1. **Guidelines for Approved Institutional Behavioral Residency Programs**

   a) **Length.** The residency program shall be a minimum of 24 months in length following at least one (1) year of training (internship or its equivalent) in veterinary practice. Programs lasting two (2) years will be approved only for residents with sufficient previous education in animal behavior.

   b) **Qualification.** Determination of whether an individual is qualified for a two-year residency program is to be made by the Supervising Diplomate, based on guidelines developed by the ACVB Specialty Training Committee.

   c) **Location.** The program should be at a facility with a program of veterinary behavioral medicine recognized by the Corporation.

   d) **Training.** Behavior training must be directly supervised for at least 18 months by at least one ACVB certified Diplomate until the approved institutional program is completed.

   e) **Program Evaluation.** Existing approved behavioral residency training programs will be periodically reevaluated by the ACVB Specialty Training Committee. Programs should be reevaluated every 10 years. In addition, if the program director believes the program has substantially changed from the original proposal, or if a new program director is named, reevaluation is required.

2. **Guidelines for Individual Behavioral Training Programs**

   a) The Specialty Training Committee of the Corporation is responsible for the review and evaluation of individual behavioral residency training programs.

   b) The candidate is responsible for submitting their proposed program for evaluation by the Specialty Training Committee. Proposed programs must include clinical specialty practice devoted to diagnosing and treating clinical veterinary behavior cases. This submission and
evaluation should occur as soon as possible after registration with ACVB under the guidelines set by the Specialty Training Committee.

c) An eligible candidate must participate in a mentored training program that includes experiences similar to those expected in an institutional 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 Section 3, Residency Training Program Requirements, of this Policy.

d) Upon completion of training, the candidate must submit, with the application, a written statement containing all information necessary and required to judge their qualifications including letters of evaluation by ACVB Diplomates, publications, and other evidence of professional experience, training and competence as required by the Specialty Training Committee and Credentialing Committee.

3. Residency Training Program Requirements

a) All residencies are designed to educate the resident primarily in veterinary behavioral medicine 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 medicine, 25% in related basic science, and 25% in related clinical science. Residency training programs which include training towards an M.S. or Ph.D. must be at least three (3) years in length with at least 50% of time devoted to clinical training. The following provide specific emphases of the residency program:

i. 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.

ii. Case Load. A sufficient case load must be available to provide experience with all types of problem and abnormal behavior in as many different species as possible. The exact number of cases required will be established by the Specialty Training Committee. 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.
iii. **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.

iv. **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 a combination of undergraduate, upper level, or 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 as delineated in the current resident packet; 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.

v. **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 as first author 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.

vi. **Inquiries and Submission of Credentials.** All inquiries and requests for registration forms, lists of approved residency programs, and specialty credentials packets should be made through the Executive Director of the ACVB. Completed credentials packages (fees, publications, letters of reference, etc.) should be sent directly to the ACVB Executive Director.