

1 **PETITION to THE AMERICAN BOARD OF VETERINARY SPECIALTIES**

2  
3 **for**

4  
5 **PROVISIONAL RECOGNITION**

6  
7 **of a**

8  
9 **RECOGNIZED VETERINARY SPECIALTY**

10  
11 **in**

12  
13 **EQUINE DENTISTRY**

14  
15 **under the**

16  
17 **AMERICAN VETERINARY DENTAL COLLEGE**

18  
19 **NOVEMBER 1, 2013**



Specialty Organizing Committee Members

Jennifer Rawlinson (Chair)

Robert Baratt	James Carmalt
Edward Earley	Jack Easley
David Foster	Stephen Galloway
Gary Goldstein	David Klugh
Michael Lowder	Robert Pascoe
BA Rucker	Hubert Simhofer
Nicole duToit	Gary Wilson

Colin Harvey, AVDC representative to ABVS and ABVS Liaison for  
the Equine Dental Specialty

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## 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](http://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](mailto:ExecSec@AVDC.org), or call Dr. Colin Harvey, the AVDC Executive Secretary, at 267-804-4004 (personal cell phone).

178 **I. HISTORY and PROGRESS of EQUINE DENTISTRY**

179

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

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

207

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

221

222

223 **I B. History of the Specialty Organizing Committee (SOC):**  
224

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

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

245  
246 As the Committee began to explore the scope of its charge, it became apparent that the size of  
247 the Committee needed to be increased. Additional equine focused members from the AVDC and  
248 the AVD were appointed, as well as two members from the European Veterinary Dental College  
249 (EVDC). The diplomates from the EVDC were included because the EVDC was also organizing  
250 a similar equine dental-focused committee to create an EVDC supported petition for the  
251 development of an Equine Dental Subspecialty and collaboration between the two committees  
252 would potentially expedite the process for both. The following members were added:

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

257  
258 During 2010, the committee initiated discussion on how to create a Specialty Organizing  
259 Committee (SOC) that would fulfill requirements set forth by the ABVS. The goal was to use  
260 the momentum of both the AVDC-AVD and EBVS-EVDC equine initiatives in a mutually  
261 beneficial manner. It was decided that possible membership to the SOC should not be restricted  
262 to North America as the AVDC has many international diplomates and the ABVS does not  
263 impose geographical restrictions. Involvement of well-qualified international equine veterinary  
264 dentists would also lend expertise, credibility, and breadth of opinion to create a more robust  
265 Equine Specialty. An Equine Veterinary Dental Specialist Contact List was created which  
266 included the names of all known veterinarians with an expressed and demonstrated interest in  
267 equine dentistry (Appendix 1). This initial list contained 78 names of veterinarians from around  
268 the world. The contact list also included 10 critical Equine Veterinary and Equine Dental

269 Organizations, all North American Veterinary Colleges, and all state Veterinary Medical  
270 Associations. The committee created an Announcement Letter in July 2011 (Appendix 2 A)  
271 expressing the intent of the Committee to form an Equine Veterinary Dental Specialty. The  
272 letter requested recipient veterinarians to contact the AVDC Executive Secretary to indicate  
273 interest in joining a SOC and to forward the letter to any other veterinarian they knew who might  
274 be interested. Sixty-two veterinarians indicated an interest in SOC membership, and in  
275 December 2011, a second letter (Appendix 3) was sent to these 62 veterinarians requesting a  
276 Curriculum Vitae and completed questionnaire (Appendix 4). The second letter indicated the  
277 CV and questionnaire would be used to determine if an individual met the qualifications to join a  
278 SOC outlined in ABVS Policy section II, part D1 and D2.

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

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

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

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

312 As 2012 progressed, it became apparent from discussions within AVMA-ABVS and EVDC-  
313 EBVS that an effort to agree on an internationally acceptable standard for equine veterinary  
314 dental specialists was not immediately practical. The effort to construct a “Global Option” that



315 could be presented jointly to ABVS and EBVS was put on hold, and the SOC refocused its  
316 efforts on crafting an AVDC-ABVS petition that would be appropriate for North America. Since  
317 neither AVDC nor ABVS policy restricts AVMA specialist recognition to veterinarians licensed  
318 by North American jurisdictions, all Global SOC members were invited to join the AVDC  
319 Equine Specialty Organizing Committee. Of 21 initial members, 15 accepted membership to the  
320 AVDC Equine SOC. The AVDC Equine SOC has 11 North Americans and 4 international  
321 members. Members of the AVDC Equine SOC are committed to creating a viable and  
322 successful Equine Veterinary Dental Specialty recognized by the ABVS-AVMA.

323  
324 All members of the AVDC Equine SOC meet ABVS standards for inclusion in a specialty  
325 organizing committee. As described above, the Delphi process and ABVS criteria were used to  
326 determine the AVDC Equine SOC members. Members include seven professors and eight  
327 private practitioners, many of whom either have dual or adjunct appointments with colleges of  
328 veterinary medicine. Four SOC members are Diplomates of ABVS specialties. Four members  
329 are AVD Equine Fellows. Members are recognized leaders in equine dental research, education,  
330 and clinical service. The SOC has collectively published more than 80 papers on equine  
331 dentistry, and many of these individuals are working with industry and government to improve  
332 the state of equine dental care. The membership originates from diverse professional and  
333 geographic backgrounds with almost all regions of the United States and Canada represented.  
334 Overall, the Equine SOC represents greater than 125 years of collective equine dental  
335 experience. This wealth of accomplishment and diversity is evident in the individual SOC  
336 member curricula vitae (Appendix 5).

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## 339 **II. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE of EQUINE DENTAL SPECIALTY**

340  
341

### **II A. Constitution and Bylaws**

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

350  
351

### **II A 1. Charter Diplomates**

352  
353 The Equine Dental Specialty Organizing Committee has voted to not admit any charter members.  
354 All members of the Organizing Committee will be required to take and pass a certifying  
355 examination to become a Diplomate of the AVDC Equine Specialty. All members of the  
356 Organizing Committee will have a total of three opportunities to pass a certifying examination  
357 over a period of five years. Organizing Committee members who pass the first certifying  
358 examination on the first attempt will be known as Founder AVDC Equine Diplomates after the  
359 granting of provisional recognition by the ABVS and AVMA. Examination format, content,

360 and passing score are described in Section V and VIII.

361

## 362 **II A 2. Intention to Seek Full Recognition**

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

367

## 368 **II A 3. Representation to the ABVS**

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

371

## 372 **II A 4. Committees and Representatives**

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

377

378 The AVDC appoints:

- 379 • A representative on the Journal Management Committee that manages the *Journal of*  
380 *Veterinary Dentistry*,
- 381 • A section head for the JAVMA Diagnostic Imaging in Veterinary Dental Practice feature  
382 in JAVMA,
- 383 • Two representatives on the Veterinary Dental Oversight Committee (VDOG) that  
384 manages the annual Veterinary Dental Forum (jointly with the American Veterinary  
385 Dental Society and the Academy of Veterinary Dentistry),
- 386 • A representative to the World Veterinary Dental Congress committee.

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

389

## 390 **II A 5. Censoring or Suspending Diplomates or Canceling Certification**

391

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

396

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

398

399 The AVDC Equine Specialty will function under the AVDC Constitution, and changes to the  
400 Constitution can only be made according to Article XII of the AVDC Constitution. Procedures  
401 for amendments to the AVDC Equine Specialty By-Laws are described in Article VI of the  
402 AVDC Equine Specialty By-Laws.

403

404 **II B. Incorporation, Finances, and Liability Insurance**

405

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

416

417 The AVDC carries Directors & Officers liability coverage (\$5,000 deductible, \$1,000,000  
418 maximum coverage). The policy includes Errors and Omissions coverage (\$5,000 deductible,  
419 \$250,000 maximum coverage). The policy is a product of CNA Company. As an AVDC entity,  
420 AVDC Equine will be covered by the AVDC liability insurance policy.

421

422

423 **III. FULFILLMENT of REQUIREMENTS for a NEW RVS**

424

425 **III A. Equine Dentistry as a distinct and identifiable specialty**

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

439

440 Many of the well established specialty colleges are separated into species-specific or large and  
441 small animal specialties because of the distinctive anatomical and physiological differences  
442 between species. Due to the youth and size of the AVDC, the membership elected initially to not  
443 divide its organization based of species differences although the training and clinical experiences  
444 of the majority of AVDC diplomates was limited to small animal species. Although veterinary  
445 dental principles and knowledge apply to most mammalian species, there is an additional  
446 knowledge base required for equine dentistry that is not applicable to small animal dentistry. The  
447 development, function, attrition, and dynamic nature of the equid hypsodont dentition and the  
448 significance of the equine sinuses and other regional anatomic structures in equine dental cases  
449 makes equine dentistry a specialty very different from small animal brachyodont dentistry.

450  
451 Equine dentistry is a particularly demanding branch of veterinary dentistry due to the physicality  
452 of practice and the unique structure and function of the equid oral cavity. To be a successful  
453 equine veterinary dentist requires an in-depth understanding of equine dental and maxillofacial  
454 surgical principles, a command of the literature, a large array of dental and surgical instruments,  
455 years of experience, and physical health. Primary care practitioners are not prepared to handle  
456 advanced dental and oral surgical cases due to lack of training, experience, and instrumentation.  
457 Most AVDC Diplomates are not interested, equipped, or willing to work with equids; therefore,  
458 there is only a small pool of veterinary dentists currently willing and capable of providing this  
459 advanced service. Therefore, equine dentistry has become a very distinct and identifiable  
460 specialty as a veterinary dental discipline steeped in literature and research with only a small  
461 number of veterinarians qualified to perform specialist-level clinical service. The proposed  
462 AVDC Equine Specialty seeks to address this deficiency in veterinary dentistry.

### 463 464 **III A 1. Scientific basis of the proposed specialty**

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

### 484 485 **III A 2. Equine dentistry related to current professional and postgraduate veterinary** 486 **medical curriculum**

487  
488 Equine dentistry needs both general practitioners comfortable and competent in providing  
489 primary equine dental care and AVDC Equine Specialists ready to assist with primary care and  
490 tackle referral cases and advanced dental pathology. The way to achieve a solid two-tiered  
491 system for providing equine dental care is education of the veterinary student and veterinarian.

