam committee evaluates scenarios based on, but not limited to, historical examinations, procedure lists posted on the AVDC website, and the expected time it would take to complete the procedures. The procedures are purposely grouped to allow enough time for candidates to complete each session within the allotted time. The committee decides on the points in each grading category based on, but not limited to: the procedure, comments from previous years’ grading sessions, accepted standard of practice, etc. The criteria for grading each procedure is reviewed by the committee annually to improve past criteria and incorporate changes based on recent literature. The practical examination and grading criteria are established prior to the examination by the committee to allow for a standardized, mutually agreed-upon approach to grading the specimens.

V C 1 b. Written and Bench Question Creation

Written and bench question requests are solicited from the examination committee prior to the annual Exam Committee meeting at the Veterinary Dental Forum. A secure AVDC e-mail listserv is used before and after the annual meeting in order to facilitate meticulous review of examination questions. The Angoff percentage is determined for each question and used when developing the examination with a pass point of 70%.

V C 1 c. Examination Preparation

Detailed examination preparation consists of:

1. 25-33% of questions from the previous year’s examination are replaced when preparing the next year’s examination.
2. Exam committee members are assigned question categories and number of question per category by the exam chair. Members write new questions prior to the examination.
3. New questions are aggregated by the chair and returned to the exam committee for Angoff scoring (Appendix 19), applicability, fairness, accuracy, and format.
4. Some questions are removed and discarded by the committee at that time based on
deviations from examination question format and content.

5. The chair selects questions for the examination to fit the examination blueprint and to maintain the total Angoff score at around 70.

6. The chair reviews the entire examination.

7. The examination is broken into different sections and sent to individual committee members for review (fairness, grammar, accuracy, format, etc.).

8. The questions are returned to the chair to modify or replace the questions based on committee feedback.

9. The chair “takes” the examination, to check for further errors in content, format, grammar, etc.

10. The chair compares every answer in the exam bank against the printed answers.

11. The chair corrects any errors in transcription of examination answers (they originally print out at the bottom of the questions from the exam bank).

12. The chair “takes” the examination a second time with the answers present to verify that every “correct” answer makes sense and is correct.

13. The examination answer key is developed.

14. The examination answer key is double-checked against the answers.

15. The examination is created and candidates take the examination.

V D. Establishing the Pass Point

The pass point for the written and bench examinations will be set at 70%, using the modified Angoff criterion referencing technique to derive a predictive value for the multiple choice written and bench examination questions. The mean Angoff score of the questions in the draft written examination shall be calculated; if it is above 70 or significantly below 70, questions are replaced to bring the mean Angoff score as close as is practical to 70%. If the mean Angoff score of the final examination is less than 70%, the mean Angoff score is used as the passing score for that examination that year. The same procedure is followed for the Bench examination.

The criterion-based grading of the practical portion is developed using 70% as the score for minimally acceptable work expected of an entry-level specialist dentist (i.e. work that would result in clinical success of the procedure even though it may not be perfect). This 70% minimum pass score is used for each grading criterion for each procedure, so that a candidate’s pass-fail decision is Pass if the mean score is 70% or above.

V E. Grading of the Examination

For all three portions of the examination (written, bench, and practical sessions), examinees shall be provided randomly assigned code numbers for anonymity purposes. Randomly selected specimen numbers shall be used for the three (3) sessions of the practical examination. The Examination Committee report, which is sent to the ESEC and the AVDC Board of Directors, consists only of scores for each code number. An envelope containing code number assignments and examinee name and signature is sealed during the security session prior to the examination. This envelope is opened only after the Board of Directors has made pass-fail decisions on each code number.
The AVDC is currently investigating the use of a secure, professional testing service to aid in exam creation, grading, and statistical reporting, but this service is not currently in place. The multiple-choice questions from the written and bench examination are individually reviewed to determine the percentage of candidates answering the question correctly. All members of the examination committee review each question that 50% or more of the candidates answered incorrectly. The questions are reviewed to determine their fairness, and to determine if there is more than one possible correct answer. Based on this review, the question either remains as written, is discarded, or multiple answers are considered acceptable. The scores of the candidates are appropriately adjusted based on this review.

The following is a summary of AVDC procedures.

