A NEWSLETTER from EBVS (www.ebvs.org)

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Vision of the EBVS Future
Peter O’Brien, ECVCp
EBVS Vice President

The EBVS has progressed well all of its objectives, especially of recognising new speciality Colleges and maintaining a register of European veterinary specialists. For the future, these will be continuously refined and improved. There will be especial focus and development on EBVS objectives to assure the quality of specialists by monitoring the Colleges, and to encourage and promote the enhanced utilisation and availability of speciality services for the public and veterinary profession.

There is powerful, escalating and highly-targeted momentum forward for European veterinary specialisation that is led by the EBVS in alliance with other EU veterinary organisations and other-continental, veterinary speciality organisations. This movement is well-grounded in the EBVS’s long past and its present, in a long and rich history of progressively-growing accomplishments of the EBVS’ executive, reps and colleges. These all reflect a great depth and diversity of expertise and strong commitment and have let to the widespread and de facto recognition of the EBVS. There are numerous initiatives that are already underway and give an idea of what is emerging. The following are some, but not all, brief glimpses of what can be seen on the horizon. Some topics have already been featured in the EBVS newsletters.

Professionalisation of EBVS operations. After much discussion, the colleges recently voted strongly in favour of increasing the EBVS budget for 2012 to put in place a sustainable and professional administrative structure to support and protect our interests within Europe and globally.

Quality management of resident training and examination. Based on surveys and web-based discussion forums, consensus policies and procedures are being further defined and elaborated to specifically address this. Mandatory training workshops for examiners and resident supervisors are on the horizon. After survey and much discussion, P&P have now been agreed for details on the speciality exam process for colleges. The next step of detailed surveying of individual, college training P&P is beginning.

EBVS CPD (Continuing professional development): The EBVS is now introducing its first educational program related to the above point. A satellite workshop at its AGM will provide training for veterinary specialist examiners with experts from the EBVS, the Australian New Zealand College of Veterinary Sci-

entists (where such a programme is already established), and from academic education experts in Dublin (where the workshop was successfully piloted). This is likely to extend in the near future to cover training and supervision of residents for the colleges’ education committees. Also, there will be some training for EBVS representatives, as their responsibilities develop with the growth of the EBVS. Possibly, the future will even see scientific sessions of broad, cross-college relevance.

EBVPD: The European Board of Veterinary Professional Development is addressing the European-wide recognition of advanced training and skill development for vet practitioners. The board includes membership of all the European professional veterinary organisations.

International Veterinary Speciality Organisations (VSO). These organisations directly represent the veterinary specialties on the different continents. They now are collaborating and meeting regularly for comparisons to see what learnings can be made, what standardisations and harmonisations can be adopted, what specialties can develop across VSO, and what mutual recognition can be given to facilitate geographic mobility. The established VSO’s will also provide assistance and templates for progression of newly-emergent VSO’s on other continents.

Specialist Certificates. Certificates will be issued directly by the EBVS for its specialists on a 5-yearly basis, as the diplomates are first recognised by the colleges and then recertified on the basis of their CPD.

Visibility of the EBVS is growing rapidly, and this will not only continue but escalate. Its long-established and well-used web-site will be upgraded and modernised to be even more user-friendly, interactive, informative, and to serve more often as a discussion forum on key topics. The 3rd edition of the EBVS Newsletter is now being launched. Its frequency of issue will grow significantly and be a major mechanism for communication and education from the board. Articles explaining the organisation have been published and more will come into print in the veterinary literature. Alliances with other veterinary organisations, especially the FVE, are developing, for example this year saw the first EBVS presentation to the FVE general assembly. Collaboration with national veterinary organisation will likewise grow.
Integration into European veterinary organisations: The EBVS will become increasingly engaged. With ECCVT it is developing a vision for the future for co-ordination of all aspects of veterinary training. In addition to collaboration within the ECCVT and EBPVD, the EBVS is further building its alliance with FVE to move into regulatory circles in order to establish legal EU recognition. Success in this arena is some years away, but efforts are already well-developed. And, EBVS is likely to see increased engagement with EAEVE (European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education) and provide input into its goals.

Leveraging. The future will see increased recruitment, co-ordination and leveraging of our expertise and strong commitment. For example, the role of the EBVS reps at the college and national levels is growing with detailed job descriptions being developed and enhanced co-ordination put in place. The executive committee has been extended to include multiple, highly-experienced “councillors”. Together with the EBVS reps they will facilitate discussion forums, ideas generation, and advancement of initiatives.

Note from the Editor

A new EBVS Secretariat: Maureen O’Brien

As of June 1st, 2011, Maureen O’Brien has officially taken over the position of EBVS Administrative Assistant. She is the one who is now responding e-mail messages sent to the address info@ebvs.org. Maureen has designed and developed Information Technology systems for many years. She has worked with multinational companies in Canada, the US and Europe. She has webmastered several sites, including the European Society for Veterinary Clinical Pathology web site in its early years, and continues with business and leisure sites. She is the current company secretary and technical support for a small Irish startup company. She enjoys physical fitness, photography and hiking.

Maureen is married to Peter O’Brien and they have 3 children aged 12 to 17, Edward, William and Barbara. For the last 5 years they have been living in the Wicklow mountains in Ireland just outside of Dublin. The family also runs a Shotokan karate club in their community, with four of them being black-belt instructors.

The Wicklow mountains, in Ireland

Maureen O’Brien - EBVS Administrative Assistant since June 2011
FACTS about EBVS
Stefano Romagnoli, ECAR
EBVS Past President,

How many veterinary specialists are there in Europe? - In 2010 there were 2776 active diplomates in the 23 European Colleges

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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
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Sharon Green terminated her 12-year appointment as EBVS Secretariat on May 31st, and was replaced by Maureen O’Brien. As the EBVS account is still in a Belgian bank, Sharon kindly continued to be available to help the EBVS Treasurer Thomas Blaha with banking issues on a voluntary basis.

Why is the EBVS website not being updated lately? - The EBVS website (www.ebvs.org) has not been maintained over the last 12 months. When Sharon Green decided to quit her job as EBVS Secretariat, all of Sharon’s and Matthew’s (Sharon’s husband and EBVS webmaster) efforts were devoted to ensuring a smooth transition from the old to the new Secretariat. This has been achieved, but at the expense of the website, which has been increasingly neglected. Recently, Matthew told us that his company can no longer host the EBVS website, which will have to be moved to Dublin (at the location of the current Secretariat) by December 31st, 2011. We are confident that Maureen O’Brien and her technical associates will be able to redesign and improve the EBVS website, bringing it up to the standards of the best international associations.

New College of Animal Welfare, Behaviour - A proposal for a new College to be established within EBVS as a European College of Animal Welfare, Ethics and Law was discussed at the 2011 EBVS General Assembly. Because of the many issues in common with the European College of Veterinary Behavioural Medicine-Companion Animals (ECVBM-CA), applicants agreed to a fusion of their proposed College and ECVBM-CA into a new College called European College of Animal Welfare and Behavioural Medicine (ECAWBM). This new College will have 2 subspecialties, Behavioral Medicine and Animal Welfare.

New subspecialty for ECZM in Zoo Mammals —The European College of Zoological Medicine has added a new subspeciality in Zoo Mammal Medicine, making a total of 5: avian medicine, herpetological medicine, small mammal medicine, zoo mammal medicine and wildlife population health.