492  
493 Outreach to veterinary students through schools and seminars is high, and equine dental  
494 continuing education for veterinarians is quickly growing. A list including all the educational  
495 activities performed by SOC members was started, but it quickly became apparent that the list

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

510  
511 The 2010 AAEP Continuing Education Needs Assessment Analysis reported that equine  
512 dentistry was the 5<sup>th</sup> most requested CE topic (behind Lameness, Wound Management,  
513 Ambulatory Practice, and Pain Management) in Equine Companion Animal and Mixed Large  
514 Animal Practice. The AAEP responded by increasing dental CE offerings at its annual meeting  
515 and by having dentistry as the lead topic for both the Focus series (a three-day lecture event) in  
516 2006, 2011, and 2013 and the "360" intensive wet lab series in 2010 and 2012. Overall, the  
517 Focus series has helped educate approximately 750 primary care practitioners. The "360"  
518 program has trained nearly 40 veterinarians. For the last decade, the Veterinary Dental Forum  
519 Equine Program has provided 1-2 days of lecture and one wet lab on an annual basis with an  
520 average annual attendance of 40-50 veterinarians. Equine Dentistry has become a regular topic  
521 at the major national CE programs such as the AVMA Convention, NAVC, CVC, and WVC.  
522 Other Equine Professional Organizations and local/regional Veterinary Medical Associations  
523 host frequent lectures and wet labs regarding equine dentistry. Industry leaders have also  
524 initiated equine dental continuing education programs. Zoetis is probably the most visible of all  
525 these sponsors funding multiple regional events including both wet labs and lectures for  
526 veterinarians, but smaller dental equipment and nutritional companies need also be recognized  
527 for their enthusiastic support of educational opportunities through donation/lending of equipment  
528 and financial backing. Equine SOC members have been and are tremendous supporters of these  
529 programs putting countless hours into proceedings, lectures, wet lab creation, and teaching.

530  
531 More than 90% of AVDC Diplomates focus their practice on small animal dentistry with a few  
532 treating exotics and wildlife patients in addition to their small animal caseload. Although the  
533 AVDC currently has no species-specific limitation, there are no formal AVDC residency  
534 programs that include a significant amount of equine training. In the last few years, four AVDC  
535 Diplomates have started mentoring six part-time residents whose practice focus is equine  
536 dentistry. In 2011, the AVDC expressed interest in expanding their Oquendo Center contract in  
537 Las Vegas, Nevada to include a multi-tiered equine dental training program. The goal is to  
538 provide 2-3 basic and advanced training opportunities for both general practitioners and specialty  
539 residents starting in 2014. The Academy of Veterinary Dentistry has been leading the way in  
540 providing advanced training for equine veterinary dental practitioners. The AVD recognized a  
541 deficiency in equine dental training and created programs to train and certify veterinarians.

542 Although this organization is not capable of certifying specialists via ABVS-AVMA policy, it  
543 contributed extensively to the development of equine dentistry as a distinct and identifiable  
544 specialty. With the addition of an ABVS-recognized AVDC Equine Specialty, veterinarians  
545 would have an appropriate training pathway to become certified equine veterinary dental  
546 specialists.

547  
548 **III A 3. Anticipated impact of an Equine Dental Specialty in multiple venues (organized**  
549 **veterinary medicine, private practice, industry, government & public)**

550  
551 The development of an AVDC Equine Specialty will have a great impact in equine veterinary  
552 practice. With a central organization responsible for training and certifying veterinarians, high  
553 standards for specialist-level equine oral and dental care will be established and improved  
554 providing more reliable and predictable service. As the certification structure is put in place,  
555 veterinarians will be better trained at the student, primary care practitioner, and specialist level.  
556 Specialists in turn will continue to develop equine dental services at universities improving  
557 veterinary student education in equine dentistry. Graduating students will be more proficient in  
558 performing oral examinations, providing primary level dental care, and knowing when to refer  
559 cases. With more exposure in veterinary colleges, some students will recognize the opportunities  
560 in equine dentistry and pursue advanced training and specialization. With specialists available  
561 for state-of-the-art clinical care, the horse will benefit through improved pathology recognition,  
562 diagnostic imaging, and dental therapies. The horse owner will be better served not only through  
563 improved clinical work but also by more direct and cost-efficient service.

564  
565 The establishment of an AVDC Equine Specialty will stimulate further industrial innovation  
566 regarding equine dental instrumentation, imaging, and nutrition. Greater than 50% of the  
567 Equine SOC has worked with industry to design instruments, develop new surgical techniques  
568 and materials, and create improved equine dental imaging systems. This form of cooperation  
569 between the already existing equine veterinary dentists and industry leaders is anticipated to  
570 grow since the results of past initiatives have been so successful.

571  
572 The regulation and ethical practice of equine veterinary dentistry will be impacted significantly  
573 by the creation of an AVDC Equine Specialty. The equine dental services provided by Non-  
574 Veterinarian Dental Care Providers (NVDCP) have been a tremendously controversial welfare,  
575 political, and professional issue for the past decade. Anti-veterinary political stakeholders across  
576 North America have used the issue of “who can provide equine dental services” as the platform  
577 to deregulate not only equine dentistry (Minnesota, Texas), but also veterinary dental services in  
578 all species (New York), as well as other veterinary services such as reproductive services  
579 (Oklahoma). In the absence of a recognized certification program in veterinary equine dentistry,  
580 several unaccredited equine dental schools and associations in North America are producing  
581 “certified equine dentists” who through aggressive marketing are enjoying the perception of  
582 legitimacy and competency by the North American public, as well as by many veterinary  
583 professionals who ignorantly enable the practices of NVDCPs. While most of these “equine  
584 dentists” are well intentioned, all are misrepresenting their level of expertise to the public and  
585 jeopardizing the welfare of the horse. This RVS will not only provide a recognized certification  
586 program in veterinary equine dentistry but also will establish leadership within our profession to  
587 guide both the legal and ethical practice of equine dentistry in North America. This RVS can

588 provide the AVMA, state VMAs and state regulatory boards with a resource in education and  
589 experts against future deregulatory efforts.

590

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

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

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

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

599

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

601

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

603

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

609

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

621

622 Equine veterinary dentistry consists of the application of general dental principles to the unique  
623 nature of hypsodont equid teeth. Knowledge of all dental disciplines and how they apply to the  
624 horse is critical for the functioning of an equine veterinary dentist. Equine dentistry lags behind  
625 small animal dentistry in the application of some dental principles. Although many reasons have  
626 been listed for this lag, one major reason is that over the last century primary level equine  
627 dentistry has been delegated to non-professionals by the veterinary profession. The NVDCPs  
628 filed sharp points, and veterinary surgeons extracted diseased teeth, fixed jaw fractures, and  
629 performed other necessary maxillofacial surgical procedures. While equine dentistry was  
630 ignored by the majority of the veterinary profession, surgeons who were bold enough to realize  
631 the potential of more advanced dental therapies, often consulted human dentists to perform any  
632 necessary advanced dental procedures. In the last 20 years, a small handful of surgeons with a  
633 keen interest in teeth explored how modern dental research and practice could be applied to the

634 horse. This small group of veterinary surgeons along with a few innovative private practitioners  
635 led the way for a renaissance in equine dentistry. By demonstrating that teeth were more than  
636 inanimate objects within the oral cavity, they inspired others to start to blend the work of the  
637 veterinary surgeon and dentist. With a background in the spectrum of dental disciplines, the  
638 equine veterinary dentist is primed to sustain the continuum that was started by these innovative  
639 individuals. In conclusion, equine veterinary dentists have the in-depth and diverse background  
640 to expand dental treatments in the equid beyond oral surgery, and while oral surgery will be a  
641 significant portion of an equine veterinary dentists' caseload, it will be the training beyond oral  
642 surgery that will move equine oral health care into the twenty first century.

643

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

645

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

656

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

668

669 Several programs already administered by the AVDC would greatly benefit from increased  
670 equine dental representation. The Annual Veterinary Dental Forum has offered a one to two-day  
671 lecture program, and a one-day wet lab Equine Program since early 2000. Over 95% of speakers  
672 have been either general practitioners, surgeons, Academy of Veterinary Dentistry Fellows, or  
673 internationally recognized equine veterinary dentists. Though the numbers of AVDC  
674 Diplomates presenting in the Equine program has grown, an AVDC Equine Specialty would  
675 greatly support the AVDC mission of providing diverse high-quality educational opportunities in  
676 veterinary dentistry. The AVDC also owns and operates the Veterinary Oral Health Council  
677 (VOHC), which awards its VOHC Accepted Seal to products that meet or exceed pre-set  
678 standards of effectiveness of dental products available to the public. Currently, this program  
679 focuses on small animal dental products, but there is a growing market in equine dental health



680 that could benefit from VOHC certification. In conjunction with the AVD and the American  
681 Veterinary Dental Society (AVDS), the AVDC supports the Veterinary Dental Organizing Group  
682 (VDOG) and the Journal of Veterinary Dentistry. Both organizations rely on non-AVDC equine  
683 veterinary dentists to represent the interests of the horse. Upon provisional recognition, the  
684 AVDC Equine Specialty will act as a valuable resource for supplying these programs with  
685 individuals trained to AVDC and ABVS standards. In addition, there is already a subcommittee  
686 within the AVDC Nomenclature Committee committed to developing equine dental terminology,  
687 and the majority of members on the subcommittee are Equine SOC members. With shared  
688 disciplines and only variation by species, the equine specialty will help fulfill AVDC's objective  
689 to be the leader in veterinary dentistry.

690

### 691 **III B. Improved Veterinary Medical Services Offered to the Public**

692

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

706

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

715

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

726 sessions on dentistry, equine dentistry and dental wet-labs. The enthusiasm of students and  
727 veterinarians for learning equine dentistry is very high, and the days when equine veterinarians  
728 felt unqualified to perform dental work are numbered.

729

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

740

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

758

759 Overall, the Equine Dental Specialty will improve and promote:

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

771

772 **III C. Potential Diplomates**

773

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

787

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

807

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

814

815 **III D. Commentary Period**

816

817 As per ABVS Policy and Procedures, the 2012 AVDC Equine Specialty Petition was made

818 available for professional and public commentary after initial review by the Committee on the  
819 Development of New Specialties (CDNS). CDNS required a Commentary Solicitation Letter  
820 (Appendix 21) be provided by the Organizing Committee for publication in various professional  
821 and public journals. The Chair of the Organizing Committee submitted the Commentary  
822 Solicitation Letter to the CDNS January 1, 2013 for publication. The Commentary Solicitation  
823 Letter was published in January 2013, which opened the Commentary Period for the proposed  
824 Equine Dental Specialty. The Commentary Period lasted until September 1, 2013. Dr. Bob  
825 Murtaugh informed the Organizing Committee Chair that as of September 1, 2013 two emails  
826 were received. The two emails and the Organizing Committee’s formal response follow.