1. Questions that arise during the examination process are noted.
2. Examinations are graded using the examination answer key.
3. Tabulations and addition of the grades are double-checked by the incoming chair or proctor.
4. The chair reviews the examination scores during the grading process, looking for patterns such as multiple candidates answering the same questions incorrectly.
5. Every “answer” letter from every candidate for every question is entered into a spreadsheet.
6. The number of incorrect and correct answers in the spreadsheet is verified against the tabulation of scores made from the paper answer sheets.
7. The chair evaluates any questions in which 50% or more candidates scored incorrectly.
8. Those questions are “flagged” for full committee review, along with any other flagged questions.
9. The Exam Committee re-evaluates the questions and determines if the question is valid, re-assigns Angoff scores for use in future years, and makes recommendations if clarification is needed for future years.
10. Questions may be flagged for deletion from the examination as a result of steps 8-9. If at least one candidate got the deleted question correct, then all candidates receive credit and the overall Angoff score of the examination does not change.
11. The chair “flags” all failing candidate answers and verifies that the answers entered into the spreadsheet were entered correctly by checking the paper answer sheet.
12. The chair evaluates the number of correct and incorrect answers in each dental discipline category.
13. The answers are entered in a table and checked again that the number of incorrect answers adds up to the number incorrect on the examination.
14. The scores in each category are tabulated for each candidate prior to an adjustment of a score.
15. Written questions and examination data are checked by the committee and chair multiple times during the examination process due to the non-automated grading system used in the examination process.

The AVDC Examination Committee has requested that the AVDC Board of Directors review the current grading model of multiple-choice questions and consider the use of a professional testing service or a secure computer-based testing program. Upon provisional recognition, the Equine Examination chair shall work with the AVDC Examination Chair to integrate computer
processing into the grading procedure.

The equine practical examination shall include a yet undetermined number of procedures that are divided into multiple sections. After each section, the candidates will submit their specimens or test sheets for grading. Three or four members of the examination committee shall grade each candidate’s work. There will be a pre-determined, committee reviewed and approved grading sheet for each procedure or question, which is used for grading each candidate’s work. The grading sheets list the grading criteria and maximum points available for each criterion. The candidate’s score for each procedure shall be the average of the graders scores.

V F. Reporting of Results to the Candidates

V F 1. Reporting of Exam Pass or Fail to the Candidates

As per Article IV, section 2, item F of the AVDC Equine Specialty By-Laws, following review of a report from the Equine Examination Committee, the Equine Specialty Executive Committee shall determine whether the candidates have passed or failed the examination; a report of the Executive Committee’s decision shall be forwarded to the AVDC Board for consideration, and candidates shall not be notified of the examination results until approved by the AVDC Board of Directors. Candidates shall be informed of the results of the examination within 45 days of the examination by the AVDC Executive Secretary; all candidates shall be notified of the results on the same date.

V F 2. Reporting of Examination Deficiencies to Unsuccessful Candidates

The examination consists of three sections, each of which can be passed independently of the others. Unsuccessful candidates shall be advised which section was not passed. When a candidate does not pass the written or the bench section, they shall be informed which dental discipline(s) they failed (e.g. endodontics, periodontics).

Candidates unsuccessful in the practical exam shall be told which procedures they passed and which they failed with brief comments summarizing the reasons for failure written on the grading sheets by the graders. Within this notification, candidates shall be informed of their remaining eligibility and necessary reapplication procedures. The above individual examination report for unsuccessful candidates will be considered standard, and candidates will not have to submit special requests to obtain this information.

V G. Avoiding Conflict of Interest

AVDC Equine Specialty members are committed to avoiding personal conflict of interest or the appearance of conflict of interest that could affect the results of a certifying examination. In the event that an Equine Examination Committee member is identified as being in conflict of interest, an Equine Specialty Executive Committee appointed individual, approved by the AVDC Board of Directors, will either temporarily or permanently replace the committee member.

Equine Examination Committee members will sign a confidentiality agreement form prior to admission into the committee, and all committee members will not be permitted to organize and execute “mock examinations” for Residents and candidates while members of the committee or for a period of 2-years following membership on the committee. No committee member will be
allowed at any time to advertise either current or past membership on the Equine Examination Committee.

