



American College of Veterinary Behaviorists
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ACVB APPLICANT PACKET

Effective September 1, 2019 – August 31, 2020

The ACVB Applicant Packet provides information relative to the process of becoming certified by the American College of Veterinary Behaviorists (ACVB or the “College”). It is our intention to update any new materials on *September 1* of each year. **Review these materials carefully.** It is important when submitting materials to ACVB that the most **current** instructions are followed. It represents the current policies, procedures and requirements for individuals interested in certification by the American College of Veterinary Behaviorists. While every reasonable attempt has been made to assure accuracy, Supervising Diplomates, Resident Advisors and/or candidates should contact the ACVB office if questions arise. Furthermore, ACVB policies and procedures are subject to periodic review and change. Significant changes in the program are not intended to disrupt a current candidate’s timeline and reasonable accommodations which are consistent with the previous year’s Applicant Packet will be granted upon written request. Should Supervising Diplomates, Resident Advisors and/or candidates have concerns about proposed or actual changes that could impact the certification process, they should contact the ACVB office.

All questions and/or concerns on the current packet, proposed changes, and impact on residents (specifically or in general) should be directed to:

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**ACVB APPLICANT
PACKET**

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MISSION OF ACVB

ACVB Mission: The mission of the American College of Veterinary Behaviorists (ACVB) is to advance the behavioral health of animals through the certification of veterinary behavior specialists and the provision of science-based education.

TERMINOLOGY:

Applicant: The term *Applicant* will be used for a veterinarian who has made an application for a residency training program but has not yet been accepted into a traditional program or has not yet had their non-traditional residency program approved.

Supervising Diplomate (SD): In previous editions of the applicant packet the word "mentor" was used to indicate the supervising ACVB diplomate who is overseeing the resident. In this edition, the term *Supervising Diplomate (SD)* will replace the word *mentor*.

Resident: The term *Resident* will be used for all veterinarians in an approved residency training program.

Traditional Behavior Residency Program (TBRP): The term *Traditional Behavior Residency Program* refers to a program approved by the ACVB (see Section I.C for approved programs).

Non-Traditional Behavior Residency Program (NTBRP): The term *Non-Traditional Behavior Residency Program* refers to any program that does not classify as a TBRP.

I. TRAINING PROGRAM INFORMATION

I.1. This section describes qualifications that must be met for an Applicant's credentials to be considered acceptable by the American College of Veterinary Behaviorists.

I.2. To begin the process of Board Certification in the American College of Veterinary Behaviorists, an individual must satisfy the following minimum requirements:

I.2.1. Register with the ACVB (Section VIII B -Form A)

I.2.2. Provide a letter of verification from the ACVB Supervising Diplomate (SD)

I.2.3. Submit all required fees (see Section V– Fee Structure)

I.2.4. Must either:

I.2.4.1. Enroll in a Traditional Behavior Residency Program **OR**

I.2.4.2. Engage in an approved Non-Traditional Behavior Residency Program

I.3. To become a diplomate, a resident must meet the following criteria:

I.3.1. Submit the Verification of Continuance Residency form to the ACVB Executive Director by January 1st of each year during their residency (Section VIII B – Form B).

I.3.2. Have a research paper accepted for publication in an approved journal (see Section III.F - Scientific Publication)

I.3.3. Have received a passing score on three (3) submitted case reports (see Section II – Case Report Information)

I.3.4. Have completed their residency.

I.3.4.1. A resident in a TBRP must present a letter from their SD to verify completion of their residency.

I.3.4.2. A resident in a NTBRP must present certification of passing their NTBRP by the Specialty Training Committee to verify completion of their residency.

I.3.5. Submit an application to sit for examination within 10 years from the date of registration for their residency program.

I.3.6. Pass the exam within 8 years of the date of first application to sit the examination.

I.3.7. Any deviations to the above guidelines must be submitted and approved by the Credentials Committee.

I.4. A person is considered to be an “ACVB Resident” when:

I.4.1. They have registered with ACVB, **and**

I.4.2. They are in an ACVB Traditional Behavior Residency Program (TBRP) OR a ACVB Non-Traditional Behavior Residency Training Program (NTBRP)

I.5. During the residency the following designations are permitted in correspondence:

I.5.1. ACVB resident in private practice training

I.5.2. ACVB resident at “XXX” University

I.5.3. ACVB resident in the Military Behavioral Residency Program

I.5.4. Upon completion of the residency program, the individual may not use the designation “resident”.

I.5.5. *The AVMA considers veterinarians to either be board certified or not board certified. There is NO designation of “board eligible” for individuals who have completed training but not yet passed a specialty examination. Nor is it acceptable to use a designation indicating that you have passed the board examination during your residency program.*

I.A. GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF AN ACVB RESIDENCY TRAINING PROGRAM

I.A.1. The ACVB Role Delineation Document (RDD) defines the educational requirement of the residency program and is the basis on which examinations are developed. It would be expected that a veterinary behaviorist should have a thorough understanding of the tasks outlined in the ACVB Role Delineation Document (See Section VIII.A.1 – Supporting Documents)).

I.A.2. Comprehensive behavior residency needs training beyond case work. Residents are required to complete a minimum of six (6) training modules. (See Section VI ACVB By-Laws Article VI, Section D AND Section VIII.B Form C and D for more information.)

I.A.3. An organized self-study program should be developed by the resident, in consultation with the Supervising Diplomate. A comprehensive reading list should be provided by the Supervising Diplomate to the resident at the start of the program including, in general, animal behavior, behavioral therapy, and behavior of domestic animals. Important current and past empirical, clinical, and review papers should be recommended. (See Section VIII.A.1. Supporting Documents for the Reading List)

I.B. SUPERVISED RESIDENCY TRAINING – THE DEFINITION

I.B.1. The By-Laws of the American College of Veterinary Behaviorists ARTICLE VI Residency Programs, Section 1 b) Case Load states: “...The resident should have primary responsibility for cases, including receiving, diagnosis, management, client communication, and case follow-up...”

I.B.1.1. As part of the learning process, residents should observe an ACVB Supervising Diplomate as he/she progresses through behavior cases, and these cases can count toward the individual’s caseload. However, even if observing an ACVB Diplomate as part of the caseload, the individual in training **MUST** have primary responsibility for the case and be at least responsible for client communication and case follow-up. Without these components, the case cannot count as part of the Applicant’s caseload. If there are multiple individuals present for the observed case, only one individual can have primary responsibility for the case, e.g., that case cannot be counted toward the caseload of other observers.

I.C. TRADITIONAL BEHAVIOR RESIDENCY PROGRAMS (TBRP) APPLICATIONS

I.C.1. While residents in a NTBRP must present a detailed description of their proposed program for review by the ACVB Specialty Training Committee and eventual acceptance, it should be noted that residents in a TBRP are entering into a program at an institution that has already had the program evaluated and approved by the ACVB Specialty Training Committee (STC). The details of each program are contained in the program application to STC for each institution and should meet the requirements set forth in the ACVB By-Laws for Traditional Residents.

I.C.2. Specific requirements for a traditional program in veterinary clinical behavioral medicine are included in the By-Laws of the American College of Veterinary Behaviorists ARTICLE VI, Section 1.

I.C.2.1. A copy of the pertinent sections of the By-Laws of the ACVB pertaining to residency training is included in this information packet (see Section VI). It is the obligation of the Applicant to provide proof by letter from the ACVB Supervising Diplomate (SD) that he/she is a resident in an ACVB Traditional Behavior Residency Program (TBRP).

I.C.2.2. Current Traditional Behavior Residency Programs (TBRPs) which have been approved by the ACVB as meeting training criteria are: University of California - Davis, North Carolina State University, LTC Daniel E Holland Military Working Dog Veterinary Hospital Program, University of Montreal, The Ohio State University, University of Pennsylvania, and Purdue University. Others may be added during the year.