For which Colleges is it still be possible to become Diplomate De Facto? - The De-Facto procedure is normally open for the first 5 years after the College has been established. Currently, this is possible only for Poultry Veterinary Sciences (ECPVS) and Small Ruminant Health Management (ECSRHM). In addition, this is also possible a) for the ECZM subspecialties of small mammals, herpetology and wildlife population health (until 2014), and zoo mammals (until 2015); b) for the animal welfare subspeciality of the ECAWBM (until 2015—see above).

Contact persons for De Facto procedures - Prospective applicants for ECZM or ECAWBM should contact the following Diplomates:
Animal Welfare = David Morton (david.morton@alsatis.net) or Siobhan Mullan (siobhan.mullan@bristol.ac.uk)
Wildlife Population Health: Andrew Cunningham (A.Cunningham@ioz.ac.uk)
Herpetology: Sid Knotek (knotekz@vfu.cz)
Small Mammals: Katleen Hermans (katleen.hermans@ugent.be)
What EBVS did for Diplomates in 2011

Stefano Romagnoli, ECAR
EBVS Past President

1) Stefano Romagnoli attended the meeting of the American Board of Veterinary Specialties in Schaumburg, Illinois, on February 18-19., where he gave a presentation about EBVS (see his report on pages 6-7)

2) Neil Forbes, Stefano Romagnoli and Peter O’Brien attended the ECCVT Spring meeting in Bruxelles. Some of the most relevant topics discussed included a) discussing a report from Prof. Parodi on a TAIEX seminar on the development of a Mediterranean Union for Veterinary Education (http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/taie/dyn/taievents/library/detail_en.jsp?EventID=41540) ; b) discussing how to act with regard to the European School of Advanced Veterinary Studies (ESAVS) providing diplomas of Master in Veterinary Medicine at the University of Luxembourg (a University without a Veterinary School which, as such, should not be awarding Master diplomas in Veterinary Medicine); c) debating on the ECCVT view on updating the minimum training requirements for the revision of the 2005/36 Directive.

3) The EBVS Executive Committee met 7 times: 4 meetings were face to face (January, March and April in Bruxelles, September at the Stansted airport) while 3 more were held on skype. The March meeting was held in conjunction with the ECCVT meeting to better exploit travel costs. Skype is being used more and more, although for some issues face to face meetings are vital for better understanding and more in-depth discussions.

4) Stefano Romagnoli represented EBVS at the EAEVE annual general meeting in Lyon, France. As SR also represented EAEVE as well as the Veterinary Faculty at Padova, expenses for attending this event were shared by EBVS, EAEVE and the University of Padova

5) Stefano Romagnoli attended the general assemblies of EAEVE (Lyon, France, 12-13 May) and FVE (Palermo, Italy, 9-11 June) (see the FVE report on pages 17-18)

6) On June 23, Neil Forbes and Peter O’Brien and an FVE staff met with Thomas Wiedmann, member of Directorate General on Internal Market of the European Commission. Topics discussed were harmonisation between specialists of different countries and disciplines and how to prepare for the next opportunity to make changes in the Directive 2005/36. According to Mr Wiedmann, such an opportunity will come up again in about 10-15 years. He said the DG’s interest is the ‘open market’, meaning that something could possibly be done in the new Directive should nationally qualified veterinary specialists be prevented from working in other EU countries as Veterinary Specialists. Moreover he required numbers, data and case studies, letters of complaint etc from these persons (see also article on page 14). This was a very important meeting. Thanks to Neil and Peter for doing a great job!

7) Thomas Blaha attended 2 meetings of the EBVPD. EBVS Diplomates will certainly be involved in some ways in the training of Acknowledged Practitioners and continued, high level training of APs might stimulate some APs to embark in an alternative residency program, especially if previous training was supervised by an EBVS Diplomat. The AP program has the potential to create the basis for interesting developments at least for some Colleges (see TB’s paper on page 13).

8) While in South Korea as an invited speaker at WSAVA in October, Kathy Clarke attended several events including a meeting of the Executive Committee of WSAVA in which veterinary specialisation was discussed, a meeting of the International Working Group on Veterinary Specialties, and a meeting of the organising committee of the Asian Board of Veterinary Specialisation (see her report on pages 9-10).

9) Stephen May and Peter O’Brien attended the ECCVT Fall-meeting in Bruxelles. Some of the most relevant topics discussed included a) helping the newborn Mediterranean Union for Veterinary Education to work towards improving the quality of veterinary training; b) discussing how to tackle a problem with homologation of the veterinary title in Spain; c) preparing a document on the mission and vision of ECCVT; d) developing a strategy on how to address the EU Commission on updating the Veterinary Annex of the Directive 2005/36 in preparation for its next revision.

10) Peter O’Brien attended the General Assemblies of UEVP, FVE in Bruxelles, November 17-19, and gave a presentation on EBVS

11) While in South Africa as an invited speaker at WVA in November, Neil Forbes attended a meeting he had helped organise on veterinary specialisation in South Africa, to help colleagues down there figure out how to organise a Veterinary Specialisation Board. South African colleagues may attend the 2012 EBVS General Assembly.

12) On November 30 Stefano Romagnoli was invited by the University of Parma, Italy, to speak about legal recognition of EBVS Diplomas in Europe in a meeting on Veterinary Specialisation
The American Board of Veterinary Specialities (ABVS) held its annual meeting on February 18-19, and Stefano Romagnoli represented EBVS there. The following is his report of the meeting.

The American Board of Veterinary Specialisation (ABVS, http://www.avma.org/education/abvs/default.asp) was established in 1959 and is currently composed by 21 Colleges with a 2011 membership of more than 10,200 members. Its meetings are normally held in February at the AVMA building in Schaumburg, Illinois (Figure n° 1) in a spacious room on the first floor, with large windows overlooking the countryside and with all delegates seated around a huge, square table.

Following a brief introductory remark from the Chair, Dale Pac- camonti (ACT), and quick approval of a series of ABVS (including minutes of the previous annual meeting and of previous executive committee meetings, ABVS roster, list of College contacts, ABVS responsibilities, etc) and AVMA documents (including strategic plan, expense report, confidentiality and conflict of interests, AVMA Executive Board action etc.), the AVMA Vice President was given the floor for a brief introductory remark. He reported on official AVMA membership at the end of 2010 being 81,621 members, up 15% from 2009. The 2011 budget is better than last year’s, as they were able to increase bank savings to 3 million dollars. A new strategic plan is being developed and due to be approved in June, while an 11-member committee was established to look at the AVMA vision with a 2020 perspective. Also, a task force on students and recent graduates was established to get input from them recognising that they are our future and that if anybody is considering dropping AVMA membership it is certainly one of them: low starting salary, low profitability of starting companies etc. are going to be discussed in relation to what should be the role of AVMA. New initiatives: a) Myveterinarian.com is a database developed by AVMA to help customers locate a vet in their area, they are trying to convince all vet clinics to send their information for the database; b) Pet wellness coalition, a coalition of petfood companies, drug companies, associations like AVMA (17 in total) to try and get to a big chunk of the veterinary market which remains untouched (pets who never see the vet) through a 3-prong, 3-year long effort; c) a 1.0 million dollar fund recently invested in redesigning the AVMA website to improve communication with members; d) panel discussion on recommendations on animal euthanasia.

Five-Year In-Depth Reports were then presented, discussed and accepted relative to the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners (ABVP) and the American Colleges of Poultry Veterinarians (ACPV), Veterinary Dermatology (ACVD) and Veterinary Microbiologists (ACVM). The ACVD was commended for starting a recertification program and even changing their bylaws by saying that a Diplomate must recertify in order to be in good standing. There was a concern about the ACVM’s lack of growth in recent years, and it was noted that over the last few years only 45 of 91 candidates who credentialed ended up taking the examination: it appeared that as soon as candidates are notified that they qualify to take the exam, they ask their supervisor to write a letter to their employer saying that they qualify, which presumably is enough to get promoted, and then they never take the exam.

