The information contained in this General Information Guideline (GIG) reflects current procedures and guidelines for individuals interested in certification by the American College of Theriogenologists (ACT or the “College”).

Information contained within the GIG is subservient to the Constitution and Bylaws (CBL) of the American College of Theriogenologists. ACT policies and procedures are subject to periodic review and changes to the CBL will automatically be reflected in annual updates to the GIG.

While every reasonable effort has been made to ensure accuracy, Supervising Diplomates and/or candidates should contact the ACT office if questions arise. Supervising Diplomates and/or candidates with concerns about proposed or actual changes that could impact the certification process should contact the ACT office:

American College of Theriogenologists
14 Imperial Place, #201
Providence, RI 02903
Phone: (334) 395-4666
Website: www.theriogenology.org
E-mail: info@theriogenology.org
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A. THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF THERIOGENOLOGISTS

The American College of Theriogenologists was created in 1971 to advance knowledge and competence in undergraduate, graduate, and postgraduate education, research and clinical service in Theriogenology and to:
  a. establish a certifying organization to recognize veterinarians as specialists in the discipline of Theriogenology,
  b. establish requirements for postgraduate education and experience prerequisites for certification as specialists in Theriogenology,
  c. examine and certify veterinarians seeking Diplomate status as specialists in Theriogenology,
  d. encourage scientific investigation and research.

B. GENERAL INFORMATION GUIDELINES FOR DIPLOMATE CANDIDATES

B.1. ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

ACT Diplomate candidates must fulfill the following general requirements:

B.1.a. Be a graduate of a college or school of veterinary medicine accredited by the AVMA, or possess a certificate issued by either the Educational Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates (ECFVG) or the Program for the Assessment of Veterinary Educational Equivalence (PAVE) or otherwise be legally qualified to practice veterinary medicine in some state, province, territory, or possession of the United States, Canada or another country.

B.1.b. Demonstrate unquestionable moral character and impeccable professional behavior.

B.1.c. Complete the education, training and experience requirements of one of the following approved training routes after graduating from a college or school of veterinary medicine.

  B.1.c.1 Residency Training Route – candidates must have completed minimum of one (1) year of clinical practice or a one-year internship followed by satisfactory completion of a minimum of two (2) additional years training in an American College of Theriogenologists -approved residency program.

  B.1.c.2 Alternate Training Route – veterinarians from private practice, academic programs, graduate study programs, industry, and other areas may be considered as candidates for ACT Diplomate status by the alternate route. Alternate route candidates must have completed a minimum of six (6) years post-graduate (DVM or equivalent) experience with a major emphasis in Theriogenology including completion of a minimum of 104 weeks in a mentorship program approved by the American College of Theriogenologists.

  B.1.c.3 Graduate Degree Training Route – veterinarians who have completed a graduate degree may be considered as candidates for ACT Diplomate status by the graduate training route. Graduate programs shall include thesis-based (i.e., “Plan A”) Master of Science (MSc or equivalent) and/or Doctor of Philosophy (PhD or equivalent) programs that involve research focused on vertebrate reproduction. A minimum 30% of graduate degree course credits must be in disciplines related to reproduction. The graduate degree may be obtained prior to or after graduating from a college or school of veterinary medicine and obtaining DVM (or equivalent). Candidates must have a minimum of three (3) years post-DVM experience in addition to MSc degree, or a minimum of one (1) year post-DVM experience in addition to PhD degree. Post-DVM experience may include clinical practice, teaching or research but shall not include any activities performed while enrolled in the graduate program. Post-DVM experience requirements may be completed prior
to or after obtaining graduate degree. Trainees must complete a minimum of 52 weeks in an ACT-approved mentored training program, under the mentorship of at least one (1) ACT diplomate or Diplomate of the European College of Animal Reproduction (ECAR) or Fellow of the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists (ANZCVS, Animal Reproduction). The mentored training program may be initiated at any time after obtaining DVM and can overlap with the post-DVM experience requirement. During or after the mentored training program, at least eight (8) weeks must be spent under the direct supervision of Diplomates of the ACT or ECAR or Fellows of the ANZCVS (Animal Reproduction) providing theriogenology clinical service; of these eight (8) weeks, a maximum of six (6) weeks may be spent under any one mentor. (See additional specific requirements for each training route in other sections of this document).