I.C.3. Individuals beginning an ACVB Traditional Behavior Residency Program (TBRP) should register with the ACVB near the beginning of the residency using the Registration Form (See Section VIII. B –Form A). This form should be accompanied by the registration fee. **The Fee Structure for all stages of the residency process is referenced in Section V of this packet.** Subsequent applications must be accompanied by a re-registration fee. Individuals in traditional programs are expected to keep a case log similar to that described for people in non-traditional programs. (See Section VIII.B Form E)

I.C.4. Residents in ACVB Traditional Behavior Residency Programs (TBRP) will be expected to keep patient case logs. Minimally a case log should include:

- Patient name
- Appointment date
- Appointment location
- Species
- Diagnosis
- Supervising Diplomate (SD) for case
- Follow-up contact dates
- A separate summary page with number of cases seen by species/diagnosis

I.C.4.1. A sample case log can be found in Section VIII B – Form E

I.C.4.2. An example case summary page:

A. Feline Housesoiling: 137	
Inappropriate Elimination: 90	
Litter Box Aversion: 18	
Substrate Preference: 19	
Litter Aversion: 17	
Location Aversion: 18	
Location Preference: 18	
Spraying: 47	
B. Anxiety: 111	
Separation anxiety disorder	33
Storm phobia	29
Generalized anxiety	28
Noise phobia	14
Confinement-related anxiety	4
Night-related anxiety	3
C. Etc.	
Total Dogs: 256	
Total Cats: 68	
Total Horses: 15	
Total Cattle: 6 herds	
Total Swine: 2 herds	

Total Psittacine: 13
Total Other: 12
Percentage with follow up less than or equal to 3 months: 5%
Percentage with follow up less than or equal to 6 months: 15%
Percentage with follow up greater than 6 months: 80%
Total number of cases: 523 (NOTE: minimum of 400 cases required)
Total number of case hours: 2700 hours (# of cases x average of 6.5 hours/case)

I.C.5. Submission of an application to sit the examination, evidence of a scientific publication, and letters of evaluation should not be submitted earlier than October of the second year of a 2-year TBRP residency or in the third year of a 3-year TBRP residency.

I.D. NON-TRADITIONAL BEHAVIOR RESIDENCY PROGRAM (NTBRP) APPLICANT INSTRUCTIONS

I.D.1. Linked to this packet is a Non-Traditional Behavior Residency Program application form to assist you in determining what items are needed to complete a NTBRP. **See Section VII. B. Form C.**

I.D.2. Specific requirements for non-traditional programs in veterinary behavior are included in ARTICLE VI, Section 2 of the By-Laws of the American College of Veterinary Behaviorists, see Section VI of this packet.

I.D.3. Individuals intending to start a non-traditional program must register their intentions with the ACVB on the appropriate form (Form A -Registration for Individuals Beginning Training in Section VIII.) This registration of intent to begin a non-traditional program must be accompanied by a letter from the ACVB Supervising Diplomate (SD) and by the appropriate fee.

I.D.3.1. It shall be the obligation of the Applicant to provide proof by letter from the SD that he/she has agreed to mentor the Applicant.

I.D.3.1.1. The Supervising Diplomate (SD) must be a board-certified member of the ACVB. Other considerations should include availability and commitment of the SD. It is up to the resident to find an ACVB Diplomate who is willing to serve as his/her SD. One ACVB Diplomate will serve as the individual's primary supervisor; however, the resident may include periods of training under the guidance of other ACVB Diplomates.

I.D.3.1.2. Financial arrangements with the SD: The task of properly supervising a resident through a non-traditional training program involves significant resources. Compensation to the SD for this service may vary widely based upon the specific

situation of the diplomate. A financial arrangement should be established and documented.

I.D.3.2. The funds enclosed with the application cover the individual's first submission of materials for training program approval and for first submission of the completed program materials. No refunds will be made if the application is rejected or the individual decides not to continue toward certification. Second and subsequent applications for reevaluation after alteration must be accompanied by the appropriate fee. (See Section V for fees)

I.D.3.3. Detailed materials about the intended training program should be submitted electronically to ACVB as early in the program as possible. An early request for review of the intended program will allow the maximum opportunity to meet the requirements of a recognized program. Specific and detailed information about the program and how it will meet the requirements of the Guidelines for Non-traditional Behavior Residency Training Programs, as defined in the ACVB By-Laws, is necessary. **The burden of proof that the Applicant's program meets the ACVB requirements lies with the Applicant.** It is expected that each item will be discussed and documented in detail to ensure the program meets the guidelines and is the equivalent of a traditional residency program.

I.D.3.4. Note: Applicants to a NTBRP have 18 months from the time of submitting a registration letter to the ED until they submit a proposed training program.

I.D.4. The Applicant should describe the relationship of the SD to the various cases seen. The following summarizes the required case supervision relationship:

I.D.4.1. The program will include at least 2600 hours (= 65-75% of training) of primary patient care and work up. Note: This assumes an **average** time spent per case of 6.5 hours. It is the responsibility of the SD that this average is being met by the resident.

I.D.4.2. The applicant will see at least 400 cases. For example, is the resident joining an existing practice? What are the projected numbers of cases per year in that practice? Is the resident creating their own practice? How quickly does he/she expect it to build? What is the plan for building a business providing this number of required cases in the residency time-line?

I.D.4.3. The SD will be present and/or review the cases as outlined:

I.D.4.3.1. Cases 1-25: SD present for all cases (**physical presence of the SD during the consultation is necessary** to ensure that all educational interactions and aspects of case management are available to the resident)

I.D.4.3.2. Cases 26-75: SD present for 25 cases and the other 25 reviewed within 48 hrs.

I.D.4.3.3. Cases 76-150: SD reviews within 7 days (physical presence of SD not required)

I.D.4.3.4. Cases 151-400: SD reviews within 30 days (physical presence of SD not required)

I.D.5. The initial application should include a description of the types of cases and species that are expected to be seen and why this is anticipated. In the final submission, the Applicant should include a detailed listing of behavior caseload organized as outlined in Section I.C.

I.D.5.1. The percentage of cases in which follow-up information was obtained and how that information was obtained, for each year that this information is listed.

I.D.5.1.1. Case Follow-up: The resident should attempt to obtain follow-up on all cases as this provides some of the most important feedback regarding treatment

recommendations. A minimum of 60% of the cases eligible for inclusion in the program should have documented follow-up with the client.

I.D.5.2. An approximation of time spent on each case for initial consultations and follow-ups.

I.D.5.3. Where the consultation took place (i.e. office visit, home visit, and/or telephone consultation).

I.D.5.4. Time spent in consultation with veterinarians on behavior issues and cases.

I.D.6. If the Applicant will experience a limited number of species in clinical cases, the program should show how information and competency will be achieved in other species. For example, if the Applicant sees only canine and feline cases, how will the Applicant learn about laboratory animals, zoo animals, and large animal behavior problems?

I.D.7. Teaching and Education of others: The Applicant should list all seminars and presentations they expect to make to veterinarians, veterinary technicians, and the public. The resident is expected to give lectures, continuing education seminars, and research presentations. The final version should also include dates, locations, and the topic presented.

I.D.8. Annual Behavioral Meeting attendance: Resident will be expected to attend at least one (1) major behavioral meeting per year, such as the annual behavior meeting sponsored by ACVB. Attendance should be noted in submission materials for approval of the completed program.

I.D.9. Documentation of Core Knowledge Acquired: Resident will be responsible for keeping a log of academic courses taken, reading, attending seminars, or finding other ways to fulfill the ACVB requirement of core knowledge as stated in the By-Laws.

I.D.10. Research Publication: Resident is expected to have published a research-based scientific paper in the field of behavior as stated in the ACVB By-Laws. The SD will be expected to provide guidance and support in the establishment of a research project.

I.D.11. At the expected completion of a non-traditional program, the Applicant shall electronically submit a copy of materials that include the originally accepted proposed program and a side-by-side detailed comparison of the actual training program followed noting variations from the proposed program and how the specific ACVB requirement was met. All program completion logs (see Section VIII. B. Forms D and E) must be filled out in full and submitted with the completed program. It is important to remember that Committee members reviewing the completed materials must have documentation of the original proposal to compare what was proposed with what was actually done.