The Annual Report Review Committee then presented a cumulative annual report on the 20 Colleges present in 2010, whose continued full recognition was recommended. In general, the loss of diplomates from academia to private practice and to industry remains a concern. Most Colleges have either already completed a Job Task Analysis, have one underway, or have expressed interest in completing one. This increasing use of psychometrics to enhance examination credibility is seen as a positive trend.

New Colleges and Sub-Specialties presented were the American College of Veterinary Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation (ACVSMR), and the American College of Animal Welfare. For both, the year of public comment (a routine procedure within ABVS
by which opinions and comments are collected through the major vet journals and ABVS web site from veterinarians and the public alike on advantages and disadvantages of establishing new Colleges or Sub-Specialties) allowed the collection of several generally positive contributions. After some discussion, the ACVS MR was given provisional recognition. Also, the petition for recognition of a recognised veterinary specialty of Parasitology under the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists was approved. Letters were received and discussed with regard to establishing new Colleges of Acupuncture (Liaisons: Drs. Seahorn and Anderson), and Shelter Medicine (Liaisons: Drs. Bauer and Sander), and letters were also received from the North American Academy of Veterinary Orthopedic Surgery (Liaisons: Drs. Harvey and Hardy).

As to **Policy and Procedures**, the ABVS is currently

a) reviewing its objectives and mission statement;

b) considering separating the certifying organisation from the membership organisation because of recent court cases from former residents who have been unable to pass the examination and then sued the College (there is no need to have the membership organisation dealing with such problems);

c) proposing changes to language calling for public comment and what the public should comment on;

d) discussing creating a public member position on the ABVS (AVMA asked ABVS to discuss this issue. (Some colleges such as ACVO have one.) The AVMA Council on Education has 3 public members, and one of them could be co-opted. It is felt better to be inclusive rather than exclusive, so perhaps criteria could be developed. AVMA did not specify whether they would prefer a vet or non vet. AVMA has an attorney, a human pathologist and an educator, and all their expenses are paid by AVMA.

**Recertification** was then discussed at length. This topic has been on the ABVS agenda for years, but since it is left up to each College to decide whether or not it should be done, most Colleges have not taken any decision yet. My input was requested, so I presented my 2011 EBVS Report (which was on the agenda) during which I commented extensively on our recertification criteria. Following a lengthy debate, it was decided that by 2016 Colleges should come up with a strategy for recertification, which will most likely concern only new Diplomates. It will be up to established active Diplomates to choose whether or not to recertify.

On the **International agenda**, collaboration with EBVS was discussed with many positive comments. Also, Megan Parker, the CEO of the Australian New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists (ANZCVS) was welcomed on her first ever visit to ABVS and was given the floor for a short presentation introducing the ANZCVS. Colin Harvey then reported on what had happened at the meeting of the developing Asian Veterinary Specialities Board in Bangkok (Romagnoli, EBVS Newsletter 2: 7, 2011) and presented the situation with regard to the International Veterinary Specialisation Accrediting Committee (IVSAC, see box on page 10).

**Election of New Officers** then took place. Dr. Janyce Seahorn (American College of Veterinary Anesthesiologists) was elected Chair; Dr. Lynn Anderson (American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine) Vice-Chair, and Dr. John MacDonald (ABVS) Member-at-Large

*Update from Australia-New Zealand*

Peter O’Brien, ECVCP

EBVS Vice-President

*On behalf of the EBVS, Peter O’Brien travelled to Australia and attended the annual meeting of the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists (ANZCVS) in July 2011. His report follows.*

The ANZCVS executive put together a busy but highly enjoyable and informative schedule of business and social events for the EBVS rep. Not only were there various meetings with the college council, college chapter representatives, board of examiners, and internationalisation working group (IVSWG), there was the college AGM, 40th-Anniversary Awards Dinner, and social happy hour and dinner. These were embedded in 3-days of multi-stream scientific presentations by the college chapters, along with a trade exhibition.

1) **Meeting with the ANZCVS Council.** A half-hour presentation was given with Q&A, followed by discussion on collaborative opportunities. The EBVS executive was introduced with a breakdown of the membership of specialty colleges and their various responsibilities and criteria for establishment. Our AGM of college reps, with observers from other European veterinary organisations and comparable boards of veterinary specialisation from other continents, was described. Our website and web-based
forums for internal and external communication were shown. Objectives, roles, functions and a brief history were outlined. Close collaboration with other European veterinary organisations was highlighted, e.g. Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE), “European Co-ordinating Committee on Veterinary Training” (ECCVT), and the “European Board of Veterinary Professional Development” (EBVPD).

2) Meeting with the ANZCVS Chapter Representatives: At an informal, breakfast meeting of the ANZCVS chapter reps, who would be analogous to the EBVS reps, a similar presentation and discussion to that discussed above was held. There was considerable interest in collaboration at the individual speciality area, and this was already well initiated in a few specialities.

3) Advantages of international collaboration were discussed at both meetings, including a) economy, credibility, and leveraging of scale, b) reciprocal recognition for geographic mobility, c) mutual learning for continuous improvement, d) standardisation where appropriate, and e) achievement of critical mass in small specialities. Some specific areas of continued and active learning for EBVS were identified including the ANZCVS version of veterinary professional development, their newsletter, the operational concept of a CEO with administrative support, of combination of CPD with the AGM, their centralised examiner training and exam QC, and mechanisms of a legal basis for specialisation.

4) Meeting of the International Veterinary Speciality Working Group (IVSWG, previously IVSAC, see box on page 10): This is a meeting of representatives of the different recognised veterinary speciality organisations (RVSO’s) that operate on the different continents, namely the EBVS, ANZCVS, ABVS (American Board of Veterinary Specialities) and the proposed AiBVS (Asian Board of Veterinary Specialities). Goals are to

- build consensus standards for recognition of RVSO’s;
- continued dialogue to assure quality,
- set consensus standards and benchmark rules and regulations at both the speciality and regulatory level;
- enhance specialty veterinary medicine globally,
- serve as a useful resource for comparison of standards and mentoring of emerging RVSO’s.

At the meeting, a document comparing policies and procedures of the three established RVSO’s was produced and is now being used to develop a set of principles for mutual recognition of RVSO and to help guide the AiBVS to move forward.

There was continued discussion on funding the travel of RVSO representatives to the different meetings of the IIVSWG. Proposals for minimising costs were introduced, including combined use of in-person and Skype web-conferencing, rotating of representative role amongst board members; and co-use of venues for other international or RVSO meetings where IIVSWG representatives are already in attendance. This, for example, eliminated EBVS travels costs for IIVSWG meetings in Korea (venue of the WSAVA meeting) and South Africa (venue of the WVA meeting – here the South Africa Veterinary Council will meet up with IIVSWG).

At the ABVS request, both the ANZCVS and EBVS produced a letter to the Executive Board of the American Veterinary Medical Association to support the ABVS in continuing their work with the IIVSWG.

5) ANZCVS AGM. This was their 40th anniversary. Some highlights follow. Their membership has just reached 2043 and there are 180 fellows (equivalent of our diplomates). For membership, the examination fee is $1250, and annual fee is $140. For members taking the fellowship examination the fee is $4250. For this year’s examinations, 75% of 108 membership candidates from 20 specialities passed, and there were 7 new fellows out of 18 candidates. Phil Moses was elected new President for 2011 and Mandi Burrows continued as Chief Examiner. The college changes its name this year to acknowledge that it is comprised of both Australian and New Zealand members (formerly it was simply called the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists).