B.1.d. Submit acceptable credentials as described in this General information Guideline to the College.

B.1.e. Successfully pass the Certifying Examination of the College of Theriogenologists.

B.2. REGISTRATION

Trainees, Mentors, and Program Directors are responsible for obtaining all forms from the ACT website and submission of completed forms and additional documents according to specified instructions. Deficiencies will be notified to the party submitting the material by the office of the Executive Director, the Training and Credentialing Committee (TCC) or the ACT Executive Board.

B.2.a. Trainee Registration – Candidates intending to apply for certification with the College must register with the ACT office within 90 days of the initiation of an approved training route and pay a one-time registration fee. Registration in an approved program is required to ensure a trainee’s program conforms to the training requirements. Failure to register or a delay in registration can jeopardize a trainee’s certification process. The requirements specified in the GIG at the time of registration will apply for the duration of the trainee’s certification process.

B.2.a.1. Residency Training Route (‘Standard’ or ‘Traditional’) – Residency Route Trainees must register with the ACT office within ninety (90) days after starting their training program.

B.2.a.2. Alternate Training Route

B.2.a.2.i. Alternate route trainees must submit a plan of study for review with the ACT office at least 90 days prior to beginning the 104-week mentored study program. Proposed study programs should be turned in to the ACT office by the deadline established annually by the TCC and ACT Executive Board and posted annually on the ACT website.

B.2.a.2.ii. Proposed study programs will be reviewed and feedback provided to candidates within 4 weeks following the posted deadlines.

B.2.a.2.iii. The proposed plan of study must include a cover letter in which the candidate specifically describes how they propose to fulfill requirements outlined in GIG section C. The personalized proposed study program must contain adequate details describing how the mentor will be involved in guiding preparation and study.

B.2.a.2.iv. Two letters of support/recommendation must accompany the plan of study. One must be from an active Diplomate of the ACT willing to serve as the primary mentor for the candidate’s alternate route.
training program; The second letter may be from an ACT Diplomate, a Diplomate of the European College of Animal Reproduction (ECAR), or Fellow of the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists (ANZCVS, Animal Reproduction, willing to serve as the secondary mentor overseeing the candidate’s alternate route training program.

B.2.a.3. Graduate Degree Training Route

B.2.a.3.i. Graduate degree route trainees must submit a plan of study for review with the ACT office at least 90 days prior to beginning the 52-week mentored study program. Proposed study programs should be turned in to the ACT office by the deadline established annually by the Training Credentialing Committee (TCC) and ACT Executive Board and posted annually on the ACT website.

B.2.a.3.ii. Proposed study programs will be reviewed and feedback provided to candidates within 4 weeks following the posted deadlines.

B.2.a.3.iii. The proposed plan of study must include a cover letter in which the candidate specifically describes how they propose to fulfill requirements outlined in GIG section C. The personalized proposed study program must contain adequate details describing how the mentor will be involved in guiding preparation and study.

B.2.a.3.iv. One letter of support/recommendation from an active Diplomate of the ACT or Diplomate of the European College of Animal Reproduction (ECAR) or Fellow of the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists (ANZCVS, Animal Reproduction) willing to serve as the mentor for the candidate must accompany the plan of study.

B.2.b. Training Program Registration

B.2.b.1. The ACT Program Director (see section C.4.a.) for trainees in the Residency Training Route, or the primary mentor for trainees in the Alternate Route, must submit one program registration form per institution to the ACT office for review and written approval at least ninety (90) days prior to a trainee beginning training program. Review of new program applications may take up to 3 months following submission.

B.2.b.2. Residency programs previously approved, currently active, or having had an actively enrolled resident within the past two years, are not required to re-register with enrollment of each new resident, unless there are significant changes within the program or within the GIG that would disqualify that program from approval for future residents.

B.2.b.3. Program Directors are to submit on an annual basis a report of their training program progress. This is not the progress of an individual candidate, but an assessment of the availability or capacity of the program to continue to uphold to training requirements. See more under C.2.e. Supervisor Responsibilities. The Theriogenology Credentialing Committee (TCC) will review program registration submissions and present recommendations to the ACT Executive Board for acceptance or rejection of programs based on compliance with program requirements.