I.D.12. Note: *Applicants are encouraged to submit appropriate materials to the ACVB to have their non-traditional program evaluated as soon as possible, preferably prior to its beginning.*

*Deviations from the original approved non-traditional program MUST also be reevaluated, including how they impact the entire program. It is the **Applicant's** responsibility to provide all appropriate information about program changes. ACVB reserves the right to reject an application if the Applicant has modified a previously approved non-traditional program and that modification has not met approval of the ACVB.*

I.D.13. Note: *The appeals process is limited to the review of due process. The purpose is to ensure that the appealing individual has been treated in accordance with all policies and procedures of the American College of Veterinary Behaviorists and that no mathematical errors have been made in scoring. The appeals process is not intended to re-grade case reports or examinations.*

I.E. NON-TRADITIONAL BEHAVIOR RESIDENCY TRAINING PROGRAM (NTBRP) CREDENTIALING COMPLETION CHECKLIST

I.E.1. Submit complete information about the completed training program, comparing it to what was submitted in the tentatively approved proposed program. The material submitted for final approval will need to verify that the proposed program was followed and elaborate on where deviations occurred. In all cases the materials must show that the program was equivalent to what is expected in a traditional program. See the preceding section and the ACVB By-Laws for specifics. One electronic copy of all materials should be submitted. Materials submitted are expected to be VERY detailed.

II. CASE REPORT INFORMATION

II.A. INSTRUCTIONS FOR CASE REPORTS

II.A.1. Note: *There is a separate case report fee that must be submitted with the first case report. (See Section V – Fee Structure)*

II.A.2. Purposes of the Case Reports

II.A.2.1. To verify Resident has been working in the area of veterinary behavior.

II.A.2.2. To demonstrate Resident’s ability to use behavioral principles in the diagnosis and treatment of behavior-related situations.

II.A.2.3. To display Resident’s ability to communicate behavioral observations and data to colleagues in a clear, concise and organized manner.

II.A.2.4. To display Resident’s ability to evaluate and make differential diagnoses related to medical etiologies of behavioral disorders.

II.A.3. Case Selection for Case Reports

II.A.3.1. Residents should carefully select the case reports. The following should be considered when selecting case reports.

II.A.3.1.1. Cases submitted must represent patients from a minimum of two (2) species.

II.A.3.1.2. Each case must have a different major diagnosis (i.e. Resident must present evaluation, diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up for at least three distinct behavioral problems, one each per case report submitted).

II.A.3.1.3. Each of the case reports must represent substantially different behavior problems. For example, fear of strangers and fear of thunderstorms are both disorders of fear. Only one report is acceptable if both cases had similar behavioral manifestation and treatments.

II.A.3.1.4. Select cases that are **sufficiently complicated** to demonstrate Resident's ability to interpret and use medical and behavioral information. Avoid overly complex cases or extremely straight-forward diagnoses or therapies - no matter how interesting or complex the pathogenesis of the problem may be.

II.A.3.2. The case reports must demonstrate Resident’s abilities in **clinical behavioral medicine**. This includes thoroughness, logic and accuracy in assessment, diagnosis and therapy as well as overall case management.

II.A.3.2.1. All appropriate differential diagnoses should be mentioned followed by a description of the logic used to arrive at the final diagnosis.

II.A.3.2.2. Laboratory tests should be justified and abnormal results, if any, discussed.

II.A.3.2.3. If there are appropriate and recognized veterinary medical diagnostic tests or therapies that were not used because they were not available or because of the owner's financial restrictions, mention the contribution they could have made to the case.

II.A.3.2.4. Finally, do NOT write a case report on laboratory research even if it has direct applications to clinical behavior.

II.A.3.3. The case reports must demonstrate Resident's ability to evaluate widely variable behavioral situations. Examples could vary from a case with major medical or neurological components, one with detailed learning patterns, a herd problem, or a laboratory animal enrichment problem. Regardless of the components of the case, the case should be one in which the primary problem is behavioral in origin.

II.A.3.3.1. If unsure whether the cases are sufficiently different, the Resident should petition the Chair of the Credentials Committee for a ruling (sent to the Executive Director). Do this well in advance of the application deadline.

II.A.3.4. The case should not be one previously published or submitted for publication.

II.A.3.5. Do **not** submit the following as case reports as such cases will be automatically deemed unacceptable.

II.A.3.5.1. Cases without a minimum of six (6) months follow-up.

II.A.3.5.2. Cases in which the animal or animals being treated died, were rehomed, or were euthanized before treatment was instituted, or before the six (6) month minimum follow-up period was completed.

II.A.3.5.3. Cases with a primary medical etiology for which no behavioral modification was suggested or instituted by the owner.

II.A.3.5.4. Cases with major procedural errors (i.e. exceeding the eight (8) page limit, not double spaced, failed to maintain anonymity, missing parts)

II.A.4. Note: *In the event that one or more case reports does not pass, ACVB strongly recommends the Resident review them using the provided recommendations/comments to strengthen the submission of other cases.*

II.B. FORMAT OF CASE REPORTS

II.B.1. NOTE: If a case report does not conform to format, the case report will be rejected without being read.

II.B.2. Reports must be typed using 12 point, Times New Roman font, double-spaced with one-inch (1") margins top, bottom and both sides. Case report must include line numbers. Line numbering should begin on line one and be continuous through the entire document. Line numbering should be in left margin only.

II.B.3. Laboratory data, radiology reports, and other data should be tabulated or included as appendices. Laboratory data, radiology reports and other data are not included in the eight (8) page limit.

II.B.3.1. Laboratory results may be submitted as a copy of the original lab report from the diagnostic laboratory provided, they include a reference range and, to maintain the college's rules for anonymity, there is no identifying information including, but not limited to, patient, clinician, owner, clinic information and location. If this copy is not clearly legible, the Resident should reenter the information as advised below.

II.B.3.2. If the laboratory data is not legible, the case report may be returned to the Applicant without review. Reference values for laboratory should be listed in the first column of each page of patient laboratory data.

II.B.4. Each report should have a title page that includes a six (6) digit security code of the Resident's choosing, the case report number, and title. The title page is not included in the eight (8) page limit. A two to four (2-4) sentence summary of the case should be included on the title page. The same six (6) digit security code should be used for **all** case reports submitted.

II.B.5. The reports should be written in narrative format. **Grammar and spelling are evaluated.** All cases should be written with strict attention to editorial detail. Residents are ENCOURAGED to use the spellcheck feature of the word processing application used, use syntax and grammar programs, and carefully proofread work before submission because these can be a significant cause of point deductions.

II.B.5.1. Programs which utilize online help, customer support, technical support or person-to-person help in any way, shape, or form cannot be used. Applicants may not receive help from any person while writing a case report with the exception of case report number one as specifically described.

II.B.6. Plagiarism is not allowed and will not be tolerated. Extensive quotations are not allowed.

II.B.7. Residents must not identify themselves in any way except by the six (6) digit code of their choosing as previously described. Be certain all identifying marks including, but not limited to, signatures, hospital names, service names, cities, and so on, do not appear in the text or appendices. Failure to maintain anonymity will cause the case report to be returned to the candidate without review.

II.B.8. When indicated, statements must be backed up by references. References should be formatted in the style of the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association (JAVMA). References are not included in the eight (8) page limit. References which are not formatted correctly will result in deductions from the total score and may affect whether or not the case passes review.

II.B.9. Residents can utilize page numbering such as “page _ of 8” or the title as a footer to ensure case report pages stay together and in order. Do not repeat the numerical ID as a footer.

II.C. SUBMISSION OF CASE REPORTS

II.C.1. Case reports may be submitted at any time.

II.C.2. Case reports should be regarding cases seen during a residency. Case reports must have 6 months of follow up.

II.C.3. Case Report #1 -- After the Resident has seen 75 cases in any supervised training program already approved by ACVB, he/she may submit case report #1 to ACVB for evaluation.

II.C.3.1. The Resident may write case report #1, and **only** this case report, with SD assistance. This case report must be clearly identified as case report #1 for evaluation and possible revision as stipulated below with “*Case report #1 Option for Revision*” on the title page.

