American College of Veterinary Behaviorists  
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ACVB APPLICANT PACKET

Effective September 1, 2022 – August 31, 2023

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:

American College of Veterinary Behaviorists  
Betsy Grenier, Executive Director  
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MISSION OF ACVB

**ACVB Mission:** To advance the behavioral health of animals through the certification of veterinary behavioral specialists and the provision of science-based education.

**ACVB Vision:** To act as a catalyst in facilitating an inclusive community of science-based experts in veterinary behavioral medicine through which we lead and inspire the preservation of the human-animal bond, enhance welfare and increase the betterment of our members, animals, society and the environment.

**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 program or has not yet had their 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.
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 an approved Residency Program OR
      I.2.4.2. Apply for and engage in an approved 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 an approved Residency Program must present a letter from their SD to verify completion of their residency.
      I.3.4.2. An individual Resident must present certification of completing their approved program by the Specialty Training Committee to verify completion of their residency.
   I.3.5. Individuals must complete the entire certification process beginning with registration, through training and credentialing, and pass the examination in no less than 2 years and no more than 8 years unless they have received an approved extension (ex. COVID-19 extension).
   I.3.6. 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 approved Behavior Residency Program OR an individually approved Behavior Residency Training Program

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 III of the ACVB Residency Policy AND Section VIII.B forms 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 VIIIA.1. Supporting Documents for the Reading List)

I.B. SUPERVISED RESIDENCY TRAINING – THE DEFINITION

I.B.1. The Residency Policy of the American College of Veterinary Behaviorists in Section 3.a.ii 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. Even if observing an ACVB Diplomate perform a consultation as part of the caseload (ex: during cases 1 – 25, and 25 of the next 50 cases), the individual in training MUST be assigned primary responsibility for the case and be directly involved with all client communication and case follow-up, as well. 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. BEHAVIOR RESIDENCY PROGRAMS and INDIVIDUAL RESIDENT APPLICATIONS

I.C.1 There are two types of Residents that are covered under these guidelines:

I.C.1.1 Residents entering into a program at an institution or private practice 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 the STC and should meet the requirements set forth in the ACVB By-Laws.
1.C.1.1.a Current Behavior Residency Programs which have been approved by the ACVB as meeting training criteria are: Atlantic Veterinary College, 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.

1.C.1.2 Residents applying for an individual program under the mentorship of a Supervising Diplomate (SD).

1.C.2 Linked to this packet are the Behavior Residency Program and Individual Behavior Residency application forms to assist you in determining what items need to be completed and also what programs are expected to include. See Section VII. B. Form C.

I.C.3 Specific requirements for Residency programs in veterinary behavior are included in Section 2 of the Residency Policy of the American College of Veterinary Behaviorists (see Section VI of this packet).

I.C.4 Individuals entering into an ACVB approved Behavior Residency Program should register their acceptance into the program 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.

I.C.5 Individuals intending to apply for an individual residency must register their intentions with the ACVB on the appropriate form (Form A -Registration for Individuals Beginning Training in Section VIII.) This registration letter of intent to begin a program must be accompanied by a letter from the ACVB Supervising Diplomate (SD) and by the appropriate fee.

I.C.5.1 It shall be the obligation of the Applicant to provide proof by letter from the SD that they have agreed to mentor the Applicant.
I.C.5.1.1 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 their 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.C.5.1.2 Financial arrangements with the SD: The task of properly supervising a resident through a 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 between the resident and the SD, but does not need to be submitted to the ACVB or STC.

I.C.5.2 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.C.5.3 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 Residency Policy of the American College of Veterinary Behaviorists, 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 an institution or private practice based approved residency program.

I.C.5.4 **Note:** Individual applicants have 18 months from the time of submitting a registration letter to the ED until they submit a proposed training program.

I.C.5.5 Applications will be reviewed biannually by the STC on April 1st and Oct 1st of each year. The STC will have reviewed programs back to the candidate with the outcome and any requested changes by the end of each month. Should any minor revisions be needed, no re-application fee will be required if the candidate has the changes back to the STC within 30 days of receiving the outcome. Should any major revisions to the program be needed, or if the candidate does not re-submit within 30 days of receiving the outcome letter, a re-application fee will be required and the new application will not be reviewed until the next review date.

I.C.6 At the expected completion of a 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.C.7 Note:** Deviations from the original approved 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 program and that modification has not met approval of the ACVB. It is highly encouraged that any deviations be submitted for evaluation prior to their occurrence so the Resident can ensure they are continuing to meet the standards set by the STC and their previously approved program.

I.C.8 Submission of an application to sit the examination, evidence of a scientific publication submitted and accepted for publication, and letters of evaluation should not be submitted earlier than the 3rd month of the third year of a 3-year residency.