V H. Disabilities, Illness, and Other Health Issues

Within the constraints of an examination environment requiring maintenance of anonymity of the candidates and use by the candidates of equipment during the practical examination, the AVDC Equine Specialty will endeavor to accommodate disabilities or other health concerns in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) that are made known to the AVDC Equine Specialty prior to the examination. Candidates shall send a completed request form and a physician’s letter to the AVDC Executive Secretary using the Disability Accommodation Request Form that is available in the Examination section of the Information for Registered Trainees page of the AVDC web site (Appendix 20). The AVDC Executive Secretary will alert the Equine Specialty Executive Committee Chair and the Equine Examination Chair of the candidate’s disability or health issue. The two equine Chairs will consider whether to, and if so how to, accommodate the candidate’s disability or health restriction. Legal counsel or an expert in ADA requirements may be consulted. Any health-related information submitted will be held in confidence.

A candidate suffering an injury or illness that compromises the ability of the candidate to complete the examination in the period immediately preceding the examination is to notify the AVDC Executive Secretary prior to the examination. The AVDC Executive Secretary will immediately notify the Equine Specialty Executive Committee Chair and the Equine Examination Chair. If the illness or injury occurs during the examination, the candidate is to notify the proctor or Examination Committee chair. If the illness or injury prevents the candidate from taking or completing the examination, the circumstances will be reported to the AVDC Board of Directors and AVDC ESEC, who may allow the candidate one additional attempt at the examination and one year to be added to the period remaining for the candidate to pass the examination.

VI. APPEALS POLICY

The Appeals Policy is included in the AVDC Equine Specialty By-Laws under Article VI, Appeal of Adverse Decision (Appendix 7).

VII. TIME-LIMITED CERTIFICATION AND RENEWAL OF CERTIFICATION

AVDC Equine certification diplomas shall be dated and limited to 10 years. The AVDC Equine Specialty intends to utilize the Renewal of Certification Policy that was approved by the AVDC Board and reviewed by the AVDC membership in November 2012 (Appendix 27). Upon provisional recognition of the AVDC Equine Specialty, the Equine Specialty will request that the AVDC Board of Directors appoint an Equine Specialty member to the AVDC Renewal of Certification Committee.
VIII. INAUGURAL PROCEDURES for AVDC EQUINE SPECIALTY

Upon provisional recognition by the ABVS, the AVDC Equine Specialty shall initiate operations of a fully-functional RVS. The Organizing Committee is mindful that in the initial three years of specialty operations there will need to be some exceptions to AVDC Equine Specialty Bylaws and modifications to specialty functioning as delineated in the preceding petition. The following sections detail temporary Bylaws exceptions, petition modifications, and priority action items. Both the Bylaws exceptions and the petition modifications will be in effect for only three years starting from the date of provisional recognition. At any time during the first three years, the specialty will be able to discontinue an inaugural exception or modification to revert to the long-term standard of Equine Specialty functioning. A discontinuation of an inaugural exception or modification will be determined by the AVDC Equine Specialty Executive Committee and approved by the AVDC Board of Directors.

VIII A. Bylaws Exceptions

The following is a list of AVDC Equine Specialty Bylaws Inaugural Exemptions. All other portions of the Equine Specialty Bylaws will be adhered to upon provisional recognition.

1. Article III, Section 2, item A: For the first three years of the specialty, the Equine Specialty Executive Committee (ESEC) will be composed of only five members: the Chair, Chair-Elect, Secretary, one Member-At-Large, and a representative of the AVDC appointed by the AVDC Board of Directors.

2. Article III, Section 3, item A: The first meeting of the ESEC shall occur within three months following the date of the ABVS granting provisional recognition.

3. Article IV, Section 1, item A: Members of the Organizing Committee will be exempt from all credentialing processes. During the first three years of the specialty, there will be a “Candidate in Advanced Standing” credentialing process. There shall be two pathways to Advanced Standing. Candidates who believe they are qualified for one of the pathways shall submit an application and CV to the AVDC Executive Secretary for pathway approval. The AVDC Executive Secretary will assemble the materials and process the document to the Equine Credentials Committee via DMS for evaluation. The Equine Credentials Committee shall generate a report to the ESEC within 30 days of receipt of the application. The ESEC will make a recommendation to the AVDC Board of Directors for pathway admittance, and the candidate will be advised of the final decision within 60 days of application submission. Advanced Standing status can be achieved through the following pathways:
   a. Immediate Entrance to Certifying Examination: Complete waiver of Equine Specialty training program and immediate entrance to the certifying examination shall be granted to candidates who meet both of the following criteria:
      i. be a Diplomate of any ABVS recognized veterinary specialty organization relevant to equine dentistry or demonstrate extensive specialty training in the field of equine dentistry, and
      ii. submit a case log demonstrating the last three years of equine dental experience. In addition, the case log must be categorized according to
AVDC Equine MRCL categories, and the case log must contain the minimally required number of cases for each MRCL category. In order to fill the MRCL category required numbers, cases dating back 7 years may be used. The case log is to be submitted via the AVDC DMS in AVDC case log format.