II.C.3.2. The case must have been managed by the Resident during the residency. The case report should be identified with the Resident's six (6) digit security code and meet other criteria as set forth in the Training Program section of this ACVB Applicant Packet.

II.C.3.3. One (1) copy of a letter signed by the Resident and the SD should be included that specifically and clearly states that:

II.C.3.3.1. The Resident had primary case responsibility for the case submitted as case report #1.

II.C.3.3.2. The Resident did not have any help or aid in writing, preparing, or correcting case report #1 other than from the Supervising Diplomate (SD) named when the Resident registered with ACVB.

II.C.3.3.3. The case report may be used in the future by ACVB as examples of case reports.

II.C.3.4. If case report #1 receives three (3) or more of five (5) scores greater than 6.0, it will pass the review process. If the case report receives failing marks, it will be returned to the Resident with suggestions for improvement and may be revised and resubmitted.

II.C.3.5. The case report title of the resubmitted case report #1 must match the case report title first submitted exactly and the case described must be the same, i.e. patient(s) must be the same as first submitted. No substitutions will be allowed as a revised case report.

II.C.3.6. If the revised case report #1 fails re-submission, it may **not** be submitted again. A new case report #1 must be submitted. No other case report will be allowed to be revised.

II.C.3.7. If more than one case report (i.e. case report #2 and/or #3) is submitted with the one being reviewed by the SD, the Resident must make it clear as to which case report is the one that had assistance (i.e. titled "Case Report #1, Option for Revision). The burden to make the distinction clear is on the Resident and if not identified, then all cases will be treated as a case report that cannot be re-written.

II.C.4. Case Reports #2 and 3 -- Case reports #2 and #3 may be submitted at any time and they are **not** revisable.

II.C.4.1. Case reports #2 and #3 must be the sole work of the Resident. An ACVB Diplomate may examine case records and advise the Resident as to the suitability of a given case. However, once the Resident begins to write the case report, no one is allowed to help him/her. The case report must reflect the Resident's thoughts, not a consensus of opinion.

II.C.4.2. One (1) copy of a letter signed by the Resident and the Supervising Diplomate should be included that specifically and clearly states that:

II.C.4.2.1. The Resident did have primary case responsibility for the cases submitted as case reports.

II.C.4.2.2. The Resident did not have any help or aid in writing, preparing, or correcting the case reports, except with the revisable case report described above.

II.C.4.2.3. These case reports may be used in the future by ACVB as examples of case reports.

II.C.5. Case reports will be evaluated and results provided within 120 days of submission.

II.C.6. ACVB may or may not consider the use of the case report for publication as a Behavior Case of the Month in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association.

II.C.7. Submission of case reports -- One copy of each case report should be sent electronically to the Executive Director of the American College of Veterinary Behaviorists along with the appropriate fee which covers the review of all case reports.

II.D. EVALUATION OF CASE REPORTS

II.D.1. Format for submission -- Case reports should be submitted electronically in two (2) forms - .doc Microsoft Word document and a .pdf Adobe document. Case reports must include line numbers

II.D.2. Duration of case report reviews -- The Applicant should expect to receive the results of an individual case report review within 120 days of the receipt of the case report by the Executive Director. For example, if the Executive Director receives the case report on September 1, the Applicant should expect the results of the review by December 29 of the same year.

II.D.3. Case reports containing major procedural errors, including but not limited to: exceeding the eight (8) page limit, incorrect font type or size, incorrect margins, report not double-spaced, failure to maintain anonymity, missing parts, etc., will automatically fail and will not be sent out to the Credentials Committee.

II.D.4. Scoring of case reports – Please see the Case Report Rubric below for complete detail as to how cases are scored. All parameters are outlined on the Case Report Rubric. Each parameter is scored on a Likert scale ranging from 1 to 5, with one being equivalent to “does not meet expectations” and 5 “greatly exceeds expectations.”

II.D.4.1. Weighted parameters – Each parameter is weighted based on the importance of that parameter to the overall assessment of the candidate’s ability to equal a maximum score of 10.

II.D.4.2. A score greater than 6.0 denotes a passing score. Case reports which receive scores less than or equal to 6.0 will be considered to have failed review.

II.D.4.3. Any case report that receives a score of 6.0 or less from three (3) or more reviewers fails, and no additional reviews will be obtained.

II.D.4.4. Red Button Items – these items denote items that will cause an automatic failure of the case.

II.D.4.4.1. Failure to maintain anonymity.

II.D.4.4.2. The case is not significantly challenging or complex

II.D.4.4.3. The case report did not contain all required elements including: presenting complaint, summary, signalment, history, behavioral and physical examination, treatment, diagnosis, follow up, references, and laboratory values.

II.D.4.4.4. The primary diagnosis is a medical problem and treatment of the medical condition is sufficient to resolve the behavioral component.

II.D.4.4.5. Cases with a primary medical etiology for which no behavioral modification is suggested or instituted by the owner.

II.D.4.4.6. Cases that do not have a minimum of six (6) months of follow up.

II.D.4.4.7. The animal or animals being treated died, were rehomed, or were euthanized before treatment was instituted, or before the six (6) months minimum follow-up period was completed.

II.D.5. Case Report Rubric -- The following is used by the Credentials Committee to evaluate submitted case reports:

Passing score = greater than 6.0.				
	Score (1-5)	Guidelines	Comments	Weighted score
Reviewer's Name:				
Applicant Number:				
Year evaluated:				
Case number:				
Parameter Description				

RBI-The candidate failed to maintain anonymity by revealing his or her name or by revealing the name or specific location of the owner, veterinarians, or the facility in which the patient was treated.				
RBI-The case report did not contain all required elements including: presenting complaint, summary, signalment, history, behavioral and physical examination, treatment, diagnosis, follow up, references and laboratory values.		These exact items must be present, however there aren't any guidelines as to what they should be called. They should be distinctive, labeled elements of the case report.		
Case Summary				
The case summary is no more than 4 sentences and accurately reflects the content of the case report.				0.90
Case Selection				
RBI-The case report was not significantly challenging or complex enough to be consistent with the level of a specialist in behavioral medicine.		Cases that fail to demonstrate the candidate's competence as a veterinary behaviorist will not be accepted.		

The case was sufficiently challenging and complex to demonstrate the expertise of the candidate.				1.20
The case selected required and report included a discussion of the use of medication.				1.00
This case required and report included a behavioral and medical diagnostic workup.				0.90
This case selected was complex, but not too complex to be appropriately addressed in the allotted eight pages.				1.00
Observations, Physical Exam Findings, Laboratory Results				
All laboratory findings have been assessed.				0.75
Excessive, unnecessary or inappropriate diagnostic tests were not performed.				0.75
Diagnostic tests that were necessary to confirm or substantiate the diagnoses were recommended.		Primary medical problems, the behavioral component of which is not treatable are not acceptable.		1.00

Adequate observations, history and physical findings were reported to support the diagnos(es)				1.20
Diagnosis				
RBI -The primary diagnosis is a medical problem and treatment of the medical condition is sufficient to resolve the behavioral component.				
The differential diagnoses are supported by history, diagnostic tests and clinical observations.				1.20
The differential diagnoses are complete and contain no superfluous differentials.				1.00
The differential diagnoses are complete and contain no significant omissions.				1.00
In this case, all appropriate medical and behavioral differentials were considered.				1.00
The differential diagnoses are supported by references.				1.00
The differential diagnoses are clearly defined.				1.20

The reason for excluding each differential diagnoses has been explained.				0.90
The diagnostic decision making process is clearly discussed.				1.20
The working diagnoses are supported by history, diagnostic tests and clinical observations.				1.00
The working diagnoses are complete and contain no superfluous differentials.				0.90
The working diagnoses are complete and contain no significant omissions.				0.90
The working diagnoses are supported by references.				0.90
The working diagnoses are clearly defined.				1.00
The working diagnoses reflect adequate and correct scientific reasoning.				0.90
Treatment				