827  
828 *Email 1:* “I really don't know enough to say equine dentistry should be a subspecialty in  
829 dentistry. It seems that equine dentistry techniques/knowledge would be encompassed in other  
830 fields of dentistry, but maybe I just don't know enough of the new info.”

831  
832 *Email 1 Response from Organizing Committee:* The main concern of this email as perceived by  
833 the Organizing Committee is that of inclusion and/or differentiation of equine dentistry within  
834 the already recognized AVDC. The Petition provides a detailed account regarding this exact  
835 topic in Section III A introduction, Section III A 5 parts a and b, and Section III B. In a nutshell,  
836 the hypsodont equid dentition and regional maxillofacial anatomy is substantially different from  
837 brachyodont small animal (e.g. canine, feline) dentition and maxillofacial anatomy. Greater than  
838 90% of AVDC Diplomates base the majority of their dental practice, training, and writing on  
839 small animals and have little to no experience with equids. Therefore, an AVDC Equine  
840 Specialty would appropriately address the College’s desire to provide improved educational,  
841 training, and certifying opportunities for those wishing to become a veterinary specialist in  
842 **equine** dentistry. Section III B reviews how the creation of an Equine Dental Specialty would  
843 positively impact equine health and veterinary medical services to the public.

844  
845 *Email 2:* “Is there really a critical mass of people and research data to justify either of these 2  
846 new groups but especially equine dentistry. My concern is that we went so long with no new  
847 groups that we are now trying to "play catch-up" and recognizing those with less than minimum  
848 critical mass. "Better to delay than fail.””

849  
850 *Email 2 Response from Organizing Committee:* The main concern of Email 2 as perceived by  
851 the Organizing Committee is that of a “critical mass” of equine dental scientific literature and  
852 equine veterinary dentists. Although definitions quantifying “critical mass” will vary per  
853 individual, the Organizing Committee feels that both the current state of literature and personnel  
854 justify the creation of an Equine Dental Specialty. The Petition covers these topics extensively  
855 in Section I B, Section III A parts 1, 3, and 4, Section III C, and Appendices 5 (A-N), 8, 9, and  
856 10 (A-K). The Organizing Committee feels it is in a position to succeed in this endeavor. No  
857 comment or response is given regarding the implication of the ABVS-AVMA is trying to “play  
858 catch-up.”

859  
860

#### 861 **IV. CANDIDATE EDUCATION and QUALIFICATION**

862  
863

All relevant information, with links to related AVDC documents, and all required forms, shall be

864 available on the AVDC web site.

865

#### 866 **IV A. Admission to AVDC Equine Specialty Training Program**

867

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

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

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

883

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

891

#### 892 **IV B. Terminology for Training Programs**

893

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

902

#### 903 **IV C. Qualifications of Residency Directors**

904

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

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## **IV D. 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.

954 **5. Practicing the specialty of Equine Dentistry and Oral Surgery in its different**  
955 **domains**

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

975  
976 **IV E. Specialty Training Pathways and Requirements**

977  
978 **IV E 1. Specialty Training Pathways**

979  
980 **IV E 1 a. Full-time Residency Program (RP-FT)**

- 981
- 982 1. The Residency Program shall be a full-time residency program at an institution or facility  
983 approved by the AVDC Equine Training Support Committee. The Residency Director  
984 must be an AVDC Equine Diplomate.
  - 985 2. The Residency Director/Site application includes review of the facilities, equipment, and  
986 supplies available at the Residency Director's site; approval is for five years and can be  
987 renewed.
  - 988 3. An AVDC Equine Diplomate can supervise up to three AVDC residents at one time.
  - 989 4. If the Residency Director/Site is already approved by AVDC, only review of the  
990 Application for Registration of a New Resident is required.
  - 991 5. The minimum length for a RP-FT program is three and a half years from the time of  
992 graduation as a veterinarian. The first year is to entail a one-year internship or equivalent  
993 in clinical veterinary practice. The minimum program length requirement for RP-FT is 30  
994 months.
  - 995 6. A minimum of 78 weeks must be spent on clinical dental service during the residency. A  
996 minimum of 48 of those 78 weeks of clinical dental service time shall be spent on-site  
997 under the direct supervision of the Residency Director, or, if approved by the Residency  
998 Director and the AVDC Equine Training Support Committee, with another diplomate  
999 either at the Residency Director's facility or at the other diplomate's facility. The

1000 supervising Diplomate can be an AVDC Diplomate or AVDC-EQ Diplomate, or, for a  
1001 maximum of one third of the required 48 directly-diplomate-supervised clinical dental  
1002 service weeks, an EVDC Diplomate or EVDC (Eq) Diplomate; twenty-four of the 48  
1003 week direct-diplomate-supervision time must be spent with an Equine Specialty  
1004 Diplomate.

- 1005 7. Time spent with an anesthesia, radiology or surgery specialist in a dental service cannot  
1006 be counted simultaneously toward the AVDC Residency diplomate-supervised clinical  
1007 dental service and the Anesthesia, Radiology or Surgery training requirements, even if  
1008 the diplomate is board-certified in both dentistry and the other specialty discipline.
- 1009 8. A minimum of 20 weeks in addition to the required 78 weeks of clinical service shall be  
1010 spent pursuing scholarly activity (research, writing, teaching, attending advanced  
1011 specialty programs or scientific meetings, etc.) and meeting the remainder of the AVDC  
1012 training program requirements (radiograph set, specialty hours, etc.). Residency  
1013 Directors can elect to require longer than the 30-month minimum for the full-time  
1014 residency program they offer.
- 1015 9. The AVDC case log and all other AVDC Training Program requirements must be met.

1016

#### 1017 **IV E 1 b. Part-time Residency Program (RP-PT)**

1018

- 1019 1. The RP-PT program is designed for veterinarians who desire to complete the training  
1020 requirements while working mostly in private practice because family or financial  
1021 constraints do not permit them to undertake a full-time residency program. The purpose is  
1022 to permit part-time training that is equivalent in total experience to the 30 months of full  
1023 time training in veterinary dentistry required of full-time residents at approved sites.
- 1024 2. A part-time residency program is conducted under the supervision of an AVDC-approved  
1025 Residency Director. The Residency Director must be an AVDC-EQ Diplomate.
- 1026 3. An AVDC-EQ Diplomate can supervise up to three AVDC residents at any one time,  
1027 whether the residents are part-time or full time.
- 1028 4. The minimum length for a RP-PT program is three and a half years from the time of  
1029 graduation as a veterinarian. The first year is to entail a one-year internship or equivalent  
1030 in clinical veterinary practice. The maximum time permitted for completion of a RP-PT  
1031 program is 6 years.
- 1032 5. A minimum of 78 weeks must be spent on clinical dental service during the residency. A  
1033 minimum of 48 of those 78 weeks of clinical dental service time shall be spent on-site  
1034 under the direct supervision of the Residency Director, or, if approved by the Residency  
1035 Director and the AVDC Equine Training Support Committee, with another equine  
1036 diplomate either at the Residency Director's facility or at the other diplomate's facility.  
1037 The supervising Diplomate for clinical service can be an AVDC Diplomate or AVDC-EQ  
1038 Diplomate, or, for a maximum of one third of the required 48 directly-diplomate-  
1039 supervised clinical dental service weeks, an EVDC Diplomate or EVDC (Eq) Diplomate;  
1040 twenty four of the 48 week direct-diplomate-supervision time must be spent with an  
1041 Equine Specialty Diplomate.
- 1042 6. A part-time resident can spend directly-diplomate-supervised time at the residency  
1043 director's facility, the resident's practice, or any other facility at which equine dental  
1044 cases are attended to in the simultaneous presence of an AVDC or AVDC-EQ Diplomate  
1045 and resident. Real-time electronic resident-supervisor interaction regarding discussion of



1046 an active case, case rounds, or teaching rounds will be reviewed for possible inclusion in  
1047 supervised clinical time. Time spent together on other occasions, e.g. at meetings and  
1048 continuing education programs, does not count toward the direct diplomate supervision  
1049 requirement.

1050 7. The first four weeks directly following the registration date of a resident's program must  
1051 be spent at the Residency Director's facility, working under the supervision of the  
1052 Residency Director. An additional 8 weeks of the first 12 months of a training program  
1053 must be spent at the Residency Program Director's facility, working under the  
1054 supervision of the Residency Director.

1055 8. Time spent with an anesthesia, radiology or surgery specialist in a dental service cannot  
1056 be counted simultaneously toward the AVDC Residency clinical service supervision and  
1057 the Anesthesia, Radiology or Surgery training requirements, even if the diplomate is  
1058 board-certified in both dentistry and the other specialty discipline.

1059 9. The AVDC case log and all other Training Program requirements must be met.

1060 10. In addition, a part-time resident must submit an equine dental chart used in her/his  
1061 practice and an equipment-instruments-supplies list. The dental chart is to be submitted  
1062 for Pre-Approval review within one year of the date of registration of the program, and  
1063 the equipment list is to be submitted for review within two years of the program  
1064 registration date.

1065

## 1066 **IV E 2. Specialty Training Requirements**

1067

### 1068 **IV E 2 a. Annual Report**

1069

1070 An Annual Training Report is to be submitted to the Executive Secretary to monitor the progress  
1071 of an AVDC Equine Specialty resident. The Equine Training Support Committee (ETSC) exists  
1072 to help residents prepare for the credentials application process. ETSC reviews the progress of  
1073 the training programs of all residents, to recognize progress, point out deficiencies, and make  
1074 suggestions for improving the individual resident's program. To allow ETSC to perform these  
1075 tasks, all residents registered with AVDC Equine Specialty are required to submit an annual  
1076 report each year. The Equine Annual Report content shall be the same as the AVDC Annual  
1077 Report. (Appendix 12)

1078

1079 Residents who have been on a leave-of-absence for the entire year are required to submit only a  
1080 brief report, updating AVDC on their leave-of-absence status.

1081

### 1082 **IV E 2 b. Anesthesia, Radiology, and Surgery Training Hours**

1083

1084 AVDC Equine Specialty shall require its residents to have received 40 hours of post-graduate  
1085 training in each of three related disciplines – anesthesiology, radiology, and surgery. Hours shall  
1086 be fulfilled with a Diplomate of the American or European Colleges of Anesthesiology,  
1087 Radiology/Diagnostic Imaging, and Surgery. Specifics of this requirement will be the same as  
1088 AVDC policy; please see the AVDC Anesthesiology, Radiology, and Surgery Instructions for  
1089 Residents. (Appendix 13)

1090

### 1091 **IV E 2 c. Equine Dental Radiograph Set**

1092  
1093 Equine Dental residents must be able to demonstrate proficiency in radiographing teeth and other  
1094 oral structures. Residents will be required to submit a full series of equine dental radiographs.  
1095 The Equine Credentials Committee will develop the guidelines for the radiographic series,  
1096 similar to the guidelines and examples on the AVDC web site Radiographic Sets page. A cadaver  
1097 head is to be used to generate the radiographs. A radiograph set is to be submitted for review by  
1098 the end of the first year as a registered resident, and approval is expected to have been obtained  
1099 by the end of the second year.