B.2.b.4. Registration forms for each of the respective routes (Residency Training or Alternate routes) are available on the ACT website.
B.3. CREDENTIALING

B.3.a. Credentials Packet Submission

B.3.a.1. In order to be considered for the next Certifying Examination, a credentials packet, including a Petition to Candidacy and all supporting materials described herein, and the appropriate application fee must be submitted to the ACT office, no later than the deadline for the annual exam cycle posted on the ACT website. The TCC may choose to reject applications received after the posted deadline. The TCC may choose to reject incomplete credentials packets.

B.3.a.2. Credentials materials may only be submitted electronically. A link to the Prolydian submission system can be found on the ACT website (www.theriogenology.org).

B.3.a.3. Candidates should review the Application Procedures in this GIG for specific requirements and contact the ACT office with questions.

B.3.b. Credentials Review – The TCC will review application packets and present recommendations to the ACT Executive Board for acceptance or rejection based on compliance with candidacy requirements.

B.4. FEES AND DEADLINES

B.4.a. Payment of the credentialing fee must accompany the credentials packet and be accompanied by an ‘Applicants Fees Remittance Form’. Credentials packets received without proper payment in U.S. funds drawn on U.S. banks will not be processed.

B.4.b. The Executive board periodically reviews and revises the fee schedule. A current fee schedule can be found on the ACT website. Fees are non-refundable.

B.5. NOTIFICATION

B.5.a. Receipt of Credentials Packet – The ACT office will acknowledge receipt of an applicant’s credentials packet via a message sent to the email address provided within 14 days of arrival. The email message only confirms receipt of the credentials packet and does not imply acceptance.

B.5.b. Candidacy – Applicants submitting packets will be notified of their credentialing status by March 15th. Applicants whose credentials are accepted become candidates to take the next Certifying Examination. Candidates planning to take the next scheduled examination must submit the examination fee to the ACT office by the deadline posted on the ACT website.

B.5.b.1. Applicants failing to meet all credentialing requirements may re-apply the following year by submitting an updated credentials packet and appropriate re-application fee. Re-application fee is due in the ACT office by the deadline posted on the ACT website.

B.5.c. Examination Results – Candidates will be notified of their examination results no later than ninety (90) days following the examination.
B.6. APPEALS

An affected party has the right to appeal against adverse decisions by the College. As described in the Bylaws, the Executive Board annually appoints an Appeals Committee charged with review of any Petition for Reconsideration filed by an affected party. The process for appeals is described in the Constitution and Bylaws of the ACT.

B.7. RE-APPLICATION

B.7.a. Procedure for Re-Application after Credentialing Failure – Applicants failing to meet credentialing requirements may re-apply the following year by submitting an updated credentials packet and the appropriate re-application fee. The re-application fee is required and due in the ACT office by the deadline posted on the ACT website.

B.7.b. Procedure for Re-Application following Examination Failure – Candidates failing to successfully complete the Certifying Examination are entitled to sit a future examination(s) with the following stipulations.

B.7.b.1. Candidates may retake the examination up to two times (i.e., a total of three (3) attempts to pass the Certifying Examination) within the two years following their first unsuccessful attempt without repetitoning the Executive Board.

B.7.b.2. Unsuccessful candidates not retaking the exam within two (2) years following their first unsuccessful attempt must petition the Executive Board to again be accepted to take the Certifying Examination. The re-application packet must be complete, following requirements outlined in section C. To be approved to take the exam, the candidate must complete all requirements of the GIG in place at the time of their petition.

B.7.b.3. Candidates re-sitting the exam must submit the appropriate examination fee in order to retake the Certifying Examination. The examination fee must be received by ACT office by the deadline posted on the ACT website.

B.7.c. Procedures for Re-Application after failing to take the Certifying Examination – Candidates whose credentials are accepted but who fail to take the Certifying Examination within two (2) years of acceptance will be required to reapply to take the examination and submit an appropriate reapplication fee. Re-application fee must be received by ACT office by the deadline posted on the ACT website.