**I.C.9 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.D. BEHAVIOR RESIDENCY TRAINING PROGRAM CRÉDENTIALING COMPLETION CHECKLIST

I.D.1. Submit complete information about the completed training program, comparing it to what was submitted in the 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 the program. See the preceding section and the ACVB Residency Policy for specifics. One electronic copy of all materials should be submitted. Materials submitted are expected to be VERY detailed.
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, references, and follow-up for at least three distinct behavioral problems, one each per case report submitted). 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. See the rubric for more details.

II.A.3.1.3 The case reports must demonstrate the 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.3.1.4 All appropriate differential diagnoses should be mentioned followed by a description of the logic used to arrive at the final diagnosis.

II.A.3.1.5 Laboratory tests are required for each case, should be justified, and abnormal results, if any, discussed.

II.A.3.1.6 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.3.1.7 Finally, do NOT write a case report on laboratory research even if it has direct applications to clinical behavior.
II.A.3.1. 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.3.1.1. 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.3.2. The case should not be one previously published or submitted for publication.

II.A.3.3. Do not submit the following as case reports as such cases will be automatically deemed unacceptable.

II.A.3.3.1. Cases without a minimum of six (6) months follow-up.

II.A.3.3.2. 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.3.3.3. Cases with a primary medical etiology for which no behavioral modification was suggested or instituted by the owner.

II.A.3.3.4. 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 and the rubric provided in this packet 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 can be regarding cases seen during and after the completion of the 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. 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, laboratory values, treatment, diagnosis, and follow up, and references.

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.4.6. Cases that do not have a minimum of six (6) months of follow-up.

II.D.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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score (1-5)</th>
<th>Guidelines</th>
<th>Comments</th>
<th>Weighted score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reviewer’s Name:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applicant Number:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Year evaluated:</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case number:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parameter Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Case Summary</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>The case summary is no more than 4 sentences and accurately reflects the content of the case report.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>0.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Case Selection</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>RBI-The case report was not significantly challenging or complex enough to be consistent with the level of a specialist in behavioral medicine.</td>
<td>Cases that fail to demonstrate the candidate’s competence as a veterinary behaviorist will not be accepted.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The case was sufficiently challenging and complex to demonstrate the expertise of the candidate.</td>
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<td>1.20</td>
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<td>---</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The case selected required and report included a discussion of the use of medication.</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This case required and report included a behavioral and medical diagnostic workup.</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.90</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This case selected was complex, but not too complex to be appropriately addressed in the allotted eight pages.</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Observations, Physical Exam Findings, Laboratory Results**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>All laboratory findings have been assessed.</th>
<th></th>
<th>0.75</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excessive, unnecessary or inappropriate diagnostic tests were not performed.</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diagnostic tests that were necessary to confirm or substantiate the diagnoses were recommended.</td>
<td>Primary medical problems, the behavioral component of which is not treatable are not acceptable.</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Adequate observations, history and physical findings were reported to support the diagnosis(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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The reason for excluding each differential diagnoses has been explained.</th>
<th></th>
<th>0.90</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The diagnostic decision making process is clearly discussed.</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The working diagnoses are supported by history, diagnostic tests and clinical observations.</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The working diagnoses are complete and contain no superfluous differentials.</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The working diagnoses are complete and contain no significant omissions.</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The working diagnoses are supported by references.</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The working diagnoses are clearly defined.</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The working diagnoses reflect adequate and correct scientific reasoning.</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Treatment</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RBI-Cases with a primary medical etiology for which no behavioral modification was suggested or instituted by the owner.</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>---</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medical therapy was appropriate, and was not delayed, withheld, or detrimental to the patient.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Behavioral therapy was appropriate, and was not delayed, withheld, or detrimental to the patient.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The potential for problems produced by a treatment were addressed.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appropriate safety measures were addressed.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Significant medical side effects associated with medication were addressed.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The optimal diagnostic and therapeutic plan was followed or an adequate explanation was provided.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The medical therapy (pharmacological, surgical, dietary, nutraceuticals, alternative therapies) reflects adequate and correct scientific reasoning.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The candidate did not exhibit an inadequate, incorrect or outdated understanding of pathophysiology. (Remember: 1=strongly disagree; 5=strongly agree)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medication choices were appropriate and resident explained their use well.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medication dosing adjustments were appropriate.</td>
<td>1.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------------</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The treatment options are adequately referenced.</td>
<td>0.90</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This case included an appropriate and sufficient treatment plan adjustment.</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The follow up included at least one change to the treatment plan.</th>
<th>01.10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The follow up is sufficient to support the continued progress of the case.</td>
<td>1.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grammar/Spelling</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling was consistently correct.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grammar was consistently correct.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The tone was formal and professional.</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>References/Citations</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>0.75</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The reference values for laboratory tests are included for the laboratory tests provided</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The citations are formatted in keeping with the current ACVB resident guidelines.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relevant citations are not missing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The candidate demonstrated knowledge of current and appropriate references. The references were not outdated or incorrectly described.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1.20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 submitting application material for the examination and board certification.