6) Collaboration on Speciality Examiner Training for the EBVS: I attended the specialist examiners’ training workshop of the ANZCVS and was impressed with its quality, reception by participants, and with what I learned. Based on this, the EBVS collaborated with the ANZCVS and put together a pilot workshop for training speciality examiners for EBVS. This was held at the end of July this year for a single college.

The feedback was highly favourable, and so this workshop is now being offered to examination committee members of all the EBVS colleges immediately after our AGM. Those colleges that already have such a programme (not many) are being asked to participate for benchmarking their own programme and new learning.

Thus, now, for the first time, and like the ANZCVS, the EBVS will provide formal training of its specialist examiners. This or comparable training will become requirements for examiners. Also for the first time and like the ANZCVS (although on a much smaller scale), CPD (continuing professional development) will be linked to the EBVS AGM.
It happened in Asia
Kathy W Clarke, ECVAA

Kathy Clarke, former EBVS Secretary, was an invited speaker at the annual Congress of the World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA) held in Jeju, South Korea (14-17 October 2011). While there, she represented EBVS in a number of meetings. The following is a brief summary of her report to EBVS.

If you see pictures of delegates at WSAVA attending superb displays of Korean dancing and drumming, eating from sumptuous barbeques, exploring lava caves, hiking through attractive shoreline trails, or swimming in the beautifully warm China Sea, then relaxing in the sun, may I assure you that EBVS did not pay for me to attend! Indeed I hope you appreciate that attending the meetings on behalf of EBVS, in conjunction with my presentations, meant that I did spend most of the days in the magnificent conference centre, and was unable to partake of full days sightseeing. At least this was good for my own CPD as it enabled me to attend to lectures of interest, but not specifically in my own specialty. However, we were fortunate in having, other than one day, the most magnificent weather in which to enjoy this lovely destination.

On behalf of EBVS I attended a series of meetings. The first was with the Executive Committee of WSAVA in which Colin Harvey, on behalf of the International Working Group on Veterinary Specialties (IVSWG), asked for the support of the WSAVA. The President of WSAVA, Jolle Kirpenstein, stated, that whilst supportive of the aims of IIVSWG, WSAVA’s remit was improving small animal practice world-wide, rather than specialisation. One way in which they did this was the Congress, another was to agree and publish world-wide guidelines on certain points, such that they had done on vaccination, and on small animal nutrition. Colin Harvey pointed out that most of the speakers at the current Congress were Board certified specialists and that WSAVA also needed their expertise in many areas. It was agreed that WSAVA could help by circulating information, and by providing rooms for meetings where required. However, it was suggested that if the Specialist Associations (whether EBVS, or the individual Colleges) affiliated with WSAVA, then it would help to ensure that we were not left out of relevant discussions. Although many of EBVS’s Colleges have no specific affinity with WSAVA, many have, and I have suggested to the EBVS Board that they consider this option as apparently it is not very expensive.

A meeting of IIVSWG was chaired by Colin Harvey. IIVSWG’s basic remit is to attempt to set standards to which different specialist boards throughout the world can aspire, so that, in the long term, specialist qualifications can be recognised in countries other than those where they are gained. Attendees were Doug Aspros (AVMA President-elect), Siraya Chunekamrai (representing the Asian Board of Veterinary Specialisation — AiBVS), myself (representing EBVS), Larry Dee (ABVS Liaison to the AVMA Executive Board), Colin Harvey (ABVS representative to IIVSWG and IIVSWG chair) and Caroline Mansfield (representing the Australian New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists — ANZCVS). Two other members of AiBVS attended as observers.

Colin had produced a document, primarily based on ABVS and EBVS regulations, as a suggested base for all area Boards to design the Policies and Procedures needed to ensure standards in speciality Colleges. Although a good basis for potential new Board systems such as South Africa and Asia, it did not fit with the very different ‘Chapter’ system of ANZCVS, so they were now looking to see how this document could be adapted. Colin emphasised that, after discussion with the three existing Boards (ABVS, EBVS and ANZCVS), what IIVSWG could offer emerging speciality Boards such as AiBVS was help and assistance with setting up a suitable framework for auditing standards of specialisation, that might in future lead to closer co-operation. However, reciprocity was not on offer at the current time.

Colin then described his meeting (together with Neil Forbes) with a group who wished to start a Specialty Board in South Africa, although enthusiastic they admitted that numbers in each speciality might not be viable. Currently there is a system of MSc training in postgraduate clinical work available at the University, but this group would like to open up the possibility of other routes of training. The other major point discussed during the meeting was that there were very few countries where the term ‘Specialist’ was protected in law.

I then attended a meeting of AiBVS organising committee as an observer. Approximately 20 people attended. Dr Siraya Chunekamrai chaired the meeting very tactfully, as disagreements occurred through people who had not been at previous meetings, disagreeing with what had already been decided. There are already some Asian specialty colleges, but they tend to be country based, and other individual countries had their own post-graduate training, - problems similar to those that occur in Europe. Agreement had been reached - to quote ‘Asian Board of Veterinary Specialties must be Pan Asia. Relevant to all, possible for all, answers to the continent’s needs and internationally recognised – equivalent standards to three main specialty boards of the world (ABVS, EBVS, ANZCVS).’

It was agreed that there needed to be an ‘organising committee’ but there was much discussion over size. However a group of
three were ‘volunteered’ to identify who should be invited on to this organising committee, and had the backing of the meeting. Sponsorship was available for the development of the Board.

Despite all these meetings, I did manage to give four scientific presentations, made many new friends who I hope I will meet again, and finally, in my last hours in Jeju, did get the time to swim in the very warm China Sea.

Animal reproduction has long been recognised as a relevant core discipline of the veterinary curriculum. The scientific progress in the disciplines of animal reproduction (gynaecology, andrology, obstetrics and perinatology, biotechnology of reproduction), the increasing cooperation of veterinary reproduction specialists in Europe and the aim of providing a professional service of the highest possible level all over Europe led to the formation of two European scientific societies dedicated to animal reproduction: the European Society of Domestic Animal Reproduction (ESDAR), founded in 1997 and the European Veterinary Society for Small Animal Reproduction (EVSSAR), founded in 1998. In 1998, both societies approached the EBVS independently with the aim of establishing two distinct European colleges, one dedicated to the reproduction of small companion animals (EVSSAR) and one dedicated to the reproduction of production animals, equidae as well as small companion animals. Upon receipt of the two letters of intent and first draft documents, EBVS suggested that the two groups should discuss the possibility of one common College, a suggestion which was readily accepted. In 1998, the Organising Committee for a college of animal reproduction was formed by the following Founding Diplomates (Invited Specialists) named by both ESDAR and EVSSAR:

Jörg Aurich (A-Vienna, ESDAR)
Aart de Kruif (B-Ghent, ESDAR)
Stig Einarsson (S-Uppsala, ESDAR)
Gary England (UK-London, EVSSAR)
Wenche Farstad (N-Oslo, EVSSAR)
Torben Greve (DK-Copenhagen, ESDAR)
Catharina Linde-Forsberg (S-Uppsala, EVSSAR)
Detlef Rath (D-Mariensee, ESDAR)
Laszlo Solti (H-Budapest, ESDAR)
Bert van der Weijden, (NL-Utrecht, ESDAR)
John Verstegen (B-Liege, EVSSAR)