1100  
1101 **IV E 2 d. Publication Requirement**  
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1103 The Equine Training Support and Credentials Committees have been charged with development  
1104 of a specific document describing the details of the publication requirement. The guidelines  
1105 developed will closely mirror the guidelines set forth by the AVDC. In general, a minimum of  
1106 two publications will be required. There are two categories of publications required, one  
1107 “major” and on “minor”.

1108  
1109 A “major” publication comprises a paper on veterinary dental or dental-related topics containing  
1110 original data (e.g. a research project or a case series) or equivalent submitted to or accepted  
1111 by/published in a peer-reviewed journal. The resident is to be the first or only author. A  
1112 completed Residency Director form is required confirming that the resident actually conducted  
1113 the research or case series follow up, conducted the literature search and wrote the first draft of  
1114 the paper. If the article is accepted by or published in an AVDC EQ-approved journal, the article  
1115 is automatically approved as an AVDC “major” publication without requiring Credentials  
1116 Committee review. If it is submitted to but not yet accepted by an AVDC-EQ approved journal  
1117 or is accepted for publication in a journal that is not on the AVDC-EQ approved-journal list, it is  
1118 sent for Equine Credentials Committee review to determine approval/non-approval and whether  
1119 it meets “major” publication requirements. If it does not meet “major” publication requirements,  
1120 it can be reconsidered as a “minor” article.

1121  
1122 A “minor” publication can comprise a publishable case report, a JAVMA DIVDP article, a JVD  
1123 Foundations article (or similar), or another paper on any topic relevant to veterinary dentistry. If  
1124 a case report is submitted, the resident must have been the ‘primary dentist’ and the case must  
1125 have been treated no more than five years prior to the submission date. A completed Residency  
1126 Director form confirming that the author was the primary author must accompany the  
1127 submission.

1128  
1129 The published or submitted for publication articles are to be in scientific, peer-reviewed journals.  
1130 The two published articles must be in any of the following major dental disciplines: endodontics,  
1131 oral medicine, oral surgery, periodontics, orthodontics, dental imaging, dental-related anesthesia  
1132 and analgesia, and operative dentistry (restorative or prosthodontics); the two articles cannot be  
1133 in the same dental discipline.

1134  
1135 Articles accepted by or published in the following journals will be accepted by AVDC Equine as  
1136 meeting the publication requirement without requiring review of the content of the article;  
1137 however, the Equine Credentials Committee will make the determination as to whether an article

1138 meets the criteria for a “major” or “minor” article. Approved journals for AVDC Equine are: J  
1139 Veterinary Dentistry, J American Veterinary Medical Association, American Journal of  
1140 Veterinary Research, Veterinary Surgery, and Veterinary Pathology. The Equine Credentials  
1141 Committee may recommend additions to this list.

1142  
1143 The Equine Credentials Committee can agree to accept for review a credentials application that  
1144 does not yet include proof of publication of one or both articles provided that the Residency  
1145 Director confirms that the project that will result in the delayed submission of an article. In this  
1146 circumstance, the Equine Credentials Committee can approve the incomplete credentials  
1147 application and the candidate can take the AVDC Equine Certifying examination; however, if the  
1148 candidate passes the AVDC Equine Certifying examination and has not yet completed the  
1149 publication requirement, an AVDC Equine Diploma will not be awarded until the AVDC Equine  
1150 publication requirement has been satisfied.

1151

#### 1152 **IV E 2 e. Case Logs**

1153

- 1154 1. Each resident will be required to keep a log of clinical cases seen during the residency  
1155 program. Residents will be required to use the AVDC Document Management System  
1156 (DMS) on-line case log, which allows the resident and the Residency Director constant  
1157 access to enter new cases, correct incorrect entries and see tabulations of critical items,  
1158 such as the number of cases in particular categories.
- 1159 2. AVDC Equine shall require that residents have participated in a minimum of 500 equine  
1160 dental cases and a training program total of 240 Minimum Required Case Log (MRCL)  
1161 cases, with a set minimum number in each of specific categories, for 50% of which in  
1162 each category the Resident must have been the primary dentist (whether assisted by or  
1163 under observance by a diplomate or not).
- 1164 3. The Equine Credentials and Training Support Committees shall create a document  
1165 establishing the Minimum Required Case Log list; the Equine Credentials Committee  
1166 shall submit this document to the Equine Specialty Executive Committee who will  
1167 approve this document prior to AVDC Board of Directors review. The DMS online case  
1168 log allows the Resident to upload images specific to a case (e.g. clinical photos and  
1169 radiographs) for review by a designated diplomate (either the diplomate who worked with  
1170 the resident on that case or the Residency Director). DMS facilitates the generation of  
1171 “MRCL Case Forms” for completion by the designated diplomate; one MRCL form shall  
1172 be required for each of the 240 MRCL cases. The MRCL form is designed to provide  
1173 feed-back from the diplomate to the resident on how the case was handled by the  
1174 resident.
- 1175 4. AVDC Equine case logs are subject to a ‘six year’ rule – cases can continue to be logged  
1176 more than six years beyond the date of registration of a residency program, but only those  
1177 cases dated within the six-year period shall be eligible for inclusion in the MRCL log and  
1178 to meet the 500 minimum case requirement.
- 1179 5. A maximum of three procedures on any one patient on any one day can be logged as  
1180 separate cases, provided that the procedures are independent of each other (e.g. extraction  
1181 of a tooth and occlusal equilibration of the rest of the mouth can each be logged as  
1182 separate ‘cases’). A detailed Case Log document is available on the AVDC web site for  
1183 small-animal oriented residents; this document will be revised as necessary for use by

1184 equine dental residents.

1185

### 1186 **IV F 3. Leave of Absence**

1187

1188 The AVDC Equine Specialty shall follow all rules according to the AVDC leave of Absence  
1189 Policy. (Appendix 14)

1190

### 1191 **IV G. Credentials Application and Time Limits**

1192

1193 The AVDC Executive Secretary will accept only complete Credentials Applications for review.

1194

#### 1195 **IV G 1. Pre-Approval**

1196

1197 To reduce the stress involved in submitting a large number of documents immediately prior to  
1198 the Equine Credentials Application deadline, many credentials items can be submitted for Pre-  
1199 Approval review, as explained on the AVDC Website (<http://www.avdc.org/pre-approval.html>).

1200 The Equine Credentials Committee will accept items for pre-approval review. The only  
1201 difference in procedures for Pre-Approval review is that the AVDC Executive Secretary will  
1202 process all materials to the Equine Credentials Committee for review. The Equine Credentials  
1203 Committee will review all materials and generate an evaluation report including a decision of  
1204 approval or non-approval. If the item is not approved, a list of reasons for non-approval will  
1205 also needed to be included in the report. The Equine Credentials Committee will send reports to  
1206 both the AVDC Executive Secretary and the Equine Specialty Executive Committee. The  
1207 AVDC Executive Secretary will notify the resident of the decision

1208

#### 1209 **IV G 2. Requirements for Credentials Application**

1210

1211 The AVDC Equine Credentials Application will follow the same submission procedures as for  
1212 all AVDC residents as stated in the AVDC Credentials Application Instructions. (Appendix 15)  
1213 All requirements and contents will be the same, except as noted below.

- 1214 a. Completed and signed Application Form (Appendix 16), with a photograph of the  
1215 Resident in the space provided. Include a check for the Application fee of US \$1,550  
1216 made out to "AVDC." \$450 of this fee is the credentials review fee, and \$1,100 is the  
1217 examination fee. The examination fee portion will be returned to residents whose  
1218 credentials are not accepted. Note: The Credentials Application will be returned un-  
1219 reviewed if the Training Program Annual Fee is in arrears. All fees are subject to  
1220 annual review by the AVDC Board of Directors and may increase over time.
- 1221 b. Head shot photograph of the applicant is to be submitted as a digital image in .jpg  
1222 format via DMS.
- 1223 c. A copy of the applicant's Veterinary School Graduation Certificate, submitted as a  
1224 scanned or photographed digital image.
- 1225 d. A copy of the applicant's Current License to Practice Veterinary Medicine, submitted  
1226 as a scanned or photographed digital image.
- 1227 e. Curriculum vitae of the applicant, including an account of all professional activities  
1228 since graduation from veterinary school, all publications, all educational programs both  
1229 attended by and presented or created by the Resident, and the names of and contact

- 1230 information for individuals whom the applicant has asked to write letters of reference.
- 1231 f. Documentation of Training in Related Specialty Disciplines in Anesthesia, Radiology,
- 1232 and Surgery. Item f is not required if Pre-Approval certification has been obtained.
- 1233 g. Documentation of AVDC Equine Diplomate Supervision, as noted in the Residency
- 1234 Training Program section in this petition. Confirmation of completion of the clinical
- 1235 service requirement will be included in the Supervisor's letter confirming completion
- 1236 of the program, so no separate form submitted by the applicant is required.
- 1237 h. The Oral-Dental Chart and Record Forms used by the applicant. Minimally, a dental
- 1238 chart suitable for equids is required; records for other species may also be included.
- 1239 This item is not required if the resident is a full-time resident at an AVDC Equine-
- 1240 approved residency site, or if certification of Pre-Approval has been obtained.
- 1241 i. List and photographs of Veterinary Dental Equipment, Instruments, and Supplies
- 1242 currently available to the resident, arranged as described in the AVDC Equine
- 1243 Equipment List document. This item is not required if the resident is a full-time
- 1244 resident at an AVDC-approved residency site or if certification of Pre-Approval of this
- 1245 item has been obtained.
- 1246 j. Materials necessary to satisfy the AVDC Equine Publication Requirement, or
- 1247 certification that Pre-Approval of the publication requirement has been obtained, or
- 1248 certification from the Residency Director that a publication is planned based on a
- 1249 research project that is underway.
- 1250 k. Equine Radiograph Set: Complete set of dental radiographs of the horse, or
- 1251 certification that Pre-Approval of the radiograph set requirement has been obtained.
- 1252 l. Case Log, MRCL Case Review Forms and Cadaver Procedure Log. The applicant's
- 1253 case log is available on-line in DMS; no additional formatting or submission is
- 1254 required. When an unsuccessful application was submitted in a previous year, the
- 1255 Resident is to continue to log cases through the year in which a new application is
- 1256 submitted.
- 1257 m. Validation of Case Logs – 'Six Cases' Requirement: Promptly following receipt of a
- 1258 completed Credentials Application, the Executive Secretary will request (by e-mail)
- 1259 submission of dental records and associated documentation of six cases selected by the
- 1260 Chair of the Equine Credentials Committee from the MRCL log or the log of the most
- 1261 recent 12 months of clinical activity, to validate the case log entries. This material is to
- 1262 be sent to the AVDC Executive Secretary within 10 days of the date of the request.
- 1263 The resident is either to be available to comply with this request, or to inform the
- 1264 AVDC Executive Secretary of appropriate arrangements by which the Equine
- 1265 Credentials Committee can obtain the 'six case' materials. No exceptions to or
- 1266 extensions of the dead-line for this requirement will be permitted because of the tight
- 1267 time-line under which the Equine Credentials Committee works. Failure to supply
- 1268 requested records at this stage of the process may result in denial of the credentials
- 1269 application for the current year.
- 1270 n. Cadaver Procedures: No procedures performed on cadavers are to be included in the
- 1271 case log. However, if the resident is unable to accumulate all of the cases required for a
- 1272 complete MRCL set and if the Resident has completed all other training requirements
- 1273 and is otherwise ready to submit a Credentials Application, documentation of cadaver
- 1274 procedures may be provided by the applicant in lieu of up to two MRCL clinical cases.
- 1275 Each cadaver case must be documented on a Cadaver Substitution Form that is scanned