RBI-Cases with a primary medical etiology for which no behavioral modification was suggested or instituted by the owner.				
Medical therapy was appropriate, and was not delayed, withheld, or detrimental to the patient.				0.90
Behavioral therapy was appropriate, and was not delayed, withheld, or detrimental to the patient.				1.20
The potential for problems produced by a treatment were addressed.				1.00
Appropriate safety measures were addressed.				1.00
Significant medical side effects associated with medication were addressed.				0.90
The optimal diagnostic and therapeutic plan was followed or an adequate explanation was provided.				1.20
The medical therapy (pharmacological, surgical, dietary, nutraceuticals, alternative therapies) reflects adequate and correct scientific reasoning.				0.90
The candidate did not exhibit an inadequate, incorrect or outdated understanding of pathophysiology. (Remember: 1=strongly disagree; 5=strongly agree)				0.90
Medication choices were appropriate and resident explained their use well.				1.20

Medication dosing adjustments were appropriate.				1.00
The treatment options are adequately referenced.				0.90
This case included an appropriate and sufficient treatment plan adjustment.				1.00
Follow up				
RBI-Case does not have a minimum of 6 months of follow up.				
RBI-The animal or animals being treated died, were rehomed or were euthanized before treatment was instituted, or before the six (6) months minimum follow-up period was completed.				
The follow up included at least one change to the treatment plan.				01.10
The follow up is sufficient to support the continued progress of the case.				1.20

Grammar/Spelling				
Spelling was consistently correct.				0.90
Grammar was consistently correct.				0.90
The tone was formal and professional.				1.00
References/Citations				
The reference values for laboratory tests are included for the laboratory tests provided				0.75
The citations are formatted in keeping with the current ACVB resident guidelines.				1.00
Relevant citations are not missing				1.00
The candidate demonstrated knowledge of current and appropriate references. The references were not outdated or incorrectly described..				1.20

		Passing score = greater than 6.0	Final Score	

II.D.6. Case report results -- Each reviewer will record his/her evaluation on a standard form indicating the number of points assigned and the reasons for the point assignments. These forms will be retained by ACVB. The Chairperson of the Credentials Committee, through the ACVB Executive Director, will send a written summary of the important reasons for case report rejection to an unsuccessful Resident.

II.D.7. Three passed case reports – A Resident must have three (3) passing case reports before being considered for Diplomate status.

II.E. EXAMPLE CASE REPORTS

II.E.1. The following case reports were submitted to ACVB and passed the review process. They are presented here as examples. Click on a link to go to the specific case report.

II.E.1.1. [Case Report #123456](#): *House-soiling in a 5yo Savannah cat*

II.E.1.2. [Case Report #456789](#): *Separation anxiety and noise phobia in a mixed breed dog*

II.E.1.3. [Case Report #654321](#): *Compulsive fly snapping in a neutered male Cavalier King Charles Spaniel ([Approval Letter](#))*

III. APPLICATION FOR BOARD CERTIFICATION

Note: There is NO designation of “board eligible” for individuals who have completed training but not yet passed a specialty examination. The AVMA considers veterinarians to either be board certified or not board certified. In addition, there is no special designation for those that have passed the board examination, but have not yet completed the credentialing process for Board Certification.

III.A. GENERAL APPLICATION INFORMATION

III.A.1 It is the responsibility of the **Resident** to be sure the most recent forms are used when applying to sit for the examination. The forms for applications are to be submitted March 1 preceding the intended examination. A fifty-one dollar (\$51) Administrative Fee must accompany the Application for Examination (Section VIII.B. Form G). Additionally, a three hundred and nine-dollar (\$309) Examination Fee must also be sent with the Application for Examination. Send any questions **in writing** via e-mail to: info@dacvb.org

III.A.2. The Application for Examination and the appropriate fee should be emailed to the Executive Director. Cash-on-delivery (COD) packages will not be accepted.

III.A.3. Correspondence, particularly that requiring Credentials Committee assessment, must be sent sufficiently in advance of deadlines (at least six (6) weeks) to enable the committee to act upon it. Applicant will receive a written reply to inquiries. Any e-mail correspondence **MUST** be acknowledged to know that it was received.

III.A.4. Applications for Examination of individuals in an approved residency program cannot be made earlier than October of the second year of a 2-year residency or in the third year of a 3-year residency (and no less than 18 months into any approved residency program).

III.B. SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION MATERIALS FOR EXAMINATION AND BOARD CERTIFICATION

III.B.1. Residents must satisfy the Credentials Committee that the following items have been satisfactorily completed by including the materials listed below in order to be considered for Board Certification by the ACVB. It is the **Resident’s** responsibility to see that the following six (6) items are submitted:

III.B.2. One (1) electronic copy of the Resident’s:

III.B.2.1. Diploma from a school or college accredited or approved by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), **OR**

III.B.2.2. Certificate of Accreditation in Veterinary Medicine from the Educational Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates (ECFVG) of the AVMA, **OR**

III.B.2.3. Legal document of qualification to practice veterinary medicine in some state, province, territory, or possession of the United States, Canada, or other country.

III.B.3. Individuals in a TBRP must submit one (1) electronic copy of the certificate of successful completion of the residency or a letter indicating successful **COMPLETION** of a traditional residency written by the director of the TBRP. Individuals in a NTBRP must submit

certification from the Specialty Training Committee that their program has passed and is completed.

III.B.4. Applicants are required to publish a peer-reviewed, original, data-based research publication for which the applicant is the first author. Review papers are not acceptable. The focus of this paper must be some aspect of animal behavior, veterinary behavior, or behavioral medicine. This first-authored publication must be in an acceptable peer-reviewed, academic journal. Papers must be submitted **NO LATER** than March 1 of the year the applicant intends to take the exam, and accepted for publication **NO LATER** than September 1 of the same year. Applicants are encouraged to complete and submit their papers earlier than this and as early as possible since peer-review can be time consuming. A list of acceptable journals and instructions about how to seek an exception can be found in *Section III.F Scientific Publications*.

III.B.4.1. As part of their application to sit the examination, due **no later than March 1** of the year in which the exam is to occur, applicants must submit:

III.B.4.1.1. The manuscript of their paper, **along with the journal's notification that the manuscript was submitted prior to March 1 and is undergoing review** (See example below). This manuscript should be watermarked 'SUBMITTED'.

III.B.4.1.1.1 [Example of a submission letter](#)

OR

III.B.4.1.2. The accepted manuscript along with the acceptance letter provided by the journal and the assigned DOI (digital object identifier). This manuscript should be watermarked 'ACCEPTED'.

III.B.4.1.2.1 [Example from an accepted manuscript](#)

OR

III.B.4.1.3. The PDF of the most recent version of the final accepted paper, which has been downloaded from or provided by the journal. PDFs of proofs, corrected proofs, or final online/in print papers are acceptable since they will automatically carry the DOI and the journal's information.

III.B.4.1.3.1. [Example of first page of an article in press](#)

III.B.4.2. Please **note:** If your paper has not been accepted by **March 1** of the year in which you seek to take the examination, and your application to sit the examination passes, you must submit **either** the accepted manuscript along with the acceptance letter provided by the journal and the assigned DOI (digital object identifier) or the PDF of the paper in press or in print by September 1. Manuscripts that are accepted should be watermarked 'ACCEPTED'. The PDF of the most recent version of the final accepted paper should be downloaded from or provided by the journal **no later than September 1** of the same year. Please note, PDFs of proofs, corrected proofs, or final online/in print papers will automatically carry the DOI and the journal's information.

III.B.5. One (1) electronic copy of the Applicant Evaluation Form from each of three (3) different evaluators. (Applicant Evaluation Forms are in Section VIII. B. Form F)

III.B.5.1. Completed [Applicant Evaluation Forms](#) must arrive from at least three (but not more than five) veterinarians who can assess the candidate's performance in the area of animal behavior. At least one of these veterinarians **MUST** be an ACVB diplomate. Each evaluator **MUST** send one (1) electronic copy of the completed evaluation form. The evaluator

should e-mail the evaluation form directly to the ACVB Executive Director. A letter may be used in lieu of the form if all information requested on the form is described in the letter.