Although ECAR has its origins in ESDAR and EVSSAR and continues a close cooperation with both societies, the organising committee was established as an independent body and was given the task of organising the structure of the College and working on the provisional recognition of ECAR by EBVS. Also, the ECAR organising committee decided to establish close links with the American College of Theriogenologists. ACT Diplomates were invited over to Europe to contribute to the development of ECAR, particularly with regard to the tasks of the Exam and Credentials Committees. Furthermore, a) both ECAR and ACT exchange invitations to each other’s Presidents to attend the Annual Board as well as

Note from the Editor

What happened to IVSAC? - The International Veterinary Specialty Accrediting Committee was established in 2010, and approved by ABVS, EBVS and ANZCVSc at their annual 2011 meetings. Although approval by EBVS and ANZCVSc was definitive, approval by ABVS was only provisional as ABVS depends on AVMA authorisation. In May 2011, the AVMA leadership clearly indicated that the definition of IVSAC was misleading, as it could be considered as having a certification/regulatory function to which other entities would be subject. Although the remit of IVSAC was to provide a discussion forum where standards are developed (and entities are not accredited) it was decided to change the name of IVSAC into International Veterinary Specialisation Working Group (IVSWG). The primary IVSAC concepts are maintained in IVSWG: adopting principles, full membership being limited to entities accepting the principles, providing support for developing recognition/accreditation entities, and approval by ABVS, ANZCVSc and EBVS before IVSWG becomes formally established. IVSWG’s current official members are ABVS, EBVS and ANZCVSc. EBVS representatives are Stefano Romagnoli and Peter O’Brien.
the Annual Business Meeting of the parent association, b) ACT Diplomates can train ECAR residents in Europe, and ECAR Diplomates can train ACT residents in the USA. The application for provisional recognition was accepted by the EBVS in 1999. Since then, ECAR has grown steadily (Table 1), its first exam was held in 2002 and the College was fully recognised by EBVS after only 5 years in 2004. The first ECAR President was Stig Einarsson (Upssala, S, 1999-2002 and 2002-2005), followed by Elaine Watson (Edinburgh, UK, 2005-2008), Joerg Aurich (Vienna, A, 2008-2011) and Stefano Romagnoli (Padua, I, 2011-2014).

The name of the College (animal instead of mammalian reproduction) reflects the broad spectrum of disciplines including biotechnology of reproduction as well as reproduction of avian and exotic animals. ECAR residents are trained in all species but usually focus on one of the following fields: a) small animal reproduction; b) equine reproduction; c) ruminant reproduction and herd health; d) porcine reproduction and herd health; e) reproductive biotechnology. Residents must maintain a brief case dairy of all cases seen (listing date, signalment, presenting complaint, diagnosis, treatment etc. including degree of responsibility taken by the Resident) during the programme, as well as a diary listing days of clinical service, external instruction, scientific meetings attended and presentations given. Training must encompass all fields of reproduction (physiology, pharmacology, pathology, microbiology, endocrinology, anaesthesiology, surgery, as well as technical and legal aspects of animal breeding, artificial insemination and diagnostic imaging.

The Recertification process takes place every 5 years for all Diplomates of the College. Such an arrangement is somewhat time consuming as it gets undertaken for all Diplomates during the same calendar year, but it ensures that nobody is forgotten by establishing clear deadlines by which all Diplomates have to strictly abide. In the two recertification rounds that have taken place so far (2005 and 2010), approximately 10-15% of Diplomates have not recertified or have opted for Non-Practising status.

The current composition of ECAR Diplomates reflects its strong international character, with several of its 214 members being from and/or working in countries outside Europe including North and South America, South Africa, the Arabian peninsula and Oceania (Table n° 2). ECAR Residents can be trained in 32 Training Institutions approved by the College and located in European countries. In 2011, 17/42 Residents (all 42 being trained in standard training programmes) took the ECAR exam and 13 passed, giving a total number of ECAR Diplomates of 214.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>N° of ECAR members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>70</td>
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<tr>
<td>2001</td>
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<td>2009</td>
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<td>2010</td>
<td>208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>214</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table n° 1—Progressive composition of ECAR Diplomates from the birth of the College in 1999 to present

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>N° of Diplomates</th>
<th>N° of Training Institutions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>New Zealand</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oman</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portugal</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
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<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
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<td>UK</td>
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<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table n° 2—Number of ECAR Diplomates in each country and number of ECAR-approved Training Institutions, 2011
Recognition of the ECAR Diploma is considered very important by the College. Although still not formally regulated, there is a substantial agreement between ECAR and ACT concerning recognition of each other’s Diploma and the possibility for Diplomates of both associations to use their titles on both sides of the Atlantic. Talks are under way with the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists to formalise recognition of the ECAR Diploma with the Diploma issued by the Reproduction Chapter of the ANZCVS. Also, within the developing Asian Board of Veterinary Specialisation an Asian Reproduction College is being considered. International recognition of specialist diplomas is a very important development which ECAR is following up closely, as we aim to be leaders and pioneers also in this field.

Training ECVS Residents at the Royal Veterinary College, London
Stephen May, ECVS
EBVS Secretary

The Royal Veterinary College (RVC) has two sets of standard residency programmes, accredited by the European College of Veterinary Surgeons (ECVS), with, currently, four residents training in Small Animal Surgery and two training in Large Animal Surgery. These are supported by eight faculty members who are small animal ECVS diplomates and four who are large animal diplomates. Open positions are advertised approximately six months prior to the date on which the residency programme is due to commence, usually in the Veterinary Record, and the RVC receives large numbers of well-qualified applicants from the UK and overseas. All residents must either have been qualified for a minimum of two years or have completed a one-year rotating internship. Residency programmes are of three years duration, with a minimum of 60% of time spent in supervised case management, additional periods of 80 hours spent in each of anaesthesia, diagnostic imaging, pathology, and internal medicine, and most of the remainder spent in clinical research towards the publication requirements. Both small animal and equine residents are also active participants, on a rota basis, in the College’s 24/7 out-of-hours services, in the evenings and at weekends. The intention is that residents will become completely familiar with and accustomed to the busy environment of a large specialist veterinary hospital.

In recent years, a modular seminar programme, that supports the knowledge requirements, and learning in research skills, required for the clinical projects of the College’s 45 residents across all disciplines, has been added, that leads to an MVetMed degree. This complements and enhances the practical experience gained by residents in their different disciplines in the College’s busy hospitals.

In line with experience in other institutions, the College finds that with good organisation, residents are able to achieve the minimum publication requirements of the ECVS – one first author and one second author paper in peer-reviewed journals – in time for them to take their Board examinations in the year after programme completion. Occasionally, residents will go further, with one exceptional individual completing four peer-reviewed publications during the course of his training programme. Residents deliver at least five professional presentations to colleagues at the
tation and one, who finished more recently, who still has to complete the examination. The RVC is proud to have contributed to the education of 24 diplomates (6%) out of the total of 400 ECVS diplomates, and looks forward to continuing to build, with EBVS, and universities and practices throughout Europe, the platform for the provision and recognition of specialist surgical services across our continent!