- 1276 or photographed and included in the DMS Credentials Application document. Only one  
1277 cadaver ‘case’ can be submitted for a particular MRCL category.
- 1278 o. Additional Materials. Residents are encouraged to submit any additional documentation  
1279 that will help substantiate their qualifications; for example, copies of published or  
1280 accepted papers related to veterinary dentistry authored or co-authored by the applicant  
1281 that are not included in the publication requirement section.
- 1282 p. Supervisor’s Report. The Credentials Application Supervisor's Report, which includes  
1283 certification of satisfactory completion of the residency program, is to be submitted by  
1284 the Residency Director. This form is separate from the letter of reference that is to be  
1285 written by the supervisor. The Supervisor’s Report form is available in the Credentials  
1286 Application section of the Information for Registered Residents page of the web site.
- 1287 q. Letters of Reference (minimum of two). The letters are to be sent directly to the  
1288 Executive Secretary of the College by the writer of the letter, and must be received (not  
1289 postmarked) on or before the application deadline. A letter of reference from the  
1290 Resident’s AVDC Equine Supervisor is required, and is to be separate from the  
1291 Supervisor’s Report. The second letter is to be from a veterinarian or other medical  
1292 professional who has observed the resident performing dental procedures. When a  
1293 resident has submitted an unsuccessful application in a prior year, either new letters of  
1294 reference are required or copies of reference letters supporting a previous application  
1295 may be submitted if accompanied by a note from the writer of the letter stating that s/he  
1296 approves inclusion of the original letter in the current year’s package.

1297  
1298  
1299 **IV G 3. Time Limits**

1300  
1301 Credentials Applications due dates will be determined by the Equine Specialty Executive  
1302 Committee upon provisional recognition by the ABVS. Applicants are informed of the result of  
1303 the review of their application no later than the day following the Fall AVDC Board of Directors  
1304 meeting, at which the report from the Equine Credentials Committee is considered. The AVDC  
1305 Equine Specialty Executive Committee is responsible for submitting a report to the AVDC  
1306 Board of Directors prior to the Fall Meeting. The time between final credentials decisions and  
1307 the examination date shall be no less than 120 days. The date of the Fall Board meeting varies  
1308 (the Board meeting is held the day before the Veterinary Dental Forum, which is held sometime  
1309 from September to November depending on location); AVDC adapted the time line in its  
1310 Appeals procedures to ensure that it is compatible with the ABVS requirement that appeals are  
1311 completed prior to the examination. When practical (i.e. when the Veterinary Dental Forum is  
1312 unusually late in the year), the Equine Credentials Committee shall complete its work to develop  
1313 a report and recommendations for ESEC and Board consideration, and the ESEC and Board  
1314 decisions on the Equine Credentials Committee recommendations are made electronically or by  
1315 teleconference call so that applicants can be notified before the Forum.

1316  
1317 **IV G 4. Process Following Credentials Submission**

1318  
1319 Incomplete applications or applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

- 1320 a. Applications received by the deadline are processed by the Executive Secretary, and  
1321 case reports and radiograph sets are assigned code numbers and sent to Equine

- 1322 Credentials Committee review teams for blinded review.
- 1323 b. The online case logs are made available to the Credentials Committee chair for
- 1324 selection of the “six selected cases.” These cases are used to verify that case log entries
- 1325 are real and well-documented. The list of six cases selected by the Equine Credentials
- 1326 Committee Chair is sent to each applicant by the Executive Secretary, together with a
- 1327 note requiring return of the requested documentation within 10 days of receipt of the e-
- 1328 mailed list. Upon receipt by AVDC, these items are made available to the Equine
- 1329 Credentials Committee primary reviewer and chair.
- 1330 c. The letters of reference are scanned by the Executive Secretary and included with each
- 1331 application before the application sets are posted electronically to the Equine
- 1332 Credentials Committee members.
- 1333 d. Publication materials and radiograph sets submitted at the same time as an application
- 1334 package are sent to an Equine Credentials Committee review team for blinded review,
- 1335 as for a Pre-Approval submission. Completed Equine Credentials Committee
- 1336 evaluation reports are sent to the chair, and a decision to approve or disapprove each
- 1337 publication article and radiograph set is made. When a case report or radiograph set is
- 1338 approved, the Approval Certificate automatically appears in the applicant’s Program
- 1339 Summary in DMS, and the primary Equine Credentials Committee reviewer and chair
- 1340 are alerted that an additional item has been approved.
- 1341 e. The Equine Credentials Committee meets to consider the applications. For otherwise-
- 1342 acceptable applications that may be deficient in minor ways, the applicant, at the
- 1343 discretion of the Credentials Committee chair, may be given the opportunity to make
- 1344 up deficiencies within a two-week grace period.
- 1345 f. The Credentials Committee sends a final report to the Equine Specialty Executive
- 1346 Committee in time for consideration of the report at or before the Fall meeting of the
- 1347 Board of Directors.
- 1348 g. Applicants are informed of the decisions of the Board as soon as possible following the
- 1349 Board meeting. All decisions are sent to applicants on the same day.
- 1350 h. The non-approval note to an applicant includes specific comments as reasons for non-
- 1351 approval. For publication items and radiograph sets, the comments are divided into
- 1352 major (each of which, of itself, is reason for non-approval) and minor. The applicant is
- 1353 informed of the options available to him/her, which include submission of a rebuttal
- 1354 (which is reviewed by the original Equine Credentials Committee review team) and
- 1355 submission of an appeal. Resubmission of a non-approved case report or radiograph
- 1356 set is not permitted.

1357

1358 There is no required waiting period between successful completion of formal training and

1359 eligibility to sit for the certifying examination.

1360

## 1361 **IV H . EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS for RESIDENTS**

1362

### 1363 **IV H 1. Training Program Requirements**

1364

#### 1365 **IV H 1 a. Full-Time Residency Program Site Requirements and Approval**

1366 To register a formal residency program, an Equine Diplomate completes an AVDC Equine

1367 Residency Program/Site Approval Application Form (Appendix 17) and agrees to adhere to

1368 AVDC Equine Residency Program Requirements (Appendix 18). These forms will be available  
1369 to Equine Diplomates through the AVDC website and are written in a non-species specific  
1370 manner; therefore, these documents are acceptable for the AVDC Equine Specialty.  
1371 Applications are to be filed electronically with the AVDC Executive Secretary and the Equine  
1372 Training and Support Committee shall evaluate the application and make recommendations to  
1373 the Equine Executive Committee for final approval or non-approval.  
1374

#### 1375 **IV H 1 b. Part-Time Residency Site Requirements and Approval**

1376 To register a Part-time Residency Training Program, the applicant must follow the directions on  
1377 the “How to Register a Training Program” page in the AVDC website. In addition to all other  
1378 requirements, a Part-time Residency application must include:

- 1379 a. Confirmation that an AVDC Equine diplomate has agreed to supervise the residency, and  
1380 that the Residency Director/Site has been approved by AVDC Equine.
- 1381 b. Proposed arrangements for meeting the anesthesia, radiology and surgery Specialty  
1382 Training requirements,
- 1383 c. “Initial Equipment List”, a list of the equipment and supplies available to the applicant,  
1384 indicating that the applicant is equipped to commence the planned training program. (A  
1385 separate “Credentials Equipment List”, including all of the equipment, instruments and  
1386 supplies necessary for performing specialist-level dental and oral surgical procedures is  
1387 to be submitted within two years of the registration date). AVDC Equine Specialty Initial  
1388 Equipment and Credentials Equipment guidelines will be created by the Training Support  
1389 Committee upon provisional recognition.
- 1390 d. List of books and journals available to the applicant.  
1391

1392 Applications are to be filed electronically with the AVDC Executive Secretary. The Equine  
1393 Training and Support Committee shall evaluate the application and make recommendations to  
1394 the Equine Executive Committee for final approval or non-approval.  
1395

#### 1396 **IV H 2. Formal Training Programs and Educational Opportunities**

##### 1397 **IV H 2 a. Formal Training Programs**

1399 University-based veterinary dental programs with one or more full-time AVDC diplomates on  
1400 staff are located at veterinary schools in California, Colorado, New York, Illinois, Minnesota,  
1401 New York, North Carolina, Ontario Veterinary College (Guelph), Pennsylvania, Purdue, Texas,  
1402 and Wisconsin and at veterinary schools in Australia and Brazil. Equine SOC members are  
1403 located at veterinary schools in Colorado, Texas, Minnesota, Georgia, Australia, Europe, and  
1404 Canada. It is anticipated that the AVDC Equine Dental training programs will develop at these  
1405 universities and within the private practices of non-academic SOC members. In addition, there  
1406 are 17 veterinarians with advanced training that will likely apply for and be approved for  
1407 Advanced Standing to take the certifying examination have been identified (Appendix 10).  
1408 Another approximately 25 individuals will likely focus on either establishing a formal full-time  
1409 or part-time residency program in academic institutions or private practices. A list of  
1410 veterinarians with advanced training and those interested and committed to pursuing advanced  
1411 equine dental is attached. (Appendix 1); this list includes more than 40 such individuals and  
1412 demonstrates the human resources available for to the development of a successful Equine  
1413 Dental Specialty.