B.8. ACT DIPLOMATE CERTIFICATES

A candidate only becomes a Diplomate upon completion of all requirements in the GIG and will be so notified by the ACT office. ACT Diplomate Certificates may not be awarded until all requirements are met. Certificates shall be awarded at a time and place, and in a manner determined appropriate by the ACT Executive Board.

C. TRAINING

C.1. TRAINING PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

C.1.a. Facilities Requirements

C.1.a.1. Medical library: Access to a library containing recent textbooks and current journals relating to theriogenology and its supporting disciplines must be accessible. Online access or use of a “virtual library” is acceptable.
C.1.a.2. Medical records: A complete and retrievable medical records system must be maintained.

C.1.a.3. Imaging services: Appropriate diagnostic imaging equipment must be available.

C.1.a.4. Clinical pathology: Clinical pathology services must be available on site or otherwise readily accessible.

C.1.a.5. Anatomic pathology: Gross pathologic examination and histopathologic examination of surgical and necropsy tissues must be available either on site or otherwise readily accessible.

C.1.a.6. Surgical facilities: The operative suite must be consistent with current concepts of aseptic surgery and standard of care* for services provided. Access to a referral facility meeting these specifications is acceptable.

C.1.a.7. Anesthesia and anesthesia monitoring: The ability to provide anesthesia appropriate to meet the standard of care* for the cases managed at the facility must be available. Access to a referral facility providing these services is acceptable.

*NOTE: Standard of care is defined as the degree of care and skill of the average health care provider who practices in the provider’s specialty, taking into account the medical knowledge that is available in the field.

C.2. ACT TRAINING ROUTES

C.2.a. Residency Training Route ('Standard' or 'Traditional')

C.2.a.1. A Residency training program shall consist of a minimum of 104 weeks* of supervised training and clinical experience in the science and practice of theriogenology and supporting disciplines under the direction of at least one (1) ACT Diplomate, or a Diplomate of the European College of Animal Reproduction (ECAR), or a Fellow of the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists (ANZCVS, Animal Reproduction), who participates actively in the residency training program.

C.2.a.2. At least 8 weeks of the training program must include co-supervision by a second Diplomate of the ACT, ECAR, or Fellow of the ANZCVS (Animal Reproduction).

C.2.a.3. During the 104-week program, at least 60 weeks must be spent providing theriogenology clinical service under the direction of a Diplomate of the ACT or ECAR or Fellow of the ANZCVS (Animal Reproduction).

C.2.a.4. During the 104-week program, adequate time, up to 12 weeks, should be provided for activities outside of clinical duty, which may include research, manuscript preparation, teaching, graduate studies, continuing education, special rotations, or board study preparation.

*NOTE: A week is generally defined as equivalent to 5 working days.

C.2.b. Alternate Training Route

C.2.b.1. Trainees in the alternate training route must have completed minimum of six (6) years of post-graduate (DVM or equivalent) experience with a major emphasis in Theriogenology prior to sitting the exam and must have successfully completed an ACT-approved alternate route mentored training program.
C.2.b.2. The mentored training program shall consist of a minimum of 104 weeks (2 years) of mentored training in the science and practice of theriogenology and supporting disciplines under the mentorship of at least two (2) ACT Diplomates, or Diplomates of the European College of Animal Reproduction (ECAR), or Fellows of the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists (ANZCVS, Animal Reproduction), who participate actively in the training program. One of these mentors shall serve as the primary mentor and the other as a secondary mentor.

C.2.b.3. Prior to or during the mentored training program, the candidate shall spend at least eight (8) weeks* receiving training in clinically relevant techniques under the supervision** of Diplomates of the ACT, or ECAR, or Fellows of the ANZCVS (Animal Reproduction). The eight (8) weeks of supervision may be gained prior to or after registration of the alternate route training program with the ACT but must occur following graduation from veterinary school. The eight (8) weeks of clinical training experiences must be verified by a letter from the mentoring Diplomate or Fellow, and submitted with the application packet.

*NOTE: The 8 weeks of training may be supervised by the primary or secondary mentors, or another qualified supervisor. **Supervision means that the mentor should be closely involved and working with the trainee.