Update on EBVPD
Thomas Blaha, ECPHM
EBVS Treasurer

A short history of EBVPD
UEVP published in November 2005 a position paper regarding a post-graduate “European Acknowledged Practitioner” describing the need for the recognition of practitioners by species orientation. In November 2007, FECAVA discussed the concept by adding suggestions for discipline-oriented, structured continuous professional development with the recognition of companion animal practitioners that filled the gap between the graduate level and that of the European Diplomate Specialist under the umbrella of EBVS. In October 2009, FECAVA presented a discussion paper to the ECCVT committee in Brussels proposing to build upon the original UEVP paper and the needs identified by FECAVA member associations. ECCVT decided to form an inter-organisational working group to consult with all stakeholders and to make proposals on this subject. This working group met in Dublin in March 2010 and proposed that an inter-organisational body should be formed. This proposal was adopted by the boards and general assemblies of the following founding member organisations: EAEVE, EBVS, FVE, UEVP, and FECAVA (as co-opted member). The proposed body was established in April 2011 as an interim Board, to be known as the EBVPD (= European Board of Veterinary Professional Development). The organs of EBVPD are: the Executive Committee, Sub Committees, a Validation Network/Panel, and an Appeals Committee.

The current EBVPD Executive Committee members are: Andrew Byrne as chairman (FECAVA/UEVP), Valery Beatty (FVE), Andrew Robinson (UEVP), Thomas Blaha (EBVS), Frank Gasthuys (EBVS), Joost van Herten (EAEVE), Stéphane Martinot (EAEVE) and Despoina Iatridou (FVE Executive support).

The following Subcommittees of EBVPD are currently envisaged: European Acknowledged Companion Animal Veterinarian Subcommittee, European Equine Veterinarian Subcommittee, European Acknowledged Laboratory Animals Veterinarian Subcommittee, European Acknowledged Ruminant Veterinarian Subcommittee, European Acknowledged Porcine Veterinarian Subcommittee, and others...

There will also be consulting and supervising organisations such as the appropriate European Colleges (e.g. ECVS, ECLAM, ECBHM, and ECPHM) as well as organisations such as FECAVA, the European Buiatrics Association, the European Association of Porcine Health Management, and others...

The latest developments and achievements
On September 21 and December 14, 2011, the Interim EBVPD Executive Committee met for two full days to decide on a legally correct Statute, in which the purpose of the EBVPD is now finally defined as follows: “...to standardise post graduate professional development programmes [throughout Europe] leading to the recognition of the European Advanced Veterinarian at or above EBVPD approved minimum standards.”

The next steps are: a) after agreeing with the draft statute, establishing the definitive EBVPD (drop the “interim”), b) establishing appropriate subcommittees, and c) setting the minimum quality standards for the first programmes to be recognised as “European Acknowledged Veterinarian in the Area of...”

All in all, the development of EBVPD for creating the title “European Advanced Veterinarian” is well under way and will soon be a working body providing an important service to the veterinary profession.
Recognition of EBVS Diplomas in Europe: the current darkness (Spain et al.) and a bright future ahead (France)

Stefano Romagnoli, ECAR
EBVS Past President,

The current darkness: Spain (& al) – In 2009 a Spanish Diplomate wrote to EBVS complaining about lack of recognition of his title in Spain. He had passed his Diploma exam after having gone through a residency program in Northern Europe, and upon his return home he officially asked the Spanish Veterinary Order Organisation (Consejo General de Colegios Veterinarios de España (CGCVE)) how he could get his Diploma recognised in Spain. The reply from the CGCVE was that recognition of his EBVS diploma was not possible. The CGCVE has since then decided to foster the establishment of a national degree of veterinary specialisation with residencies and exams parallel to those run by EBVS colleges. Such a decision probably originated from the generalised perception (common to several European countries) that EBVS Diplomas are considered by practitioners to be out of reach for them, and was based on a published report (commissioned by the CGCVE) about Veterinary Specialisation in Spain. This report recognises the need for Veterinary Specialisation in Spain, envisaging both the establishment of “Training Centres” with “Residents” of disciplines similar to the EBVS Colleges but controlled by the CGCVE, as well as the international recognition in Europe of national diplomas obtained under these circumstances. EBVS/ABVS Diplomates living in Spain have been complaining to the CGCVE about the situation and have contacted EBVS, FVE and EAEVE asking for help in protecting their titles of Veterinary Specialist.

A bright future ahead: France - The veterinary competent authorities in France have historically been very reluctant to accept the European system of specialisation, as demonstrated by the setting up of a French system of veterinary specialisation called DESV (Diplôme d’Études Spécialisées Vétérinaires) at about the same time (1992) as the first European Colleges were being established. Despite these political efforts, the vast majority of French veterinarians interested in becoming specialists decided to follow the EBVS route: in 2010 there were about 30 French DESV specialists in clinical disciplines versus about 230 French Diplomates of European Colleges. The European route has been actively supported by the French Association of Companion Animal Practitioners (Association Française des Vétérinaires pour Animaux de Compagnie = AFVAC), and particularly by Dr. Didier-Noël Carlotti, an ECVD Diplomate and long serving AFVAC President (1999-2009). In 1999 a Syndicate (Union) of European Diplomates was created in France. Albeit small, such a group (Syndicat Français des Vétérinaires Membres de Collèges Européens = SFVMCE) was supported by AFVAC from the beginning. The two organisations, AFVAC and SFVMCE have worked together over the years lobbying hard for the recognition of EBVS Colleges in France. Legally, veterinary specialisation is regulated in France by the CNSV (Conseil National de la Spécialisation Vétérinaire) under the umbrella of the Ministry of Agriculture. It is a State structure and, as such, could not in principle accept foreign bodies under its governance.

In 2009, the Ministry of Agriculture adopted a number of official regulations which currently allow for the use of the official title of Veterinary Specialist by Diplomates of Colleges that are recognised by CNSV. Therefore, the ECVD was officially recognised in France on 5th May 2010 and ECVO, ECVIM-CA-Cardiology, ECVS-SA and ECVDI were recognised on 6th October 2010. Diplomates of these Colleges are now automatically recognised as official specialists in France. Other Colleges will probably follow suit shortly provided that there are French Diplomates from each one of them (as the application needs to be done by a French citizen) and that the College is fully recognised by EBVS. Subsequent to this, the SFVMCE decided to inform both the profession and the public about this important novelty, and the first step was to launch a campaign of information with articles appearing on French Veterinary Journals (such as “La Dépêche”, the journal of the French Veterinary Union SVNEL) speaking about veterinary specialisation. The second step was to produce a poster (an idea taken from an initiative of the American College of Veterinary Surgery) defining and describing Veterinary Specialisation, to be put in the waiting room of veterinary clinics to inform clients (Figure n° 1). The poster features the logos of EBVS and the websites of EBVS and the French National Veterinary Order.

Although the number of DESV Specialists present in France is still relevant and it will probably keep increasing marginally for at least the near future, the EBVS College system will certainly keep developing at a much faster pace. Whether or not the DESV system will disappear is hard to tell: such a system probably provides a good opportunity for all those veterinarians who want to improve the quality of clinical services provided to clients but cannot take the time and effort to go through a residency programme. For the
Figure n° 1 — A poster developed by the Syndicat Français des Vétérinaires Membres de Collèges Européens (Union of French Veterinarians Diplomates of EBVS Colleges) which provides the definition of a veterinary specialist, clarifies differences between national (French) and European (EBVS) Veterinary Specialists, and explains the peculiarities of a Veterinary Specialist. This is a helpful tool to make sure clients and stakeholders understand the difference between a veterinarian and a specialist, and also between a national specialist and an European Specialist.

Editor
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stefano.romagnoli@unipd.it

A NEWSLETTER from EBVS (www.ebvs.org)

Veterinary Excellence through Specialisation

Le Vétérinaire Spécialiste,
a votre service et à celui de votre Vétérinaire

Qu’est qu’un Vétérinaire Spécialiste ?

