

ALTERNATE ROUTE RESIDENCY PROGRAMME

The Alternate Route (AR) residency to the ECVD Diploma examination is designed to allow those individuals, who cannot enrol in a Formalised or Individualised Residency Programme, to start a training programme and sit the ECVD Diploma examination.

The AR residency implies part-time tuition, training and case exposure in institutions different to the candidate's clinic/practice under the responsibility of an ECVD Diplomate or equivalent figure. An AR must spend a minimum of 250 days of observation and supervised study in the training institution and must have primary involvement with clinical cases for more than 50% of the approved training time. AR residents, equally to standard residents, must provide an annual progress report and credentials at the end of their residency, to be able to sit the Diploma examination. These include a case log, an activity log, a presentation log, a case book with detailed description of two cases and two publications in peer reviewed journals.

Those planning to take the AR should be realistic in recognizing the practical, logistic and personal difficulties it might involve. Individuals are strongly advised to contact recent diplomates who have successfully negotiated these hurdles for help and advice. As for standard residency programmes, alternate route programmes must be presented to and approved by the Education Committee before the programme starts.

THE ALTERNATE ROUTE RESIDENCY PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

In principal the programme description, documentation and requirements to sit the diploma examination are the same as for standard residencies. The responsibility for the documentation, however, resides with the AR resident.

The Institutions

The training periods should be conducted at veterinary schools or other institutions under the direct supervision of an European or American Diplomate in Veterinary Dermatology (and Diplomate of Veterinary Pathology for the dermatopathology training). The institution must supply adequate space, facilities and have sufficient cases guaranteed during the Candidate's stay. Some cooperation in the training process with other institutions or clinics (including medical dermatology departments) is allowed. The institution must provide all equipment required for the examination, diagnosis and management of patients. A complete medical record must be maintained for each case and these records must be retrievable.

The Candidate's Advisors

The training at a recognized centre of excellence must be under the direct supervision of an European or American Diplomate in Veterinary Dermatology. A Candidate Advisor (one for each institution), who is responsible for the direction and the evaluation of the Candidate during his/her stay at the institution can be appointed by the Supervisor. The Advisor should write a proposal of the training period prior to the Candidate's registration, fill in the yearly progress report and a final evaluation of the Candidate's training.

The Candidate

The Candidate wishing to perform an alternate route to specialization must be a veterinary graduate, be registered/licensed to practice veterinary medicine in the country in which he/she intends to undertake the training periods, have completed a minimum of 1 year recognized general clinical training programme or satisfactory practice equivalent and have a satisfactory moral and ethical standing in the profession and the community.

Clinical dermatology, dermatopathology and dermatological research

Different to the standard residencies:

Clinical dermatology

The clinical and dermatopathological training periods must total at least 250 days and take place within the clinical structures (maximum 4) directly supervised by an ECVD or ACVD Diplomate. Thus distance learning is not recognized. Primary case responsibility is an absolute requirement for the clinical training period. However, of course, the ultimate responsibility for every case still rests with the Diplomate responsible for the training programme. In the remaining time the Candidate should spend at least 50% of his/her time dealing with

dermatology. However, it is advised that 25% of the total time should not be spent in clinical setting but should be devoted to academic development and/or research. Clinical training includes time spent taking histories, examining animals, carrying out diagnostic and therapeutic procedures, reviewing diagnostic material, liaising with veterinarians and owners and contributing to rounds.

The candidate must have primary case responsibility for at least 500 patients, these being either newly referred cases or previously referred cases requiring a major change in direction of diagnosis or therapy. The Resident may be considered to be the primary clinician when he/she can demonstrate a significant role in all of the following: history taking, physical examination, determination of the diagnosis including appropriate diagnostic tests, selection and administration of appropriate therapy and sufficient follow-up to be acquainted with the course of the disease and the case outcome. A case log must be maintained for these patients. In addition to the 500 cases described above, 750 more cases must be documented in the case log. These may be re-evaluations of patients previously listed as new (i.e. second and subsequent examinations), patients seen as co-clinician with the Advisor or those seen during external rotations with other ECVD diplomates.

Dermatohistopathology

A histopathological study period is strongly advised, for a minimum of 15 days of the total study period. This period may be directly supervised by an ECVD, ACVD Diplomate or ECVF or ACVP Diplomate. Other histopathologists may be accepted, providing that they are involved in cutaneous histopathology and that they are suggested by an ECVD or ACVD Diplomate. The training requirements are the same as for the Standard Residency. The Candidate is expected to review his/her own cases.

Dermatological Research

A Candidate must conduct and complete a research project that contributes to the advancement of veterinary dermatology. The Candidate must be the principal investigator in the project. Basic research and original clinical investigations are acceptable. As in standard residencies, the research project must begin and be finished during the residency. If the research project is not conducted under the supervision of an ECVD /ACVD diplomate, it is advised, but is not compulsory, to submit an outline proposal to the Education Committee before commencing the work. The outline should be submitted, in English, in the form of a grant proposal, not exceeding four sides of A4, to the Chair of the Education Committee. The proposal should be submitted as soon as possible in the training period, but in any case not later than one year after the stated starting date.

Activities

AR residents are strongly advised to attend a minimum of 4 weeks (equivalent to 140 hours) of courses on dermatology. AR residents are strongly advised to have attended a minimum of three Annual Meetings of the ESVD/ECVD, or International/National Dermatology Meetings of equivalent status.

DOCUMENTATION

Submission of documents to the Candidate's Supervisor /Advisors for completion, submission of the completed documents to the Education Committee and compliance with the deadlines are the sole responsibility of the Candidate in the alternate route to specialization. The Candidate may always contact the Chair of the Education Committee for help and advice if necessary.

ECVD Registration Form

Candidates are asked to complete a registration form and submit it to the Chair of the Education Committee and to ensure that their Supervisor/ Advisor(s) submit appropriate support documentations. Candidates and Supervisors/Advisors may refer to the Standard Residency Programme description for further information. The forms to be completed can be downloaded from the website.