C.2.c. Graduate Degree Training Route

C.2.c.1. Candidates for the Graduate Degree Route Training Program must have completed a minimum of three (3) years (with an Msc degree) or one (1) year (with a PhD degree) of post-graduate (DVM or equivalent) experience with a major emphasis in theriogenology prior to sitting the exam and must have successfully completed an ACT approved graduate degree route mentored training program.

C.2.c.2. The mentored training program shall consist of a minimum of 52 weeks (1 year) of mentored training in the science and practice of theriogenology and supporting disciplines under the mentorship of one (1) ACT Diplomate, or Diplomate of the European College of Animal Reproduction (ECAR), or Fellow of the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists (ANZCVS, Animal Reproduction), who participate actively in the training program.

C.2.c.3. During or after the mentored training program, the candidate shall spend at least eight (8) weeks receiving training in clinically relevant techniques under the direct supervision* of Diplomates of the ACT, or ECAR, or Fellows on the ANZCVS (Animal Reproduction); of these 8 weeks, a maximum of six (6) weeks may be spent under any one mentor. The eight (8) weeks of clinical training experiences must be verified by a letter from the mentoring Diplomates or Fellows, and submitted with the application packet.

*NOTE: Supervision means that the mentor should be closely involved and working with the trainee.

C.2.d. Trainee Responsibilities – The degree of responsibility assumed by the trainee shall be appropriate to the nature of the theriogenology procedure and training experience. A trainee in a residency or alternate route program should have experience with (i) receiving appointments and obtaining history and pertinent information from clients, (ii) supervising daily case management in clinic or on farm, (iii) performance of clinical procedures, (iv) clinical teaching when/if veterinary students are present, and (v) providing prompt professional communications with clients and colleagues.
C.2.e. Training Advisor Responsibilities

C.2.e.1. The training advisor shall be responsible for providing the trainee with the tools, experience, and knowledge base appropriate for an ACT Diplomate candidate.

C.2.e.2. The training advisor will submit an annual progress letter. This should outline experiences gained by the applicant thus far and include strengths and weaknesses to be addressed over the remainder of the program.

C.2.e.3. The training advisor along with the trainee will complete and submit a General Self-Assessment Form to be signed by both parties and submitted within thirty (30) days following the annual anniversary of the beginning of the training program. Training supervisors are encouraged to ensure the trainee keeps a log of their theriogenology cases (available on the ACT website under Activity Log Template) for completion of the form.

C.2.e.4. The training advisor will ensure the trainee also submits a separate annual progress report (sent directly to the TCC), outlining their experiences and expectations from within the program, the strengths, and weaknesses, and if/how their expectations are or are not being met. Trainees are encouraged to express any suggestions for improvement that can then be reviewed by the TCC.

C.3. SUPERVISION AND MENTORING

C.3.a. Residency Training Route ('Standard' or 'Traditional') – An ACT approved residency training route program shall include two (2) Diplomates of either the American College of Theriogenologists, OR European College of Animal Reproduction, OR a Fellow of the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists (Animal Reproduction). At least one (1) of the Diplomates must be a full-time (i.e., 1.0 FTE) employee of the residency training program, while the second Diplomate may be a half-time (0.5 FTE or higher) employee of the residency training program. Any other arrangement for meeting this requirement must be reviewed and approved by the TCC and ACT Executive Board.

C.3.b. Alternate Training Route – An ACT approved alternate route study and mentorship program shall include two (2) Diplomates of either the American College of Theriogenologists OR European College of Animal Reproduction OR a Fellow of the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists (Animal Reproduction). One of these mentors will be designated as the primary mentor and the other as the secondary mentor.

C.3.c. Graduate Degree Training Route – An ACT approved graduate degree route study and mentorship program shall include one (1) Diplomate of either the American College of Theriogenologists OR European College of Animal Reproduction OR a Fellow of the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists (Animal Reproduction).

C.4. DEFINITIONS RELATING TO ACT TRAINING ROUTES

C.4.a. ACT Training Program Director* – The Training Program Director for ACT approved residency programs shall be a Diplomate of the American College of Theriogenologists, OR the European College of Animal Reproduction, OR a Fellow of the Australia New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists (Animal Reproduction) and is responsible for overseeing an ACT Residency program at a given site.