Un Vétérinaire Spécialiste :
• A suivi une formation complémentaire approfondie dans une discipline, qui a abouti à une qualification à caractère spécialité après examen de tout niveau :
• A été formellement reconnu en France par le Conseil National de la Spécialisation Vétérinaire et l’Ordre des Vétérinaires, comme ayant obtenu le statut de Spécialiste :
• Est par conséquent autorisé à porter le titre de Spécialiste :
• Est susceptible d’être considéré par les autres membres de la profession comme ayant le statut de consultant dans sa spécialité.

Quel diplôme a acquis le Vétérinaire Spécialiste ?

Le statut de Spécialiste est délivré aux Vétérinaires titulaires des diplômes suivants :
• Diplôme de Vétéranire Spécialiste Européen, délivré par un Collège Européen de Spécialité Vétérinaire sous la responsabilité du Bureau Européen de la Spécialisation Vétérinaire (EBVS) et reconnu en France, obtenu après 1 an d’internat, 3 ans de résidanat et la réussite à l’examen. Le diplôme doit être renouvelé tous les 5 ans.
• Diplôme de Vétérinaire Spécialiste National (DESIV = Diplôme d’Études Spécialisées Vétérinaires), délivré par les Écoles Vétérinaires Françaises, obtenu après 3 ans de formation et réussite à l’examen.

Pourquoi le Vétérinaire Spécialiste exerce-t-il exclusivement ou quasi-exclusivement sa spécialité ?

• Il reçoit des cas difficiles à la routine, soit directement de clients, soit le plus souvent de Vétérinaires Généralistes.
• Cela lui garantit un large éventail de cas et ainsi une grande expérience dans son domaine.
• Cela lui permet également de disposer d’un matériel de haute qualité et de s’entourer d’un personnel qualifié régulièrement formé.
• Sa compétence et son savoir-faire garantissent une haute qualité de soins.

Pourquoi le Vétérinaire Spécialiste se forme-t-il en permanence et fait progresser sa discipline ?

• Le Vétérinaire Spécialiste se forme en permanence aux données actuelles de la science médicale et participe à la formation de ses confrères Vétérinaires Généralistes et Spécialistes.
• Il met en œuvre des méthodes et techniques médicales et chirurgicales les plus récentes, actualisées et validées. Il applique les données récentes et notamment celles de la médecine basées sur les preuves.
• Il participe à la recherche clinique dans sa discipline et à ce titre écrit des publications scientifiques et participe aux activités structurelles professionnelles (congrès, colloques, séminaires, etc.).
• Cela lui permet de proposer les meilleurs soins aux propriétaires d’animaux.

POUR PLUS DE RENSEIGNEMENTS
• Conseil Supérieur de l’Ordre des Vétérinaires :
  www.veterinaire.fr (formulaire gérer un vétérinaire/vétérinaire spécialiste)
• European Board of Veterinary Specialisation : www.ebvs.org

A NEWSLETTER from EBVS (www.ebvs.org)

Editor
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Veterinary Excellence through Specialisation

sake of clarity of public perception it will be important that a DESV specialist is labeled as a “National Specialist”, as this would keep them distinct from the “European Specialist”, holding an EBVS Diploma.

Comment – Most European countries have their own national veterinary specialisation programmes, except for Estonia, Greece, Ireland, Romania and Turkey (according to a recent FVE survey - FVE Newsletter, 2009), and Spain (according to information reported above). In countries with a national specialisation scheme, European Diplomates can get their specialist title recognised as equivalent to the national specialist diploma either automatically (Austria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Belgium and The Netherlands) or following an individual evaluation (Portugal, Slovenia, Germany, UK and now also France). It should be pointed out that the effect of a homologation of a title by a ministry of education may be limited to education and academic careers and may not automatically lead to the recognition and licensing by statutory bodies. At any rate, the French pathway to national recognition of EBVS Diplomas is a good example of how reluctant competent authorities can be convinced to act properly, which should be an inspiration for many of us. Having more countries officially recognising the EBVS Diploma system might be key to EBVS and FVE working together to successfully lobby Bruxelles bureaucrats to recognise that the concept of specialisation can be applied to Veterinary Medicine in addition to Human Medicine. This has been a limiting factor which so far has prevented our profession being treated as equal to Human Medicine when it comes to legal protection of the term “Specialist”. Human medical specialists can only achieve their titles through national entities, and no private or public organisation could start awarding specialist diplomas because this would be illegal. If awarding specialist titles in Veterinary Medicine by third parties were illegal in Europe (it might be illegal in France now) there could only be national and European title (the latter presumably being awarded only by EBVS).


EBVS National representatives: who are they

Neil A Forbes, ECZM
EBVS President

For many years EBVS representation has been provided purely by College representatives, each representative, putting forward the interests of their own discipline. In recent years, it has become apparent that there are times when geographical areas have particular needs or interests, such as problems with Specialist recognition (or lack thereof), conflict between national Specialist recognition and the recognition of EBVS Specialists, financial support in particular for residency training, membership fees and travel costs to attend College AGMs etc. More importantly it is not just that countries need input into the EBVS decision making process, but EBVS vitally needs feedback about national issues and movements which impact on EBVS, of which they might otherwise not be aware.

So the EBVS aim, for the ‘country representative role’ is to broadcast the existence and purpose of the EBVS and European veterinary Specialisation, within all countries in which EBVS Diplomates of any disciplines work. In line with the EBVS aims, we wish to, nurture and promote the recognition, utilisation and availability of qualified veterinary speciality services to the public and the veterinary profession across all geographical areas, especially through out Europe.

Country Representatives will be tasked with:

• Encouraging all diplomates in their country to use the EBVS logo on their letterhead and promotional materials

• Contacting their professional veterinary licensing body (competent authority) to enquire if they are recognising the EBVS Diplomates, and if not to bring this matter to the notice of EBVS secretariat.

• Gathering a database of Veterinary Educational organisations, Professional groups and societies within their geographical area, to whom EBVS should send the periodic EBVS Newsletters.

• Maintaining a watching brief on any ‘veterinary professional political or other activity’ within their geographical area, which might impact on or be contrary to the interests of EBVS and to bring this to the EBVS Executive Committee without delay.

• Using periodically the promotional material, as posted by the EBVS on the country representatives page, to achieve publication in their own countries/regions in the most appropriate and widely read journal, magazine or website

• Fielding and addressing any correspondence from their own nationals, relating to national issues which may have some interaction with EBVS.

We are confident that this initiative will achieve greater recognition of EBVS Specialist status and availability in all regions. The following is a preliminary list of current EBVS national / regional representatives. The definitive list will soon be posted on the EBVS website.
The FVE Spring meeting
Stefano Romagnoli, ECAR
EBVS Past President

On behalf of EBVS, Stefano Romagnoli attended the Spring meeting of the FVE in Palermo (Italy) on June 10-11. On the day before, the 4 sections of the FVE hold their general assemblies (GA), and the EBVS rep normally attends the GA of the Union of European Veterinary Practitioners (UEVP). This is the report from SR.

UEVP General Assembly - The UEVP meeting is normally held on the Thursday prior to the Friday-Saturday FVE General Assembly. UEVP is the largest and most influential of the 4 sections of FVE. The current UEVP President is Zolst Pinter, a practitioner from Hungary. The other sections are UEVH (Veterinary Hygienists and Public Health Veterinarians), EASVO (State Veterinary Officers) and EVERI (European Vets in Education, Research and Industry). Each section holds its meeting on the Thursday prior to the FVE AGM.

Zolst Pinter reported on the Animal health law, which is at quite an advanced stage. In 2008 there was a steering group, in 2009 consultations of 20 representatives of stakeholders. In March 2011 the first draft went to Member States, in Summer 2011 there will be an impact assessment, and adoption is proposed for March 2012. The scope and general aim are not so clear. Convergence with OIE is being sought. The Role/position of the veterinary profession is closely monitored. The One Health concept is the main theme. Industry and Research, as well as movement and surveillance, are considered.