III.B.5.2. ACVB will NOT confirm arrival of the forms to the Candidate.

III.B.5.3. Negative evaluations may result in rejection of the application.

III.B.5.4. ACVB reserves the right to solicit information from individuals other than those supplied by the Candidate, but the Candidate will be notified.

III.B.6. The appropriate fee must accompany the copy of the Application for Examination (See Section V Fees). Re-applications must also be accompanied by the appropriate fee. A personal check is acceptable. Candidates from outside the United States must send a money order.

III.B.7. Note: *Additions or substitutions (or the like) to the Application sent under separate cover will NOT be accepted.*

III.C. TIMELINE AND REQUIREMENTS FOR EXAMINATION COMPLETION

III.C. The Candidate must successfully pass the examination within eight (8) years of the initial Application for Examination. The appropriate fee will be charged each time the examination is taken.

III.C.1. The Candidate who does not pass the examination within eight (8) years of the first submission of the Application for Examination must begin the process of Board Certification over, including new case reports, a new research project, submission and approval of a new program for NTBR programs or re-entry into a TBR program, new evaluation letters, new application to sit (and proof of passing) the exam and payment of appropriate fees.

III.C.2. If a Candidate must delay taking the examination following notification of an acceptable application, the ACVB Executive Director must be notified. No portion of the prescribed fee(s) will be refunded. When this delayed Candidate takes the examination for the first time, no additional fee will be assessed. The Candidate must pass the examination within the time limit of eight (8) years from the time of initial application to take the examination.

III.C.3. The Candidate who wishes to take the examination following a delay or to retake the examination MUST notify the ACVB Executive Director of such intent IN WRITING and including all current contact information. This notification and a check for the examination fee must ARRIVE in the Executive Director's office no later than March 1 of the same year in which the Candidate wishes to sit for the examination. ACVB will NOT send reminders to people who may wish to re-sit the examination.

III.C.4. The Candidate must achieve a designated passing score on the entire examination.

III.C.4.1. If the Candidate does not pass, the Candidate will be required to retake the entire examination at the Candidate's next attempt.

III.C.4.2. The fee to retake the examination will be the same as the fee to take the examination the first time.

III.C.5. The ACVB complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended by the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendment Act of 2008 (the "ADA"). **If you have a disability / impairment which may require special accommodation(s) in order to take an examination, you must complete the application form (See Section VIII.B. H) and return it with your examination registration form by the registration deadline.** If accommodation(s) is (are) not requested in advance, ACVB cannot guarantee the availability of accommodation(s) on-site. Accommodation cannot be granted retroactively, so that if a candidate informs ACVB of an impairment or disability after the examination has been completed, there can be no changes made in that candidate's examination results or changes in how that candidate's examination is graded in comparison to other candidates.

III.D. REAPPLICATION AFTER REJECTED APPLICATION

III.D.1. If the Application for Board Certification was previously rejected, an ENTIRE, COMPLETE application packet must be resubmitted except as indicated in writing from the ACVB Executive Director and listed below.

III.D.2. Candidates passing the Application for Examination but lacking final acceptance of a publication must submit:

III.D.2.1. The accepted manuscript along with the acceptance letter provided by the journal and the assigned DOI (digital object identifier). This manuscript should be watermarked "ACCEPTED".

OR

III.D.2.2. The PDF of the most recent version of the final accepted paper, which has been downloaded from or provided by the journal. PDFs of proofs, corrected proofs, or final online/in print papers are acceptable since they will automatically carry the DOI and the journal's information.

AND

III.D.2.3. Payment in the amount of *three hundred and nine dollars (\$309)*.

III.E. EVALUATION PROCEDURE FOR APPLICATIONS FOR EXAMINATION AND BOARD CERTIFICATION

III.E.1. Each part of the Application for Examination will be evaluated as "acceptable" or "unacceptable".

III.E.2. Each application will be reviewed by five (5) members of the Credentials Committee and will require an acceptable score by at least three (3) of the five (5) members.

III.E.2.1. The reviewer will record his/her evaluation on a standard form that will be retained by ACVB.

III.E.3. All parts of the application must be satisfactory in order for the application to be accepted. If any part of the application is not acceptable, the entire application will be rejected.

III.E.4. Applicant Evaluation Forms are to be submitted by three (3) individuals for the evaluation. If for any reason forms from three (3) evaluators are not present at that time, the credentials WILL be rejected.

III.E.4.1. Each letter of evaluation will be reviewed for source of evaluation, whether or not the Candidate signed the confidentiality clause, and content of evaluation. An unsatisfactory evaluation is one wherein the letter fails to support the application.

III.E.4.2. If two (2) out of the three (3) letters of evaluation are deemed unsatisfactory by two (2) members of the Credentials Committee, the application will be disqualified.

III.E.4.3. If one (1) of the three (3) letters of evaluation is unsatisfactory, the Credentials Committee will review and discuss all the letters of evaluation.

III.E.4.4. Personal contact with the individual who wrote the unsatisfactory letter of evaluation may be deemed necessary prior to accepting the application.

III.E.5. One (1) electronic copy of a published, scientific article or submitted manuscript must be included in the application. Manuscripts must include a letter of receipt or letter of final acceptance from an approved journal.

III.E.5.1. Each submission will be reviewed to be sure it has been submitted to an approved, refereed journal and that an appropriate letter is attached in the case of a manuscript.

III.E.5.2. The content must be data-based, original research in the field of animal behavior.

III.E.5.3. The Candidate must be the first author.

III.E.5.4. Failure to meet one or more of the above criteria will result in the application being disqualified.

III.E.5.5. A change in the journal in which the manuscript is published or in the core of the manuscript submitted may result in disqualification of the Application for Board Certification.

III.E.5.6. One electronic copy of proof of **FINAL** acceptance (manuscript requiring no further review) by the journal must be received with the remainder of the packet for Application for Board Certification or the application will be rejected.

III.E.6. The Credentials Committee, through the ACVB Executive Director, will notify the Candidate of the acceptance or rejection of his/her credentials within 90 days of submission of his/her credentials. It is the responsibility of the **Candidate** to notify the ACVB Executive

Director IN WRITING of any address, e- mail address, or telephone number change. A Candidate's failure to notify the Credentials Committee of a current address may cause misdirected mail and a significant delay in communicating results.

III.F. SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

III.F.1. The Candidate be the first author of at least one, peer-reviewed paper of original, data-based scientific research (e.g. review papers are not acceptable) whose focus is some aspect of animal behavior, veterinary behavior or behavioral medicine. This first-authored publication must be in an acceptable peer-reviewed, academic journal. Papers must be submitted to the chosen journal by March 1 of the year the applicant intends to take the exam and accepted by the journal no later than September 1 of that same year. A partial list of acceptable journals is listed below:

III.F.2. ACCEPTABLE JOURNALS

American Journal of Veterinary Research
Animal Behavior
Anthrozoos
Applied Animal Behaviour Science
Australian Veterinary Journal
Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology
Behaviour
British Veterinary Journal
Canadian Journal of Veterinary Research
Canadian Veterinary Journal
Equine Veterinary Journal
Ethology
Frontiers in Veterinary Science
Institute for Laboratory Animal Research (ILAR) Journal
Journal of the American Animal Hospital Association
Journal of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine
Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association
Journal of Animal Science
Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science
Journal of Equine Veterinary Science
Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery
Journal of Primatology
Journal of Small Animal Practice
Journal of Veterinary Behavior: Clinical Applications and Research
Journal of Veterinary Medical Education
Journal of Veterinary Pharmacology and Therapeutics
Lab Animal Science
Laboratory Animal (British)
PLoS One
Preventive Veterinary Medicine

Research in Veterinary Science
Veterinary Record
Veterinary Science Research Communications
Veterinary Surgery

III.F.3. Note: *This list is not exhaustive. Other journals may be acceptable, but if the applicant wishes to use a publication from one of them to meet this requirement, the applicant needs to receive written approval from the Credentialing Committee. Publication in a journal not on the approved list requires that the applicant contact the ACVB Executive Director several months prior to submission so that the Credentialing Committee can determine if the proposed journal is acceptable.*

III.F.4. UNACCEPTABLE JOURNALS

Proceedings of ... (various meetings, specialties)

Short communications (in various journals)

Serial articles (behavior case of the month, what's your diagnosis?)