b. Credential Submission and Evaluation for Entrance to Certifying Examination: Upon pathway approval, the candidate will submit a complete credentials package to the AVDC Executive Secretary to be evaluated by the Equine Credentials Committee. AVDC Equine Diplomate direct supervision requirements will be suspended for this program unless otherwise stated below. Content for the credentials package can include materials produced over the last ten years. Candidates will need to submit a case log adherent to AVDC case log formatting and abbreviations via the AVDC DMS. The Equine Training Support Committee will be available to help applicants with proper case log formatting and will review the final case log prior to submission to the Equine Credentials Committee. The case log shall include the last three years of clinical activity. Minimum Required Case Log (MRCL) entries can be completed with cases performed 7 years prior to modified credentials package submission. If an individual qualifies for this program but is deficient in any of the Equine Specialty credentialing requirements, they will be afforded a total time of three years starting upon provisional recognition of the Specialty to complete the requirements. Incomplete credentialing packages will not be reviewed. If the candidates credentialing package is not approved, the candidate will have the remainder of the inaugural three years to submit a successful package. Individuals qualified to submit credentials through this program are:

i. Equine Fellows of the Academy of Veterinary Dentistry (AVD) or similar,

ii. AVDC residents or comparable who have passed the credentials process and are considered candidates for taking the AVDC certifying examination.

iii. AVD or similar applicants who have completed their training program, submitted a successful credentials package, and are candidates for the examination.

iv. Individuals who have been practicing equine dentistry for greater than 10 years, and, by teaching, research, or practice, have contributed substantially to the development of the specialty, or have advanced training in the specialty and have demonstrated competency through teaching, research, or practice in the specialty to which most of the individual’s professional time is devoted.

4. Article IV, Section 2, item B, C, and F. In early 2013, the Organizing Committee was unofficially instructed by CDNS and ABVS to continue work on the infrastructure of the Specialty during the Open Commentary Period. The first major task of the Organizing Committee was to construct and administer the first certifying examination to be taken by all members of the Organizing Committee. The following is a detailed description of how this exam was created, assembled, administered, and verified. As noted in the following description, exceptions to Bylaws Article IV, Section 2, item B, C, and F were applied for this first exam only. All subsequent certifying examinations will follow
standard protocol.

a. To start the process an agreement was made by the AVDC and EVDC Equine Specialty Organizing Committees and AVDC and EVDC Board of Directors that Founder AVDC and EVDC Equine Diplomates should take and pass an examination. EVDC and EVDC Equine was included in this process to create an equal international start to the equine veterinary dental specialty and to allow for fruitful collaboration in the creation of the first certifying examination.

b. The Organizing Committees and Boards agreed to hold one certifying Examination containing both a Written and Bench Section. The Written Section was to include 150 questions and the Bench Section was to include 100 questions as in accordance with AVDC/AVDC Equine policy. The certifying examination would be the same for both groups and given at the same date and time. All members of the AVDC Equine and EVDC Equine Specialty Organizing Committees were eligible to take the examination.

c. The AVDC Equine Job Analysis was used as the examination blueprint.

d. Utilizing the newly created AVDC Equine Job Analysis, AVDC Equine Suggested Reading List, and AVDC Equine Question Creation Guidelines, AVDC Equine Specialty Organizing Committee members were assigned 25 questions (10 Bench and 15 Written) to write for various subdomains of the Equine Job Analysis. The EVDC Equine Chair was given the same material to use for question creation by the EVDC Equine Organizing Committee. All questions with answers from both organizations were accumulated and organized by the AVDC Equine Chair. It was agreed by the Organizing Committees that the AVDC Equine Chair would be the only person with access to all answers for all possible questions.