Thierry Chambon reported on the Medicine Working Group. The position of The Netherlands is that vets should not earn money from selling pharmaceutical products, a proposition of the Dutch Government aimed at this failed to pass by one vote in May 2011. Plan of Royal NL Vet Association – accreditation of veterinarians per animal species; fees to be paid to vets for social duties (public vets, animal welfare); one-to-one relation between farmer and vet; fixed margin and monitoring for the use of pharmaceuticals. Mostly cow vets are blamed for the wrong use of pharmaceuticals, but if a dog is treated and antibiotics are expelled through his mouth, where does the dog put his mouth in the house? It is a question of money of course.

Laszlo Fodor (President of EAEVE) was invited to report briefly on his association. Currently there are 98 member faculties, 3 are conditionally approved, 50 fully approved.

Andrew Robinson reported on EBVPD (Chair Andrew Byrne) - the plan is to establish as a legal entity, audit section, scientific committee, harmonisation of courses across Europe. Budget: logo 4700, website 1800; Annual costs: overhead 750, meetings 350-500 per meeting, secretariat 5400, miscellaneous 700. There is a need to raise money to be self financing.

A Dutch speaker (an expert on how to run associations when they...
increase in size) was to be on the programme but he had to decline the invitation for health reasons. Jan Vaarten spoke on his behalf about the growing structure of FVE.

Statutory bodies (SB) working group—This is always an interesting meeting, normally held at the end of the Thursday, attended mostly by UEVP people. I always attend it, and frequently take the floor as specialist issues come up every now and then. The meeting was chaired by Stephen Ware (SW). Considerable emphasis is being placed on Day-1 skills as they allow the measurement of not only initial training but also continuing training. Consideration is being given to how to monitor and revalidate the degree from time to time, in a similar way to other professions. It is becoming more and more recognised that one cannot graduate and then do nothing for 40 years. Continuing Professional Development, Life Long Learning etc are concepts with which we will have to come to terms in the near future. The services directives are directly related to each other. There needs to be some kind of alert system across states about vets who are being stripped of their licences by the profession in one country as they should receive the same treatment across the whole of Europe. There is at least one case of a vet who has had his licence removed by one member state, and information has been forwarded to his own Member State (MS), where he is seeking a job in a third MS. Automatic recognition works and FVE and the SB working group are happy with it; there is no indication that this will change, but there is a need for refinement of processes related to it. There are problems about the recognition of diplomas. There are similar systems to the eval-acc in which the Commission is undoubtedly interested and SW gave a presentation on how the system works at a meeting with representatives of EU commissioners of other sectorial directives. FVE has been supporting the concept of the professional card which hopefully should be developed

Francesco Proscia (FP) reported on the Professional Qualifications Directive 2005 – Modernisation of the Directive is being sought through a mutual evaluation process by launching a public consultation in July 2010, to which FVE responded. A second phase of public consultation was answered at a meeting with 2 officers of the Directorate General on Animal/Human Health (DG SANCO) concerning veterinary education and minimum training requirements. There is currently a steering group on professional cards which is focussing on feasibility studies, as Prof Cards are of interest also for physicians, dentists etc. Professional card should bear license, special qualification, date of license and limitations if any, name of professional body and issuing authority. Modernising automatic recognition of the degree among MS is advisable, and this could not be automatic for graduates of non-EAEVE approved Vet schools. Two weeks ago FP and Cristoph Buhot met with 2 EU Commissioners to whom they gave a briefing note. In April 2011 there was a meeting with national coordinators. On June 22 the EC will release a preliminary legislative draft called a green paper, to which the profession (FVE) is due to respond by 15 September. Some of our responsibilities fall under the Services Directive, which might be changed through the Single Market Act.

On Vet Spec there was a meeting on April 18 in which SW and FP participated. The member of the European Commission sounded lukewarm about introducing any change to the Directive that mentioned veterinary specialisation, despite it dating back to 1978 as far as Europe is concerned. Another meeting is due to be held soon with DG Internal Market rep Thomas Wiedmann, which EBVS should also attend. According to Zolst Pinter, Vet nurses should be included in the Directive UEMO (Medical Doctors) – collaboration with UEVP, considering harmonisation and recognition of postgraduate title, harmonising CPD, working together on professional qualification. The president of the European Union of General Practitioners, a Hungarian physician, will come in Bruxelles in November to deliver a speech at UEVP.

FVE General Assembly - The FVE meeting is basically a repetition of what was mentioned in the 4 section meetings. All items have to be repeated and approved by the General Assembly. Nevertheless, it is an important moment for networking, and sometimes voting processes may be surprisingly lively. This year there were no controversies, all items had been properly discussed during the Section Meetings, so all voting processes went fairly smoothly. On June 10, the guest speaker was Dr Herbert Schneider who spoke on the role and responsibilities of Veterinary Statutory Bodies (VSB) and about relationships between Veterinary Services and the private sector, the paraprofessionals etc. He stated that:

VSB should define minimum standard of training and define minimum standards of professional conduct.
VSB should be established by law, autonomous, have a democratically elected membership
VSB should determine minimum standards of vet education
VSB should set stands of professional performance
VSB should License/register all veterinarian and VPP, and be able to withdraw such license

During the discussion, veterinary specialisation was mentioned, so I commented that Vet specialist organisations may help Veteri-
The new FVE President, Christoph Buhot (the only candidate), was elected. The following 4 Vice-Presidents were elected among quite a long list of candidates:

- GÖTZ, Hans Joachim - Bundestierärztekammer
- HUEY, Robert - UEVH, RCVS & BVA
- LAGUENS, Rafael - Consejo General de Colegios Veterinarios
- ÖSTENSSON, Karin - Swedish Veterinary Association

**HAVE YOU EVER BEEN DENIED THE USE OF YOUR SPECIALIST TITLE ANYWHERE IN EUROPE?**

EBVS Diplomates are entitled to use their Specialist title anywhere in the world. In Europe, all countries MUST accept the use of such a title. However, using one's title is not equivalent to having legal recognition from state authorities or being granted equivalence and licensing from statutory bodies. States may refuse to officially acknowledge the legal status of EBVS Diplomates or accept that EBVS titles are at least equivalent to national specialist titles. If any of the above happens to you, PLEASE LET US KNOW ABOUT IT. We may be able to help. But, more importantly, we will be able to put together a database of information which may turn out to be helpful for legal protection of the European Veterinary Specialist title in the new Directive (see item 6 on page 5 and the paragraph "Comments" on page 16)

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

- **ABVS General Assembly** February 24-25, 2012, Schaumburg, IL (USA)
- **ECCVT meeting**, March 21, 2012, Bruxelles
- **WSAVA Meeting**, April 13-14, 2012, Birmingham
- **EBVS General Assembly** April 20-21, 2012, Bruxelles
- **EBVS training workshop for Veterinary Specialty Examiners** April 22, Bruxelles (at the same venue as the EBVS AGM)
- **FVE General Assembly** June, 2012, Amsterdam
- **ANZCVSc General Meeting** June 28-30, 2012, Brisbane, Queensland (Australia)

Learn more about EBVS by reading:

Romagnoli S - The European System of Veterinary Specialisation - Journal of Veterinary Medical Education 2010 37(4): 334-339

**Editor’s note**

Front cover picture represents an ECVS resident and his supervisor performing equine colic surgery at the Royal Veterinary College in London.