Letters to the editor

Lay publications, i.e., Cat Fancy, Western Horseman, etc.

IV. APPEALS PROCEDURE

ARTICLE X Appeal Procedure

Section 1

Procedure for Appeal of Adverse Decision

- a) Adverse decisions by the American College of Veterinary Behaviorists may include, but are not limited to:
 - 1) Denial of certification of an individual.
 - 2) Denial of adequacy of credentials.
 - 3) Denial of a proposed residency program.
 - 4) Suspension of certification.
 - 5) Failure of the examination.
- b) In the event of an adverse decision by the College, the College shall advise the affected person or the mentor of the affected residency program of the procedure for appealing the adverse decision. An affected party desiring to appeal the adverse decision must adhere to the following procedure:
 - 1) Grounds for Reconsideration or Review: The affected party may petition for reconsideration or review of the College's decision on the grounds that the College has ruled erroneously by:
 - (a) Disregarding the established College criteria for certification or approval.
 - (b) Failing to follow its stated procedures.
 - (c) Failing to consider relevant evidence and documentation presented.
 - 2) Petition for Reconsideration
 - (a) An affected party may petition the College to reconsider its decision by filing with the College a written petition for reconsideration which shall include a statement of the grounds for reconsideration and documentation, if any, in support of the petition.
 - (b) Such petition must be received in the College Executive Director's office within 30 days of the date the adverse decision is announced.
 - (c) The President shall name an Appeals Panel of three (3) diplomates to review the petition. The Panel may review only written materials, meet by telephone

conference or electronically, or at the discretion of the Chair of the Appeals Panel may call a special meeting to hear arguments from both sides of the issue. Travel for the affected party will be at other than ACVB expense.

(d) The Appeals Panel will meet in executive session to reach a final decision. This decision will be transmitted to the Board of Regents for information. The decision will then be delivered in writing by certified mail to the affected person or college not more than 30 days after it is made.

V. FEE STRUCTURE

V.A. Individuals are encouraged to check the website for updated versions of the Applicant Packet. This is updated yearly on *September 1*.

V.B. Any monies sent from outside the United States must be in the form of a money order payable in United States dollars.

V.C. Any materials submitted electronically that have accompanying fees will be held in the office until receipt of the fee. At that time appropriate reviews will be initiated.

V.D. Registration with ACVB for individuals who have been accepted into a TBRP or who are intending to begin a NTBTRP shall be one hundred and six dollars (\$106).

V.E. Application to ACVB by those in a NTBTRP for consideration of the Applicant's specific program is included with the registration fee of one hundred and three dollars (\$106).

V.E.1. Additional applications of proposed training programs, following the first rejection, shall be seventy-nine dollars (\$79).

V.E.2. There shall be no refund for rejection of any application or for discontinuation of the traditional or non-traditional program.

V.E.3. Reactivation of a program must be accompanied by seventy-nine dollars (\$79) reactivation fee.

V.F. Candidates submitting case reports for review must include a case report evaluation fee of two hundred and twelve dollars (\$212) at the time of submission of the first case report. This fee covers the evaluation of all case reports.

V.G. Application to sit the ACVB certifying examination shall be fifty-one dollars (\$51).

V.G.1. This fee is an administrative fee for consideration of the Application for Examination and must be included with the application.

V.G.2. There will be no refund for Candidates who do not pass the application process.

V.G.3. Payment of this fee may be combined with the examination fee listed below.

V.H. Examination fee shall be three hundred nine dollars (\$309).

V.H.1. This fee is due on or before *March 1* of the year the Candidate is intending to sit the examination.

V.H.2. The fee will be refunded if the Candidate does not pass the Application for Examination process, including the final acceptance of a scientific publication.

V.H.3. There shall be no refund for withdrawal from the Application for Examination process or failure to pass the examination.

V.H.4. There shall be no refund for Candidates who are physically unable to be present for the examination. Under certain instances described under the examination application section, the fee can be applied toward the next examination.

V.I. Candidates who successfully pass the ACVB certifying examination and are accepted for ACVB membership will be given the option of paying two hundred and twelve dollars (\$212) as the initial dues or they may submit ten (10) questions of specified format within two (2) months.

V.I.1. *Note: Annual dues for ACVB diplomates are currently three hundred twenty seven dollars (\$327 for 2019 increasing 3% annually) payable **July 1** each year.*

VI. BY-LAWS PERTAINING TO TRAINING

VIA. ACVB By-Laws relating to Training are addressed in ARTICLE V Certification and ARTICLE VI Residency Programs

ARTICLE V-- ACVB BY-LAWS

Certification

Section 1: Requirements for Admission to Examination for Certification

- a) A candidate must: (1) be a graduate of a school or college accredited or approved by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), or (2) have in his/her possession a certificate of accreditation in veterinary medicine from the Educational Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates (ECFVG) of the AVMA, or (3) be legally qualified to practice veterinary medicine in some state, province, territory, or possession of the United States, Canada, or other country.
- b) A candidate must meet the examination requirements established by the ACVB.
- c) Individuals wanting to sit the examination shall procure, by written request to the Executive Director, a copy of the official application form and the prerequisites for taking the specialty examination.
- d) A candidate cannot submit credentials for certification earlier than October of the second year of a 2-year residency or in the third year of a 3-year residency. The Credentials Committee shall review the suitability of the candidate's credentials.
- e.) Completed application forms, supporting documents, and application fee shall be submitted to the Executive Director on or before the published deadline in the year in which the applicant intends to sit the examination

f.) Candidates approved by the Credentials Committee to sit the examination shall be notified and apprised of the date, time, place, and format of the examination at least 120 calendar days before the date of the examination.

Section 2: Certifying Examination

- a) The Certifying Examination will be offered once annually.
- b) The examination will be given over two consecutive days. It will be a written examination which may include multiple choice, short and long answers. The questions on the examination will reflect the knowledge expected of the candidate based on the current role delineation document or job task analysis.
- c) A minimum score as defined by the Examination Committee and approved by the Board of Regents must be achieved on the examination in order to pass.
- d) All candidates will receive written notification of their performance on the examination within 45 calendar days of the examination, and all notices will be sent at the same time.
- e) Credentials of candidates who pass the examination will be forwarded to the President by the Chairperson of the Examining Committee.
- f) The candidate must pass the examination for certification. If the candidate fails the examination, he/she may pay the appropriate fee and retake the examination. Individuals who do not pass the examination within 8 years of their first submission of the Application for Examination must submit supplemental materials to the ACVB to prove that their training remains current in the discipline of animal behavior.

ARTICLE VI—ACVB BY-LAWS

Residency Programs

Section 1: Guidelines for Conforming Behavioral Residency Programs

The residency program shall be a minimum of 24 months in length following at least one year of training (internship or its equivalent) in veterinary practice. Conforming programs lasting two years will only be approved for residents with sufficient previous education in animal behavior. Determination of whether an individual is qualified for a two year residency program is to be made by the mentor, based on guidelines developed by the ACVB Specialty Training Committee. The program should be at a veterinary medical facility with a strong faculty in a variety of disciplines and specialties and a program of animal behavior recognized by the College. Behavior training must be directly supervised for at least 18 months by at least one ACVB certified diplomate. Existing recognized conforming behavioral residency training programs will be periodically reevaluated by the ACVB Specialty Training Committee. Programs should be reevaluated after 10 years from the last evaluation, if the program director believes the program has substantially changed from the original

proposal, or when a new program director is named.