e. Solicited questions reflected the examination blueprint as determined by the AVDC Equine Job Analysis. Every question was cataloged with an individual code indicating year-exam section-Job Analysis subdomain-number (e.g. 2013-B-OSA-1).

f. Roughly 450 questions were collected, organized, edited, and sent back to both Organizing Committees without answers for Angoff scoring. The AVDC Equine SOC Chair compiled all responses, and an average Angoff score was applied to each question. Questions were reviewed and edited (edited for grammar, spelling, test-wiseness, etc. only – scientific content and meaning of question unchanged) for one final time by the AVDC Equine SOC Chair and one AVDC Equine Organizing Committee member.

g. Both Organizing Committees agreed that an outside Final Selection Committee would be needed to select the questions for the first certifying exam from the question pool provided. Members of this committee were to have no current or future interest in becoming an Equine Diplomate. The Final Selection Committee consisted of one AVDC Diplomate, one AVDC/EVDC dual Diplomate, and one ACVS Diplomate.

h. The entire question bank with average Angoff scores was given to the AVDC Executive Secretary. The AVDC Executive Secretary gave the Final Selection Committee access to the examination blueprint, the question bank, and a summary of all question Angoff scores. The Final Selection Committee was directed to
produce a Certifying Examination weighted per the examination blueprint with
Bench and Written Sections averaging a 70% Angoff score individually.

i. The AVDC Executive Secretary and AVDC Equine Organizing Committee Chair
selected online examination software, Exam Builder, to administer the
examination. The Examination date was set for September 27 and 28th. Both
Committees were informed of the Examination date roughly 60 days prior.

j. The Final Selection Committee assembled both sections of the Exam and sent it to
the AVDC Executive Secretary for uploading into the online examination
software. The final Bench raw mean Angoff score was 69.96% and the Written
raw mean Angoff score was 69.95%. These two numbers were set as the Pass
Point for each section of the Examination.

k. The first Certifying Examination was made available online to all Organizing
Committee members at 12 am GMT September 27th. The Examination would
close 12 pm GMT September 29th. Members were given 6 hours to complete the
Written Section and 4 hours to complete the Bench Section. Once an exam
section was started, it could not be paused. The Examination was made available
for a broad window of time to accommodate the international location of many
AVDC Equine and EVDC Equine Organizing Committee members. The
examinees were told that they could make use of a translation dictionary in
necessary, but they were not to access any other reference materials while they
were taking the examination; the examination instructions stated that, by
submitting the examination for grading, they confirmed that they did not use any
reference materials other than a translation dictionary.

l. Following the Examination, the AVDC Executive Secretary provided the AVDC
and EVDC Equine Examination Committees with a copy of the Examination with
the correct answers indicated and a summary of the number of correct and
incorrect answers from the 22 examinees for each question. The Committees
reviewed the data and recommended which questions required adjustment,
following the criteria used by the AVDC and EVDC Examination Committees to
identify questions requiring review (see Section V E). In the Bench section, eight
questions were removed and two correct answers were permitted for three
questions. In the Written examination, eight questions were removed and two
correct answers were permitted for two questions.

m. Following the recommendations of the AVDC Equine Examination Committee
for question adjustment, the Examination was re-scored by the AVDC Executive
Secretary. The AVDC Executive Secretary compiled all Examination results in a
spreadsheet using codes for each individual’s name, and generated a document
equivalent to the Report from the Examination Committee Chair that the AVDC
and EVDC Boards normally receive from their respective Examination
Committees for Examination result determination. The document went straight to
the Board of Directors for Pass-Fail determination, by-passing the Equine
Examination Committees, because all Examination Committee members took the
Examination. The document provided information on the examination process,
and recommendations for Pass-Fail cut-off decisions in addition to the
recommended Pass cut-off score for both the Bench and Written sections that was
69% (adjusted mean Angoff scores were Bench 69.45% and Written 69.1%).
Both the AVDC and EVDC Board of Directors worked together to determine the Pass-Fail Results of all 22 examinees. Upon final determination of Pass-Fail, the AVDC Executive Secretary uncoded individual names, and the final results of Organizing Committee members were sent to their respective Board of Directors.