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#### **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

1460 a large barn area with four holding stalls in addition to excellent wet lab facilities and lecture  
1461 halls.

## 1462 **V. EXAMINATION PROCEDURES and POLICIES**

### 1463 1464 **V A. Nature and Scope of the Certifying Examination**

1465  
1466 Once a resident’s credentialing package has been approved by the Equine Specialty Executive  
1467 Committee and the AVDC Board of Directors, the resident will become a candidate for the  
1468 certifying examination. The certifying examination for the AVDC Equine Specialty will test  
1469 whether the candidate can perform at the level expected of an entry-level specialist in Equine  
1470 Dentistry. The examination will adhere to Examination guidelines as described in the AVDC  
1471 Equine Specialty Bylaws, Article IV, section 2. A summary of these Bylaws follows.

1472  
1473 The AVDC Equine Specialty Certifying Examination shall cover equine oral anatomy, histology,  
1474 embryology, pathology, examination, periodontology, oral/maxillofacial surgery,  
1475 oral/craniofacial imaging, oral medicine, sinus medicine and surgery, and other topics relevant to  
1476 equine veterinary dentistry. The general principles of periodontology, endodontics, odontoplasty  
1477 and occlusal management, operative (restorative) dentistry and equine restraint, analgesia,  
1478 anesthesia, behavior, and biting shall be included in the certifying exam.

1479  
1480 The examination shall consist of three parts: a written section, a bench section (consisting of  
1481 written questions accompanying photographs or objects) and a practical section. Candidates must  
1482 pass all three parts of the examination to complete the examination process. Candidates shall  
1483 have a period of five consecutive years to complete the examination process, beginning with the  
1484 first examination after acceptance of the applicant’s credentials by the Equine Specialty  
1485 Executive Committee. A limit of three attempts shall be granted for each part of the examination.  
1486 Following petition by the applicant, the Equine Specialty Executive Committee may make  
1487 exceptions to this requirement. Information on examination procedures and standards, the  
1488 examination “blue print”, shall be determined by the Equine Specialty Executive Committee  
1489 with recommendations from the Equine Examination Committee and approved by the AVDC  
1490 Board of Directors, and shall be made publicly available on the AVDC website.

#### 1491 1492 **V A 1. Written Examination**

1493  
1494 The written examination shall consist of 100 or more questions (maximum 150) in a multiple-  
1495 choice format with one correct answer and four distractors. Two minutes shall be allocated for  
1496 each question. Depending on the final number of questions, the total examination time will vary.

#### 1497 1498 **V A 2. Bench Examination**

1499  
1500 The bench examination will consist of 100 questions in a multiple-choice format each associated  
1501 with a digital image. The exam shall be presented either in a Power Point format or via a  
1502 computer-based testing program. Two minutes shall be allowed for each question with breaks  
1503 after the 33<sup>rd</sup> and 66<sup>th</sup> questions.

#### 1504 1505 **V A 3. Practical Examination**

1506  
1507 The practical examination will include a yet undetermined number of procedures that will  
1508 involve working with live animals, cadaveric specimens, and/or materials/specimens/imaging  
1509 associated with equine dentistry. Depending on the final determination of procedures to be  
1510 performed, candidates will be given an appropriate amount of time to complete the practical  
1511 examination. More details regarding the practical will be created following provisional  
1512 recognition.

1513  
1514 **V B. Examination Fee**

1515  
1516 Examination fees are set by the Board of the AVDC and are published on the College website.  
1517 Proof of payment shall be uploaded to the DMS along with the application form. Without proof  
1518 of payment, the application will not be evaluated or processed, nor will access to the examination  
1519 be permitted.

1520  
1521 **V C. Determination of Examination Content**

1522  
1523 The certifying examination shall be a reflection of entry level professional activities expected of  
1524 specialists in equine dentistry. In 2011, AVDC completed a Job Analysis under the guidance of  
1525 Allied Measurement Professionals (Appendix 11). The Chair of the Equine Specialty Organizing  
1526 Committee, Jennifer Rawlinson, was a member of the AVDC Job Analysis Committee and has  
1527 in-depth understanding regarding the creation of the AVDC document. In the spring of 2013, the  
1528 Organizing Committee undertook the task of creating the Equine Job Analysis. This involved  
1529 assigning domain and subdomain emphasis scores, and provided further detail in subdomains  
1530 appropriate for equine specific anatomy, pathology, diagnostics, and therapies. The Organizing  
1531 Committee voted on emphasis scores of the domains and subdomains and submitted changes in  
1532 subdomain wording for consideration. The final Equine Job Analysis (Appendix 22) was  
1533 approved by the Organizing Committee in April 2013 and utilized as the blueprint for the first  
1534 equine certifying examination that was administered to Organizing Committee members  
1535 September 27 and 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013. In addition to the blueprint provide by the Equine Job Analysis,  
1536 the Organizing Committee created a Suggested Reading List (Appendix 24) that encompassed  
1537 major textbooks and journals the Organizing Committee felt should be known by entry level  
1538 Equine Diplomates. The publications on the Reading List act as a common resource for  
1539 examination questions.

1540  
1541 **V C 1. Examination Question Development and Review**

1542  
1543 Examination question development and review for the Equine Specialty will follow AVDC  
1544 procedures and standards. Two Equine Specialty SOC members are AVDC Diplomates and  
1545 have served on the AVDC Examination Committee. Both are very familiar with the procedures  
1546 and standards utilized by the AVDC for question generation. In May 2013, the Organizing  
1547 Committee started work on creating the foundation of the Examination Question Bank. The  
1548 document, Guidelines for Question Creation (Appendix 23), based on current AVDC policy and  
1549 the National Board of Medical Examiners recommendations, was created and distributed to all  
1550 Organizing Committee members in order to guide question creation. Organizing Committee  
1551 members were assigned 25 written and bench questions to write from various subdomains from

1552 the Equine Job Analysis. Over 450 questions were written, Angoff scored, reviewed, and  
1553 approved for use in the first certifying examination. In 2014, a similar round of question writing  
1554 will be undertaken by the Founder AVDC Equine Diplomates for use in the second certifying  
1555 examination. It will be the responsibility of the Equine Examination Committee after the first  
1556 two certifying examinations to write new questions annually. Each member of the Equine  
1557 Examination Committee will be required to write a minimum of 10 new questions per year for  
1558 the certifying examination.

1559

1560 The following is a review of the AVDC Examination Committee question generation procedure  
1561 that has and will be followed by the Equine Examination Committee.

1562

### 1563 **V C 1 a. Practical Question Creation**

1564

1565 The AVDC Examination Committee meets to design the practical examination 6-9 months prior  
1566 to the actual examination date. The practical examination is created from a list of possible  
1567 procedures provided to the candidates on the AVDC website. Several hours are spent  
1568 considering the practical examination scenarios. At that time, the exam committee evaluates  
1569 scenarios based on, but not limited to, historical examinations, procedure lists posted on the  
1570 AVDC website, and the expected time it would take to complete the procedures. The procedures  
1571 are purposely grouped to allow enough time for candidates to complete each session within the  
1572 allotted time. The committee decides on the points in each grading category based on, but not  
1573 limited to: the procedure, comments from previous years' grading sessions, accepted standard of  
1574 practice, etc. The criteria for grading each procedure is reviewed by the committee annually to  
1575 improve past criteria and incorporate changes based on recent literature. The practical  
1576 examination and grading criteria are established prior to the examination by the committee to  
1577 allow for a standardized, mutually agreed-upon approach to grading the specimens.

1578

1579

### 1580 **V C 1 b. Written and Bench Question Creation**

1581

1582 Written and bench question requests are solicited from the examination committee prior to the  
1583 annual Exam Committee meeting at the Veterinary Dental Forum. A secure AVDC e-mail  
1584 listserv is used before and after the annual meeting in order to facilitate meticulous review of  
1585 examination questions. The Angoff percentage is determined for each question and used when  
1586 developing the examination with a pass point of 70%.

1587

### 1588 **V C 1 c. Examination Preparation**

1589

1590 Detailed examination preparation consists of:

1591 1. 25-33% of questions from the previous year's examination are replaced when preparing  
1592 the next year's examination.

1593 2. Exam committee members are assigned question categories and number of question per  
1594 category by the exam chair. Members write new questions prior to the examination.

1595 3. New questions are aggregated by the chair and returned to the exam committee for  
1596 Angoff scoring (Appendix 19), applicability, fairness, accuracy, and format.

1597 4. Some questions are removed and discarded by the committee at that time based on

- 1598 deviations from examination question format and content.
- 1599 5. The chair selects questions for the examination to fit the examination blueprint and to
- 1600 maintain the total Angoff score at around 70.
- 1601 6. The chair reviews the entire examination.
- 1602 7. The examination is broken into different sections and sent to individual committee
- 1603 members for review (fairness, grammar, accuracy, format, etc.).
- 1604 8. The questions are returned to the chair to modify or replace the questions based on
- 1605 committee feedback.
- 1606 9. The chair “takes” the examination, to check for further errors in content, format,
- 1607 grammar, etc.
- 1608 10. The chair compares every answer in the exam bank against the printed answers.
- 1609 11. The chair corrects any errors in transcription of examination answers (they originally
- 1610 print out at the bottom of the questions from the exam bank).
- 1611 12. The chair “takes” the examination a second time with the answers present to verify that
- 1612 every “correct” answer makes sense and is correct.
- 1613 13. The examination answer key is developed..
- 1614 14. The examination answer key is double-checked against the answers.
- 1615 15. The examination is created and candidates take the examination.
- 1616

#### 1617 **V D. Establishing the Pass Point**

1618

1619 The pass point for the written and bench examinations will be set at 70%, using the modified

1620 Angoff criterion referencing technique to derive a predictive value for the multiple choice

1621 written and bench examination questions. The mean Angoff score of the questions in the draft

1622 written examination shall be calculated; if it is above 70 or significantly below 70, questions are

1623 replaced to bring the mean Angoff score as close as is practical to 70%. If the mean Angoff score

1624 of the final examination is less than 70%, the mean Angoff score is used as the passing score for

1625 that examination that year. The same procedure is followed for the Bench examination.

1626

1627 The criterion-based grading of the practical portion is developed using 70% as the score for

1628 minimally acceptable work expected of an entry-level specialist dentist (i.e. work that would

1629 result in clinical success of the procedure even though it may not be perfect). This 70%

1630 minimum pass score is used for each grading criterion for each procedure, so that a candidate’s

1631 pass-fail decision is Pass if the mean score is 70% or above.