**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](#))
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 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 an approved residency program must present a letter from their SD to verify completion of their residency.

III.B.4. Individuals in a Residency Training Program must submit certification from the Specialty Training Committee that their program has passed and is completed.
III.B.5. Applicants are required to have passed three (3) case reports as approved by the Credentials Committee.

III.B.6. 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.6.1. 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.6.1.1. 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.6.1.1.1 Example of a submission letter

OR

III.B.6.1.2. 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.6.1.2.1 Example from an accepted manuscript

OR

III.B.6.1.3. 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.6.2. 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.7. 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.7.1. 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.7.2. ACVB will NOT confirm arrival of the forms to the Candidate.

III.B.7.3. Negative evaluations may result in rejection of the application.

III.B.7.4. ACVB reserves the right to solicit information from individuals other than those supplied by the Candidate, but the Candidate will be notified.

III.B.8. 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.9. 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 unless they have received an approved extension (ex. COVID-19 extension). 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 VIIIB. 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

   AND

   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.

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 the ACVB Executive Director for accuracy and completeness and then by the Credentials Committee Chair who will deem it acceptable or unacceptable.

III.E.3. The Credentials Committee Chair will record their evaluation on a standard form that will be retained by ACVB.

III.E.4. 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. (See Section III.B).

III.E.5. 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.5.1. Each letter of evaluation will be reviewed by the Credentials Committee Chair who will score it as acceptable or unacceptable based on a standardized scoring system. This scoring system will be outlined on the form for the evaluators’ reference.

   III.E.5.2. An unsatisfactory evaluation is one wherein the score does not meet the pass criteria.

   III.E.5.3. Personal contact with the individual who wrote the unsatisfactory letter of evaluation may be deemed necessary prior to accepting the application.

III.E.6. 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.6.1. 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.6.2. The content must be data-based, original research in the field of animal behavior.

   III.E.6.3. The Candidate must be the first author.

   III.E.6.4. Failure to meet one or more of the above criteria will result in the application being disqualified.

   III.E.6.5. 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.6.6. 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.7. 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)
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.

APPEALS PROCEDURE

IV.A The procedure for appealing an adverse decision is covered in the ACVB Discipline and Appeals Procedure Policy, Section 2. They are included here for the candidate’s convenience. It is the responsibility of the candidate to be familiar with the Discipline and Appeals Procedure Policy and confirm that they are referring to the most current set of the latter document.

See VIII APPENDIXES, VIII.A. Supporting Documents,
VIII. A.1. ACVB Certification Policy, Residency Policy, Discipline and Appeals Procedure Policy

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.

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 an approved program or who are intending to apply for an individual residency shall be one hundred and six dollars ($106).
V.E. Additional applications of proposed training programs, following the first rejection and need for major revision, shall be seventy-nine dollars ($79).

V.E.1 There shall be no refund for rejection of any application or for discontinuation of their program.
V.E.2 Reactivation of a program must be accompanied by seventy-nine dollars ($79) reactivation fee.

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

V.F.1. This fee is an administrative fee for consideration of the Application for Examination and must be included with the application. There will be no refund for Candidates who do not pass the application process.

V.F.2. Payment of this fee may be combined with the examination fee listed below.

V.G. Examination fee shall be three hundred sixty dollars ($360).

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

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

V.G.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.H. 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 sixty eight dollars ($368 for 2022 increasing 3% annually) payable July 1 each year.

ACVB POLICIES PERTAINING TO TRAINING

VI.A. ACVB policies relating to Training are addressed in the Certification Policy and in the Residency Policy of the ACVB. See VIII APPENDIXES, VIII.A. Supporting Documents, VIII. A.1. ACVB Certification Policy, Residency Policy, Discipline and Appeals Procedure Policy

IMPORTANT SUMMARY INFORMATION REGARDING TIMELINES FOR ALL RESIDENTS.

VII.A. For individual programs

VII.A.1. From the time of registration with an SD and submitting an intent to complete a residency, a 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. View the Specialty Training Committee COVID-19 Accommodations here.
VII.B. For all programs

VII.B.1 Individuals must complete the entire certification process beginning with registration, through training and credentialing, and pass the examination in no less than 2 years and no more than 8 years.

VII.C Residency Program 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 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 $212 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 $360 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

A.1. ACVB Certification Policy, Residency Policy, Discipline and Appeals Procedure Policy
    VIII.A.2. ACVB Role Delineation Document
    VIII. A.3. Reading List
    VIII. A.4. 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 Behavior Residency Program Application: Individual Application | Institution Application
Form D ACVB 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