C.4.a.1. There shall be only one ACT Training Program Director at any site.

C.4.a.2. The ACT Training Program Director must have at least a 50% clinical service appointment.
C.4.a.3. The ACT office will direct all correspondence concerning the training program at a site to the ACT Training Program Director. The ACT Training Program Director is responsible for disseminating information to the appropriate individuals (e.g. trainees and training advisers).

C.4.a.4. It is the Program Director’s responsibility to notify ACT of relevant changes in a program related to the requirements for training programs included in the GIG. Failure to notify ACT will place the residency training program in jeopardy of loss of approval.

C.4.b. ACT Training Advisor*—A Training Advisor supervises a trainee’s ACT training program and signs all documentation submitted by their trainee verifying completion of approved program requirements. A Training Advisor shall be a Diplomate of either the American College of Theriogenologists, OR the European College of Animal Reproduction, OR a Fellow of the Australia New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists (Animal Reproduction).

*Note: A Training Program Director may serve as both the Program Director and the Training Advisor if necessary.

C.5. TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL TRAINEES

C.5.a. Clinical Case Records

C.5.a.1. Clinical Skills – Trainees must submit a self-assessment of relevant clinical activities in which he/she participated during the training program and acquired clinical skills.

C.5.a.2. Case Log – Trainees are encouraged to keep a log of their theriogenology cases for the duration of their training program. Activity log templates are available on the ACT website. Maintaining a case log will facilitate completion of the annual General Self-Assessment Form.

C.5.b. Publication

C.5.b.1. Trainees must publish one (1) peer reviewed or otherwise refereed manuscript related to the discipline of Theriogenology. The trainee must be the first author of the manuscript.

C.5.b.2. Publications may be original research, a clinical case report, or an in-depth review article. Abstracts are not acceptable to fulfill this requirement.

C.5.b.3. Trainees may be allowed to sit the certifying examination prior to proof of publication, but Diplomate certificates shall not be issued until proof of publication or acceptance for publication is provided to the ACT.

C.5.b.4. Manuscripts must have been published or accepted for publication prior to November 1 of the second year following successful completion of the Certifying Examination to fulfill the publication requirement and allow the candidate to become an ACT diplomate.

C.5.b.5. Proof of publication must be submitted to the ACT office by November 1 in the second year following successful completion of the Certifying Examination in order for a trainee to fulfill the publication requirement and become an ACT diplomate.

C.5.c. Teaching – During the training program, trainees must give at least one presentation/lecture in the field of Theriogenology to a veterinary or veterinary student group. Examples of acceptable presentations or lectures include veterinary undergraduate or graduate courses or local, regional/national/international continuing education meetings.
C.5.d. Continuing Education – A minimum of 30 hours Continuing Education pertaining to the field of Theriogenology must be completed during the training program and within the two years immediately prior to taking the certifying examination. A “unit” of CE shall be defined as at least 45 minutes of instruction from (i) national or international scientific meetings, (ii) meetings or webinars approved for CE credit by a regulatory licensing board with jurisdiction in that area or (iii) other formal continuing education activities pre-approved by the TCC.

D. APPLICATION PROCEDURES

D.1. FORMS, FORMATS AND INSTRUCTIONS

Applicants are responsible for following all application instructions and procedures as well as using all required forms and formats to prepare their credentials packet. All credentials requirements are to be submitted electronically using the Prolydian system with access to the program via the ACT website. All items submitted as part of an applicant’s credentials packet must be in the English language. See the appendix for examples and templates.

D.2. CREDENTIALS CHECKLIST

Applicants shall use this checklist to ensure all required items are submitted in their credentials packet. Incomplete packets will not be approved. The checklist must be completed, signed and submitted in the credentials packet according to posted instructions on the ACT website. Receipt of materials should be confirmed with the ACT office.

D.3. PETITION TO CANDIDACY

Applicants will complete and sign the Petition to Candidacy and include it with their credentials packet. Receipt of materials should be confirmed with the ACT office.