1632

#### 1633 **V E. Grading of the Examination**

1634

1635 For all three portions of the examination (written, bench, and practical sessions), examinees shall

1636 be provided randomly assigned code numbers for anonymity purposes. Randomly selected

1637 specimen numbers shall be used for the three (3) sessions of the practical examination. The

1638 Examination Committee report, which is sent to the ESEC and the AVDC Board of Directors,

1639 consists only of scores for each code number. An envelope containing code number assignments

1640 and examinee name and signature is sealed during the security session prior to the examination.

1641 This envelope is opened only after the Board of Directors has made pass-fail decisions on each

1642 code number.

1643

1644 The AVDC is currently investigating the use of a secure, professional testing service to aid in  
1645 exam creation, grading, and statistical reporting, but this service is not currently in place. The  
1646 multiple-choice questions from the written and bench examination are individually reviewed to  
1647 determine the percentage of candidates answering the question correctly. All members of the  
1648 examination committee review each question that 50% or more of the candidates answered  
1649 incorrectly. The questions are reviewed to determine their fairness, and to determine if there is  
1650 more than one possible correct answer. Based on this review, the question either remains as  
1651 written, is discarded, or multiple answers are considered acceptable. The scores of the candidates  
1652 are appropriately adjusted based on this review.

1653

1654 The following is a summary of AVDC procedures.

- 1655 1. Questions that arise during the examination process are noted.
- 1656 2. Examinations are graded using the examination answer key.
- 1657 3. Tabulations and addition of the grades are double-checked by the incoming chair or  
1658 proctor.
- 1659 4. The chair reviews the examination scores during the grading process, looking for patterns  
1660 such as multiple candidates answering the same questions incorrectly.
- 1661 5. Every “answer” letter from every candidate for every question is entered into a  
1662 spreadsheet.
- 1663 6. The number of incorrect and correct answers in the spreadsheet is verified against the  
1664 tabulation of scores made from the paper answer sheets.
- 1665 7. The chair evaluates any questions in which 50% or more candidates scored incorrectly.
- 1666 8. Those questions are “flagged” for full committee review, along with any other flagged  
1667 questions.
- 1668 9. The Exam Committee re-evaluates the questions and determines if the question is valid,  
1669 re-assigns Angoff scores for use in future years, and makes recommendations if  
1670 clarification is needed for future years.
- 1671 10. Questions may be flagged for deletion from the examination as a result of steps 8-9. If at  
1672 least one candidate got the deleted question correct, then all candidates receive credit and  
1673 the overall Angoff score of the examination does not change.
- 1674 11. The chair “flags” all failing candidate answers and verifies that the answers entered into  
1675 the spreadsheet were entered correctly by checking the paper answer sheet.
- 1676 12. The chair evaluates the number of correct and incorrect answers in each dental discipline  
1677 category.
- 1678 13. The answers are entered in a table and checked again that the number of incorrect  
1679 answers adds up to the number incorrect on the examination.
- 1680 14. The scores in each category are tabulated for each candidate prior to an adjustment of a  
1681 score.
- 1682 15. Written questions and examination data are checked by the committee and chair multiple  
1683 times during the examination process due to the non-automated grading system used in  
1684 the examination process.

1685

1686 The AVDC Examination Committee has requested that the AVDC Board of Directors review the  
1687 current grading model of multiple-choice questions and consider the use of a professional testing  
1688 service or a secure computer-based testing program. Upon provisional recognition, the Equine  
1689 Examination chair shall work with the AVDC Examination Chair to integrate computer

1690 processing into the grading procedure.

1691 The equine practical examination shall include a yet undetermined number of procedures that are  
1692 divided into multiple sections. After each section, the candidates will submit their specimens or  
1693 test sheets for grading. Three or four members of the examination committee shall grade each  
1694 candidate's work. There will be a pre-determined, committee reviewed and approved grading  
1695 sheet for each procedure or question, which is used for grading each candidate's work. The  
1696 grading sheets list the grading criteria and maximum points available for each criterion. The  
1697 candidate's score for each procedure shall be the average of the graders scores.

1698

## 1699 **V F. Reporting of Results to the Candidates**

1700

### 1701 **V F 1. Reporting of Exam Pass or Fail to the Candidates**

1702

1703 As per Article IV, section 2, item F of the AVDC Equine Specialty By-Laws, following review  
1704 of a report from the Equine Examination Committee, the Equine Specialty Executive Committee  
1705 shall determine whether the candidates have passed or failed the examination; a report of the  
1706 Executive Committee's decision shall be forwarded to the AVDC Board for consideration, and  
1707 candidates shall not be notified of the examination results until approved by the AVDC Board of  
1708 Directors. Candidates shall be informed of the results of the examination within 45 days of the  
1709 examination by the AVDC Executive Secretary; all candidates shall be notified of the results on  
1710 the same date.

1711

### 1712 **V F 2. Reporting of Examination Deficiencies to Unsuccessful Candidates**

1713

1714 The examination consists of three sections, each of which can be passed independently of the  
1715 others. Unsuccessful candidates shall be advised which section was not passed. When a  
1716 candidate does not pass the written or the bench section, they shall be informed which dental  
1717 discipline(s) they failed (e.g. endodontics, periodontics).

1718 Candidates unsuccessful in the practical exam shall be told which procedures they passed and  
1719 which they failed with brief comments summarizing the reasons for failure written on the  
1720 grading sheets by the graders. Within this notification, candidates shall be informed of their  
1721 remaining eligibility and necessary reapplication procedures. The above individual examination  
1722 report for unsuccessful candidates will be considered standard, and candidates will not have to  
1723 submit special requests to obtain this information.

1724

## 1725 **V G. Avoiding Conflict of Interest**

1726

1727 AVDC Equine Specialty members are committed to avoiding personal conflict of interest or the  
1728 appearance of conflict of interest that could affect the results of a certifying examination. In the  
1729 event that an Equine Examination Committee member is identified as being in conflict of  
1730 interest, an Equine Specialty Executive Committee appointed individual, approved by the AVDC  
1731 Board of Directors, will either temporarily or permanently replace the committee member.

1732 Equine Examination Committee members will sign a confidentially agreement form prior to  
1733 admission into the committee, and all committee members will not be permitted to organize and  
1734 execute "mock examinations" for Residents and candidates while members of the committee or  
1735 for a period of 2-years following membership on the committee. No committee member will be

1736 allowed at any time to advertise either current or past membership on the Equine Examination  
1737 Committee.

1738

1739 **V H. Disabilities, Illness, and Other Health Issues**

1740

1741 Within the constraints of an examination environment requiring maintenance of anonymity of the  
1742 candidates and use by the candidates of equipment during the practical examination, the AVDC  
1743 Equine Specialty will endeavor to accommodate disabilities or other health concerns in  
1744 accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) that are made known to the AVDC  
1745 Equine Specialty prior to the examination. Candidates shall send a completed request form and a  
1746 physician's letter to the AVDC Executive Secretary using the Disability Accommodation  
1747 Request Form that is available in the Examination section of the Information for Registered  
1748 Trainees page of the AVDC web site (Appendix 20). The AVDC Executive Secretary will alert  
1749 the Equine Specialty Executive Committee Chair and the Equine Examination Chair of the  
1750 candidate's disability or health issue. The two equine Chairs will consider whether to, and if so  
1751 how to, accommodate the candidate's disability or health restriction. Legal counsel or an expert  
1752 in ADA requirements may be consulted. Any health-related information submitted will be held  
1753 in confidence.

1754

1755 A candidate suffering an injury or illness that compromises the ability of the candidate to  
1756 complete the examination in the period immediately preceding the examination is to notify the  
1757 AVDC Executive Secretary *prior to the examination*. The AVDC Executive Secretary will  
1758 immediately notify the Equine Specialty Executive Committee Chair and the Equine  
1759 Examination Chair. If the illness or injury occurs during the examination, the candidate is to  
1760 notify the proctor or Examination Committee chair. If the illness or injury prevents the candidate  
1761 from taking or completing the examination, the circumstances will be reported to the AVDC  
1762 Board of Directors and AVDC ESEC, who may allow the candidate one additional attempt at the  
1763 examination and one year to be added to the period remaining for the candidate to pass the  
1764 examination.

1765

1766 **VI. APPEALS POLICY**

1767

1768 The Appeals Policy is included in the AVDC Equine Specialty By-Laws under Article VI,  
1769 Appeal of Adverse Decision (Appendix 7).

1770

1771

1772 **VII. TIME-LIMITED CERTIFICATION AND RENEWAL OF CERTIFICATION**

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1774 AVDC Equine certification diplomas shall be dated and limited to 10 years. The AVDC Equine  
1775 Specialty intends to utilize the Renewal of Certification Policy that was approved by the AVDC  
1776 Board and reviewed by the AVDC membership in November 2012 (Appendix 27). Upon  
1777 provisional recognition of the AVDC Equine Specialty, the Equine Specialty will request that the  
1778 AVDC Board of Directors appoint an Equine Specialty member to the AVDC Renewal of  
1779 Certification Committee.

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## **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

1828 AVDC Equine MRCL categories, and the case log must contain the  
1829 minimally required number of cases for each MRCL category. In order to  
1830 fill the MRCL category required numbers, cases dating back 7 years may  
1831 be used. The case log is to be submitted via the AVDC DMS in AVDC  
1832 case log format.

- 1833 b. Credential Submission and Evaluation for Entrance to Certifying Examination:  
1834 Upon pathway approval, the candidate will submit a complete credentials package  
1835 to the AVDC Executive Secretary to be evaluated by the Equine Credentials  
1836 Committee. AVDC Equine Diplomate direct supervision requirements will be  
1837 suspended for this program unless otherwise stated below. Content for the  
1838 credentials package can include materials produced over the last ten years.  
1839 Candidates will need to submit a case log adherent to AVDC case log formatting  
1840 and abbreviations via the AVDC DMS. The Equine Training Support Committee  
1841 will be available to help applicants with proper case log formatting and will  
1842 review the final case log prior to submission to the Equine Credentials  
1843 Committee. The case log shall include the last three years of clinical activity.  
1844 Minimum Required Case Log (MRCL) entries can be completed with cases  
1845 performed 7 years prior to modified credentials package submission.  
1846 If an individual qualifies for this program but is deficient in any of the Equine  
1847 Specialty credentialing requirements, they will be afforded a total time of three  
1848 years starting upon provisional recognition of the Specialty to complete the  
1849 requirements. Incomplete credentialing packages will not be reviewed. If the  
1850 candidates credentialing package is not approved, the candidate will have the  
1851 remainder of the inaugural three years to submit a successful package. Individuals  
1852 qualified to submit credentials through this program are:

- 1853 i. Equine Fellows of the Academy of Veterinary Dentistry (AVD) or similar,  
1854 ii. AVDC residents or comparable who have passed the credentials process  
1855 and are considered candidates for taking the AVDC certifying  
1856 examination.  
1857 iii. AVD or similar applicants who have completed their training program,  
1858 submitted a successful credentials package, and are candidates for the  
1859 examination.  
1860 iv. Individuals who have been practicing equine dentistry for greater than 10  
1861 years, and, by teaching, research, or practice, have contributed  
1862 substantially to the development of the specialty, or have advanced  
1863 training in the specialty and have demonstrated competency through  
1864 teaching, research, or practice in the specialty to which most of the  
1865 individual's professional time is devoted.