Of the 15 AVDC Equine Specialty Organizing Committee members, 12 passed both sections of the Examination. One member failed both sections of the Examination, and two members opted to not take the Examination. Of the two members opting to not take the Examination, Gary Goldstein is an AVDC Diplomate who declared no interest in becoming an Equine Diplomate when the Organizing committee was formed, and David Klugh excused himself for personal matters. The Organizing Committee members that passed were Bob Baratt, James Carmalt, Nicole du Toit, Ed Earley, Jack Easley, David Foster, Stephen Galloway, Michael Lowder, Rob Pascoe, Jennifer Rawlinson, Hubert Simhofer, and Gary Wilson. These members will be awarded AVDC Equine Founder Diplomate status upon provisional recognition of the specialty by the ABVS and AVMA. The AVDC Executive Secretary sent formal notification of Examination results to all AVDC Equine Organizing Committee members.

The AVDC Equine Organizing Committee member that failed the Examination will be afforded two more chances to pass the certifying examination over the next 4 years as per AVDC and AVDC Equine standard policy allows. Dr. Klugh will have three attempts in the next four years to pass the certifying examination.

Petition modifications that will be necessary to initiate functioning of the Equine Specialty are listed below.

1. Article V, Section C, Item 1. Practical Examination Creation. The entire Organizing Committee will be solicited for suggestions on procedures appropriate for practical examination inclusion. Submission of a practical examination procedure for consideration by the Equine Examination Committee will require a clearly defined question task, guidelines for task execution, and suggested grading criteria. A list of possible procedures will be generated and reviewed by the Equine Examination Committee for feasibility and fairness. If the procedure is determined to be a good selection for inclusion into a practical examination, the grading criteria will be reviewed and modified as necessary. Due to the demanding nature of creating and executing a practical examination, the first three years may include a decreased number of practical examination tasks.

2. We suggest that members of the Equine SOC who decide not to take a certifying examination to become full Diplomates of the Specialty be granted Honorary Member status within the Equine Specialty as described in the AVDC Constitution to recognize their deeply appreciated efforts in the formation of the Specialty. This action will require a Constitutional amendment, and upon provisional recognition will be discussed further with the AVDC.
3. Article IV, Section G, Item 2. Applicants to the Advanced Standing Program need not include a “Supervisor Form” or a letter of reference from the training supervisor. Two or more letters of reference from respected veterinary professionals are required.

VIII C. Priority Actionable Items
The following is a list of critical actionable items that must be addressed by the Equine Specialty within the first year of operation.

1. Nominate and elect all membership-designated committee appointments. This step has already been completed in 2013, and all committees of the AVDC Equine Specialty are set and currently functioning. Their main charge up to provisional recognition by ABVS is establishing the infrastructure necessary to run the specialty. All committees have been charged with individual tasks regarding infrastructure creation. To date there have been two formal meetings of the Organizing Committee. Both were very productive and Minutes from these meeting have been included with the revised petition (Appendices 25, 26).

2. Establishment of an AVDC Equine Specialty budgetary system. The Member-At-Large on the Equine Specialty Executive Committee shall be responsible for establishing a financial plan and fiscal report. The member will work closely with the AVDC Board of Directors and Treasurer to develop a mutually acceptable system for incorporating Equine Specialty finances into the established AVDC financial structure. All fees, dues and other income and all payments shall be processed through the AVDC Treasurer for at least three years following ABVS provisional recognition.

3. Upon provisional recognition by ABVS, it will be essential that the Equine Specialty Executive Committee works closely with the AVDC Board of Directors to determine how Equine Specialty Diplomates fit within the structure of the AVDC: for example, will AVDC Equine diplomates be permitted to attend AVDC annual meetings and vote; will there be a separate AVDC Equine Annual Meeting?

4. The Equine Credentials Committee Chair and the ESEC shall work with the AVDC Board of Directors to explore pathways by which an Equine Specialty Diplomate can pursue AVDC Diplomate status or an AVDC Diplomate can pursue Equine Specialty Diplomate status. This may include exploring the option of a tandem-track training program.

5. The Equine Examination Committee Chair and the ESEC shall work with the AVDC Board of Directors to explore if the AVDC and AVDC Equine Specialty membership is interested in establishing a general dental principles qualifying examination after the first year of residency training. After passing the qualifying examination, the resident would be eligible to continue with credentials application as previously described. This potential program would work similar to the system used by ACVIM.