D.4. CLINICAL SKILLS SELF-ASSESSMENT

Applicants will complete a clinical skills self-assessment form for each species and include it with the credentials packet. Receipt of materials should be confirmed with the ACT office.

D.5. PUBLICATION

Applicants will submit a completed copy of one (1) first author, peer reviewed, manuscript or a copy of a first author manuscript and a letter of acceptance for print from the editorial office. The publication should be involving the topic of theriogenology. A list of approved journals is available on the ACT website. No Diplomate certificate shall be issued prior to receiving acceptable proof of publication. When available, proof of publication should be included in the credentials packet.

D.6. TEACHING

Applicants will submit a completed Publication/Teaching form providing evidence of presentation/lecture and include a course or meeting schedule indicating date of presentation and name of presenter. Receipt of materials should be confirmed with the ACT office.

D.7. CONTINUING EDUCATION

Applicants are required to submit a completed Continuing Education form in their credentials packet with evidence of attendance in accordance with the instructions in the appendix and on the ACT website (Theriogenology.org). Receipt of materials should be confirmed with the ACT office.
D.8. CURRICULUM VITAE

Applicants are required to submit a current curriculum vitae in their credentials packet. Vita must adhere to the example format provided in the appendix and posted on the ACT website (Theriogenology.org). Receipt of materials should be confirmed with the ACT office.

D.9. DIPLOMA, CERTIFICATE OR LICENSE

Applicants shall submit a copy of one of the following:

a. A Diploma or certificate verifying graduation from a college or school of veterinary medicine accredited by the AVMA.
b. A copy of a certificate issued by the Educational Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates (ECFVG).
c. A copy of a certificate issued by the Program for the Assessment of Veterinary Educational Equivalence (PAVE).
d. A copy of a license to practice veterinary medicine in a state, province, territory, or possession of the United States, Canada or another country.

The copy of the diploma, certificate or license must be included in the applicant’s credentials packet. The copy may be submitted as a hard copy or electronically in a PDF file. Receipt of materials should be confirmed with the ACT office.

D.10. TRANSSCRIPT OF GRADUATE STUDIES

Applicants specifically whom are enrolled in the Graduate Degree Training Route or in a Masters with their traditional residency training program post DVM are to submit as a part of their credentials packet a transcript of all graduate studies completed. Supporting documents (see Petition for Candidacy form) will be submitted according to posted instructions in the appendix or on the ACT website. Receipt of materials should be confirmed with the ACT office.

D.11. PERSONAL BIOGRAPHY

Applicants will submit a one-half page personal biography in their credentials packet. The biography will be submitted according to posted instructions in the appendix or on the ACT website. Receipt of materials should be confirmed with the ACT office.

D.12. CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT

Applicants will complete, sign and submit a Confidentiality Agreement in their credentials packet. Agreement will be submitted according to posted instructions in the appendix or on the ACT website. Receipt of materials should be confirmed with the ACT office.

D.13. REQUESTS FOR SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

The ACT complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). To ensure equal opportunities for all qualified persons, the ACT will provide reasonable accommodations for candidates when appropriate.

D.13.a If an applicant requires special accommodations related to a disability in order to take the Certifying Examination, he/she must complete the request form and submit it with his/her credentials packet. The form should be submitted according to posted instructions in the appendix and on the ACT website. Receipt of materials should be confirmed with the ACT office.

D.13.b The ACT reserves the right to require appropriate documentation, as allowed by the ADA, of the candidate’s need for accommodations.
D.14. SATISFACTORY COMPLETION OR PROGRESS LETTER

Applicants will obtain a letter from their Training Advisor attesting to the applicant’s satisfactory completion of or progress to date in their approved training program. The Training Advisor will provide a synopsis of the applicant’s activities in preparing for the examination, paying particular attention to how the applicant satisfactorily completed, or failed to satisfactorily complete, the proposed study program. The applicant will provide their training advisor a copy of the Letter to Training Advisors and request a letter be prepared in the format indicated. The training advisor may place the letter in a sealed envelope, sign over the sealed flap and give it to the applicant, or submit letter directly to the ACT office electronically. Receipt of the email should be verified by the ACT office. The letter should be included in the applicant’s credentials packet when submitted as a printed copy.