- 1866 4. Article IV, Section 2, item B, C, and F. In early 2013, the Organizing Committee was  
1867 unofficially instructed by CDNS and ABVS to continue work on the infrastructure of the  
1868 Specialty during the Open Commentary Period. The first major task of the Organizing  
1869 Committee was to construct and administer the first certifying examination to be taken by  
1870 all members of the Organizing Committee. The following is a detailed description of  
1871 how this exam was created, assembled, administered, and verified. As noted in the  
1872 following description, exceptions to Bylaws Article IV, Section 2, item B, C, and F were  
1873 applied for this first exam only. All subsequent certifying examinations will follow

- 1874 standard protocol.
- 1875
- 1876 a. To start the process an agreement was made by the AVDC and EVDC Equine
- 1877 Specialty Organizing Committees and AVDC and EVDC Board of Directors that
- 1878 Founder AVDC and EVDC Equine Diplomates should take and pass an
- 1879 examination. EVDC and EVDC Equine was included in this process to create an
- 1880 equal international start to the equine veterinary dental specialty and to allow for
- 1881 fruitful collaboration in the creation of the first certifying examination.
- 1882 b. The Organizing Committees and Boards agreed to hold one certifying
- 1883 Examination containing both a Written and Bench Section. The Written Section
- 1884 was to include 150 questions and the Bench Section was to include 100 questions
- 1885 as in accordance with AVDC/AVDC Equine policy. The certifying examination
- 1886 would be the same for both groups and given at the same date and time. All
- 1887 members of the AVDC Equine and EVDC Equine Specialty Organizing
- 1888 Committees were eligible to take the examination.
- 1889 c. The AVDC Equine Job Analysis was used as the examination blueprint.
- 1890 d. Utilizing the newly created AVDC Equine Job Analysis, AVDC Equine
- 1891 Suggested Reading List, and AVDC Equine Question Creation Guidelines,
- 1892 AVDC Equine Specialty Organizing Committee members were assigned 25
- 1893 questions (10 Bench and 15 Written) to write for various subdomains of the
- 1894 Equine Job Analysis. The EVDC Equine Chair was given the same material to
- 1895 use for question creation by the EVDC Equine Organizing Committee. All
- 1896 questions with answers from both organizations were accumulated and organized
- 1897 by the AVDC Equine Chair. It was agreed by the Organizing Committees that the
- 1898 AVDC Equine Chair would be the only person with access to all answers for all
- 1899 possible questions.
- 1900 e. Solicited questions reflected the examination blueprint as determined by the
- 1901 AVDC Equine Job Analysis. Every question was cataloged with an individual
- 1902 code indicating year-exam section-Job Analysis subdomain-number (e.g. 2013-B-
- 1903 OSA-1).
- 1904 f. Roughly 450 questions were collected, organized, edited, and sent back to both
- 1905 Organizing Committees without answers for Angoff scoring. The AVDC Equine
- 1906 SOC Chair compiled all responses, and an average Angoff score was applied to
- 1907 each question. Questions were reviewed and edited (edited for grammar, spelling,
- 1908 test-wiseness, etc. only – scientific content and meaning of question unchanged)
- 1909 for one final time by the AVDC Equine SOC Chair and one AVDC Equine
- 1910 Organizing Committee member.
- 1911 g. Both Organizing Committees agreed that an outside Final Selection Committee
- 1912 would be needed to select the questions for the first certifying exam from the
- 1913 question pool provided. Members of this committee were to have no current or
- 1914 future interest in becoming an Equine Diplomat. The Final Selection Committee
- 1915 consisted of one AVDC Diplomat, one AVDC/EVDC dual Diplomat, and one
- 1916 ACVS Diplomat.
- 1917 h. The entire question bank with average Angoff scores was given to the AVDC
- 1918 Executive Secretary. The AVDC Executive Secretary gave the Final Selection
- 1919 Committee access to the examination blueprint, the question bank, and a summary
- of all question Angoff scores. The Final Selection Committee was directed to

1920 produce a Certifying Examination weighted per the examination blueprint with  
1921 Bench and Written Sections averaging a 70% Angoff score individually.

1922 i. The AVDC Executive Secretary and AVDC Equine Organizing Committee Chair  
1923 selected online examination software, Exam Builder, to administer the  
1924 examination. The Examination date was set for September 27 and 28<sup>th</sup>. Both  
1925 Committees were informed of the Examination date roughly 60 days prior.

1926 j. The Final Selection Committee assembled both sections of the Exam and sent it to  
1927 the AVDC Executive Secretary for uploading into the online examination  
1928 software. The final Bench raw mean Angoff score was 69.96% and the Written  
1929 raw mean Angoff score was 69.95%. These two numbers were set as the Pass  
1930 Point for each section of the Examination.

1931 k. The first Certifying Examination was made available online to all Organizing  
1932 Committee members at 12 am GMT September 27<sup>th</sup>. The Examination would  
1933 close 12 pm GMT September 29<sup>th</sup>. Members were given 6 hours to complete the  
1934 Written Section and 4 hours to complete the Bench Section. Once an exam  
1935 section was started, it could not be paused. The Examination was made available  
1936 for a broad window of time to accommodate the international location of many  
1937 AVDC Equine and EVDC Equine Organizing Committee members. The  
1938 examinees were told that they could make use of a translation dictionary in  
1939 necessary, but they were not to access any other reference materials while they  
1940 were taking the examination; the examination instructions stated that, by  
1941 submitting the examination for grading, they confirmed that they did not use any  
1942 reference materials other than a translation dictionary.

1943 l. Following the Examination, the AVDC Executive Secretary provided the AVDC  
1944 and EVDC Equine Examination Committees with a copy of the Examination with  
1945 the correct answers indicated and a summary of the number of correct and  
1946 incorrect answers from the 22 examinees for each question. The Committees  
1947 reviewed the data and recommended which questions required adjustment,  
1948 following the criteria used by the AVDC and EVDC Examination Committees to  
1949 identify questions requiring review (see Section V E). In the Bench section, eight  
1950 questions were removed and two correct answers were permitted for three  
1951 questions. In the Written examination, eight questions were removed and two  
1952 correct answers were permitted for two questions.

1953 m. Following the recommendations of the AVDC Equine Examination Committee  
1954 for question adjustment, the Examination was re-scored by the AVDC Executive  
1955 Secretary. The AVDC Executive Secretary compiled all Examination results in a  
1956 spreadsheet using codes for each individual's name, and generated a document  
1957 equivalent to the Report from the Examination Committee Chair that the AVDC  
1958 and EVDC Boards normally receive from their respective Examination  
1959 Committees for Examination result determination. The document went straight to  
1960 the Board of Directors for Pass-Fail determination, by-passing the Equine  
1961 Examination Committees, because all Examination Committee members took the  
1962 Examination. The document provided information on the examination process,  
1963 and recommendations for Pass-Fail cut-off decisions in addition to the  
1964 recommended Pass cut-off score for both the Bench and Written sections that was  
1965 **69%** (adjusted mean Angoff scores were Bench 69.45% and Written 69.1%).

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- n. 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.
  - o. 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.
  - p. 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.
5. Article V, Section 1, item C and Article VI. Appeals involving Equine SOC members will be handled by the AVDC Appeals Committee not the Equine Appeals Committee due to conflict of interest concerns.

1991 **VIII B. Petition Modifications**

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1993 Petition modifications that will be necessary to initiate functioning of the Equine Specialty are listed below.

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- 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.

- 2012 3. Article IV, Section G, Item 2. Applicants to the Advanced Standing Program need not  
2013 include a “Supervisor Form” or a letter of reference from the training supervisor. Two or  
2014 more letters of reference from respected veterinary professionals are required.  
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2016 **VIII C. Priority Actionable Items**

2017 The following is a list of critical actionable items that must be addressed by the Equine Specialty  
2018 within the first year of operation.

- 2019 1. Nominate and elect all membership-designated committee appointments. This step has  
2020 already been completed in 2013, and all committees of the AVDC Equine Specialty are  
2021 set and currently functioning. Their main charge up to provisional recognition by ABVS  
2022 is establishing the infrastructure necessary to run the specialty. All committees have been  
2023 charged with individual tasks regarding infrastructure creation. To date there have been  
2024 two formal meetings of the Organizing Committee. Both were very productive and  
2025 Minutes from these meeting have been included with the revised petition (Appendices 25,  
2026 26).
- 2027 2. Establishment of an AVDC Equine Specialty budgetary system. The Member-At-Large  
2028 on the Equine Specialty Executive Committee shall be responsible for establishing a  
2029 financial plan and fiscal report. The member will work closely with the AVDC Board of  
2030 Directors and Treasurer to develop a mutually acceptable system for incorporating  
2031 Equine Specialty finances into the established AVDC financial structure. All fees, dues  
2032 and other income and all payments shall be processed through the AVDC Treasurer for at  
2033 least three years following ABVS provisional recognition.
- 2034 3. Upon provisional recognition by ABVS, it will be essential that the Equine Specialty  
2035 Executive Committee works closely with the AVDC Board of Directors to determine  
2036 how Equine Specialty Diplomates fit within the structure of the AVDC: for example, will  
2037 AVDC Equine diplomates be permitted to attend AVDC annual meetings and vote; will  
2038 there be a separate AVDC Equine Annual Meeting?
- 2039 4. The Equine Credentials Committee Chair and the ESEC shall work with the AVDC  
2040 Board of Directors to explore pathways by which an Equine Specialty Diplomate can  
2041 pursue AVDC Diplomate status or an AVDC Diplomate can pursue Equine Specialty  
2042 Diplomate status. This may include exploring the option of a tandem-track training  
2043 program.
- 2044 5. The Equine Examination Committee Chair and the ESEC shall work with the AVDC  
2045 Board of Directors to explore if the AVDC and AVDC Equine Specialty membership is  
2046 interested in establishing a general dental principles qualifying examination after the first  
2047 year of residency training. After passing the qualifying examination, the resident would  
2048 be eligible to continue with credentials application as previously described. This  
2049 potential program would work similar to the system used by ACVIM.