A standard residency is designed to educate the resident primarily in veterinary behavioral science and also in the related disciplines of anatomy, clinical pathology, ethology, internal medicine, neurology, neuroscience, neurosurgery, pathology, pharmacology, physiology, and psychology. The emphasis should be divided with approximately 50% in behavioral sciences, 25% in related basic science, and 25% in related clinical science. If a M.S. or Ph.D. program is included, the residency training program must be at least three years in length with at least 50% of time devoted to clinical training. The following provide specific emphases of the residency program.

a) Broad Background

The residency should provide intensive training in behavioral therapy including major responsibility for the care of patients. The candidate should acquire a broad working knowledge of anatomy, pathology of all body systems, physiology, internal medicine, an in-depth knowledge of the nervous system, and physiological determinants of behavior. While clinical training will, in most cases, emphasize domestic and laboratory animals, experience with other species should be encouraged.

b) Caseload

Although the number of cases seen may vary among programs, emphasis should be on quality rather than quantity. A sufficient caseload must be available to provide experience with all types of problem and abnormal behavior in as many different species as possible. The resident should have primary responsibility for cases, including receiving, diagnosis, management, client communication, and case follow-up. The resident should be encouraged to provide consultation on behavioral problems faced by members of other services and clinicians of the hospital. Patient care and case work-up should constitute 65-75% of the resident's time. Behavior cases under the care of a behavior resident must be reviewed regularly by an ACVB Diplomate. Consultation with other qualified faculty should be encouraged, but cannot replace regular review by the Diplomate.

c) Attendance at Seminars; Teaching Experience

In-depth knowledge of a specialty cannot be gained by patient care alone. Comprehensive knowledge of the field should be gained by regular attendance and participation in seminars, rounds, and case conferences, and by attendance at one or more national meetings of relevant professional societies. Experience in teaching the specialty, by conducting clinical specialty rounds, presentation of patients to colleagues in seminars, and preparation of lectures should be encouraged. Sufficient time free from clinical responsibilities should be available to the resident for attending seminars, developing research, course work, and self-study. Guidance and evaluation of these activities should come from an ACVB Diplomate.

d) Course Work

Desirable comprehensive behavior residency needs training beyond case work. Residents are required to complete a minimum of six (6) training modules. Modules should include some combination of college upper division graduate level offerings in animal behavior (zoology or psychology departments), comparative psychology, developmental psychology, physiological psychology, neuroscience, learning theory, behavior modification, psychopharmacology, and client counseling; clinical experiences in specialty level services; and off-site courses where appropriate. An organized self-study program should be developed by the resident, in consultation with the supervising Diplomate. A comprehensive reading list should be provided by the supervising Diplomate to the resident at the start of the program including standard texts in general animal behavior, behavioral therapy, and behavior of domestic animals. Important current and past empirical, clinical, and review papers should be recommended.

e) Research

Experience in research, either clinical or laboratory, is valuable in fostering habits of scholarship and critical thinking. Development of a suitable research project, including design, execution, evaluation, and publication is essential. Publication or proof of acceptance of at least one scientific paper in the area of animal behavior to a refereed journal is required for acceptance of credentials. Single case reports will not be allowed as substitutes for a scientific paper, but their publication should be encouraged.

f) Inquiries and Submission of Credentials

All inquiries and requests for registration forms, lists of conforming residencies, and specialty credentials packets should be made through the Executive Director of the ACVB. Completed credentials packages (fees, case reports, letters of reference, etc.) should be mailed directly to the ACVB Executive Director.

Section 2: Guidelines for Nonconforming Behavioral Training Programs

The review and evaluation of individual nonconforming training programs are the responsibility of the Specialty Training Committee of the College.

The candidate must request evaluation of his or her program and obtain written evaluation from the Specialty Training Committee. Proposed programs must include clinical specialty practice with active and regular utilization of behavioral techniques. This evaluation should occur as soon as possible in the training program.

An eligible Applicant must satisfy the training and experience requirements by one of the following methods:

a) Participate in a mentored training program that includes the similar experiences to those expected in a traditional program. These experiences include an internship or equivalent experience, sufficient clinical behavior training in a mentoring relationship with an ACVB Diplomate, as well as other areas of emphasis as described under traditional behavioral residency programs.

The candidate must submit, with the application, a written statement containing all information necessary and required to judge his/her qualifications including letters of evaluation by ACVB Diplomates, publications, and other evidence of professional experience, training and competence. The requirements and recommendations listed in Section 1 a)-e) under Guidelines for Traditional Residency Programs apply equally as well to non-traditional programs, including exposure to other subjects as outlined in Section 1, attendance at professional meetings, and acceptance of a scientific behavior paper by a refereed journal.

VII. IMPORTANT SUMMARY INFORMATION REGARDING TIMELINES FOR ALL RESIDENTS.

VII.A. For non-traditional programs

VII.A.1. From the time of registration with an SD and submitting an intent to complete a non-traditional residency, a non-traditional resident has 18 months to submit a program proposal to the specialty training committee (STC).

VII.A.1.2. Once a program is accepted by the STC, the resident must submit the completed program documentation within 8 years to the STC.

VII.B. For both traditional and non-traditional programs

VII.B.2. All applicants have 10 years to apply to sit the exam from the time of registering with ACVB.

VII.B.2. After the first submission of the application to sit the examination, all residents have 8 years to pass the exam.

VII.C NTBRP Sample Timeline

VII.C.1. Phase I: Initiation of Training

VII.C.1.1 Find SD and agree to mentorship contract

VII.C.1.2 Submit form (and \$106) to ACVB – must apply to sit exam by 10 years from this date.

VII.C.1.3. Submit plan for non-traditional residency program within 18 months of submitting initiation form to ACVB (include \$106). Resubmit (with \$79) if needed until approval gained.

VII.C.2 Phase II: Residency

VII.C.2.1 Yearly: Attend National Conference - ACVB Behavioral Symposium or similar

VII.C.2.2 Submit continuation form each December

VII.C.2.3 Clinical Cases following mentoring guidelines – Must have 400 cases to submit completed residency documents.

VII.C.2.4 Courses/Didactic Learning and Gain Non-Core Species Experience as outlined in training plan.

VII.C.2.5 Case Reports (submit \$200 to ACVB)

VII.C.2.5.1 Case report 1: If wished to be revised, consider submitting at least 18 months prior to anticipated exam date.

VII.C.2.5.2 Consider submitting case reports by September 1st the year prior to anticipated exam date in order to allow time to submit additional cases, if necessary.

VII.C.2.5.3 Note: Must have 3 PASSED case reports to apply to sit the exam, so if a case report submitted does not pass, the resident will have to postpone taking the exam.

VII.C.3 Research Project

VII.C.4. Phase III: Submission of Completed Residency Documents

VII.C.4.1. Submit completed training program materials to ACVB.

VII.C.4.1.1. Deadline is March 1st of each year.

If the candidate intends to apply for the exam on March 1st they are encouraged to submit, documents for their completed program to the Specialty Training Committee for Evaluation 60-90 days in advance of this deadline (ie- Dec 1st of the year before or Jan 1st of the same year).

VII.C.5 Phase IV: Submission of Credentials – Application for Exam

VII.C.5.1. Deadline for applications: March 1st of each year. (submit \$50 application fee and \$300 exam fee to ACVB). ACVB to notify if approved to sit exam by July 1st.

VII. C.5.1.1. Must pass the entire examination process within 8 years of the initial examination application.

VIII APPENDIXES

VIII.A. Supporting Documents

VIII. A.1. [ACVB Role Delineation Document](#)

VIII. A.2. [Reading List](#)

VIII. A.3. [Recertification Requirements](#)

VIII.B Forms

The attached forms are used at various stages of the training process. It is the Applicant's responsibility to ensure the most current Applicant Packet and associated forms are being used.

Form A [Registration for Individuals Beginning Training](#)

Form B [Verification of Continuance in an ACVB Residency](#)

Form C [Non-Traditional Behavior Residency Program Application](#)

Form D [ACVB Non-Traditional Application Program Study Module Sheet](#)

Form E [ACVB Program Logs](#)

Form F [Applicant Evaluation Form](#)

Form G [Application for Examination](#)

Form H [Request for Special Accommodations for the Examination](#)