D.15. LETTER OF INSTRUCTION FOR REFERENCES

Applicants will obtain a Letter of Reference from two (2) ACT Diplomates other than their Training Advisor. Applicants will provide those Diplomates with the Letter of Instruction for References and ask them to prepare a letter of reference in the format requested. Diplomates are to submit the letters electronically via Prolydian to the ACT. Receipt of the submission should be verified by email from Prolydian and/or the ACT office.

D.16. SUBMISSION OF CREDENTIALS PACKETS TO ACT VIA PROLYDIAN ONLINE

Completed credentials packets will be submitted electronically to the ACT via the Prolydian program. Access to the program can be found on the ACT website.

E. EXAMINATION

All candidates seeking certification as an ACT Diplomate must take and pass a comprehensive examination in Theriogenology. The certifying examination is based on the professional competence expected of Diplomates based on a job task analysis conducted periodically by the College. The examination reflects the breadth and depth of the field of Theriogenology.

E.1. EXAMINATION FORMAT

The examination covers all animal species commonly seen by Diplomates, including equine, bovine, companion animals, small ruminants, swine, exotic animals and laboratory animals. The examination consists of 100 multiple-choice questions (200 points), 20 essay questions (200 points), and 45 to 50 practical questions (100 points). Candidates are expected to express themselves fully to demonstrate specialization when answering essay questions. Practical questions include pictures or short videoclips that only require short answers.

E.2. EXAMINATION PREPARATION

The examination is prepared by the ACT Certifying Examination Committee appointed by the ACT Executive Board. The committee consists of seven (7) Diplomates. Members of the Examination Committee are appointed according to species of interest and professional affiliations to ensure diversity and balance within the committee. The Examination Committee maintains the examination database, composes questions, and creates and administers the certifying examination.

The Examination Committee’s Chair and Vice-Chair select the potential questions for the examination to reflect the species and knowledge domains identified in the job task analysis. The entire committee then critically reviews every question. Questions are reviewed for content, scientific soundness, clarity and grammar. Detailed grading rubrics for essay and practical questions are created and reviewed, including rationale and point distribution.
The questions selected by the Examination Committee are then scored by another independent committee (Angoff Scoring Committee). The Scoring Committee is appointed by the ACT Executive Board and consists of six to ten (6 to 10) Diplomates. This committee shall be working with the assistance of a psychometrician. Members of the Scoring Committee are appointed according to species of interest and professional affiliations to ensure diversity and balance, in accordance with the current Job Task Analysis. The Scoring Committee sets the examination passing point.

Members of the Angoff Scoring Committee use the Modified Angoff Method to score all selected exam questions. Accordingly, each committee member independently indicates how many minimally qualified candidates would answer each question correctly or how many points the candidate would obtain on essay and practical questions. The average rating across all committee members becomes the predicted difficulty for each exam question. The sum of the predicted difficulty values for each exam question across all questions is the passing point for the exam.

E.3. EXAMINATION ADMINISTRATION

The Certifying Examination is administered no more than once each year but is administered at least once during each two (2) year period. The Certifying Examination is given over two (2) days, usually in conjunction with the annual conference of the Society for Theriogenology; thus, the date and site of the examination varies. The examination is administered entirely in electronic format in six (6) blocks of two (2) hours each using a web-based tool. Candidates are assigned an identification number, and identities are not revealed to members of the Examination Committee until the grading process is completed and the successful/unsuccessful candidates are determined.

Multiple-choice questions are built within the testing tool and graded automatically. Each essay and practical question is evaluated by two members of the Examination Committee and graded according to pre-established rubrics. If essay grades differ by more than two points, the two evaluators review the question together. The average grade from the two evaluators is used as final.

The candidates’ final grades are reviewed relative to the passing point set by the Angoff Scoring Committee. Under no circumstances may the passing point be increased based on the results of the examination. However, the Examination Committee may vote to lower the passing point to a natural break if it occurs below the set passing point.

E.4. EXAMINATION RESULTS

Every effort is made to notify candidates of whether they passed or failed within one week from the completion of the Certifying Examination. If possible, successful candidates are introduced as new Diplomates at the annual ACT business meeting.