

American College of Veterinary Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation



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Veterinary Sports Medicine
and Rehabilitation

Practice Experience Training Program Guidelines

July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015

American College of Veterinary Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation

GUIDELINES FOR PRACTICE EXPERIENCE TRAINING PROGRAMS

1. DEFINITION AND QUALIFICATIONS

The Practice Experience path to board certification by the American College of Veterinary Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation is designed for veterinarians who have at least five (5) years of clinical practice that includes at least a 50% time commitment to the practice of sports medicine or rehabilitation.

This method of qualification for applying for board certification is available to those veterinarians who have received the required training, experience and expertise in sports medicine and rehabilitation in a clinical practice setting. The Practice Experience path to board certification does not include a formal 3-year academic residency or graduate training program; however, it does require applying for and being accepted for a Practice Experience Training Program overseen by a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation.

The Practice Experience training program has additional training requirements that include twelve (12) weeks of speciality rotations and 125 hours of seminars or continuing education in sports medicine and rehabilitation. Candidates must also complete primary authorship of one peer-reviewed, hypothesis-driven manuscript or have had a similar qualifying manuscript published within the last five years. Upon completion of these requirements, the candidate will be fully qualified to submit credentials for the American College of Veterinary Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation board certification examination.

This method of applying for board certification is currently available for qualified applicants as a means to help the new specialty develop a critical mass of well-trained and experienced diplomates. After 5 years (in 2016), these criteria will be re-evaluated by the Board of Directors to assess the need for continued use of this method of approving applicants for board certification.

The goals of the Practice Experience Training Program include:

- a. Development of a high level of clinical skills and expertise in the field of veterinary sports medicine and rehabilitation.
- b. Development of a critical understanding and working knowledge of the current veterinary and human literature related to sports medicine and rehabilitation and proficiency in literature review and the synthesis and clinical application of new information.
- c. Development of critical thought processes and the use of a problem-based approach to patient care.
- d. Demonstration of an ability to teach, communicate and effectively present information.
- e. Demonstration of exceptional ethical standards and the ability to act as a professional role model.
- f. Demonstration of having made a contribution to the science of sports medicine and rehabilitation.

2. TIME FOR COMPLETION

An applicant has up to four (4) years to complete the requirements of the Practice Experience Training Program to board certification.

3. MENTORSHIP

An individual must arrange to have a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation serve as a mentor for the applicant prior to submitting a Practice Experience Training Program checklist and (**Appendix 1**). The mentor must be a Diplomate that specializes in the same species as the applicant (i.e., canine or equine) and must be an active member in good standing with the College for the entire duration of the applicant's Practice Experience Training Program. This mentor does not have to be at the same physical facility as the applicant, however they should be familiar with the applicant's clinical practice and be able to verify the applicant's expertise and time commitment to clinical cases involving canine or equine sports medicine and rehabilitation.

4. CLINICAL EXPERIENCE AND DOCUMENTATION PROCESS

The candidate and Diplomate mentor must submit a Practice Experience Path training program checklist to the Credentials and Residency Committee that ensures the candidate will meet the minimum requirements for the Practice Experience path for board certification within a four-year period. The checklist includes the following items:

- a. Who is involved in the training program
- b. How the training program is organized
- c. Where the training will take place
- d. How each of the requirements for the Practice Experience Training Program will be met
- e. A time frame for completion

The candidate must include with their checklist two letters of recommendation from veterinarians who can attest to the caseload and case type managed by applicant during the prior five years, and one letter of recommendation from a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation.

5. Requirements

The following retrospective clinical experience and prospective sports medicine and rehabilitation training requirements have to be met for candidates to be fully qualified to apply for board certification via the Practice Experience Training Program path.

- a. **Retrospective practice experience.** Applicants must have at least five (5) years of clinical practice that includes at least a 50% time commitment to the practice of sports medicine and/or rehabilitation. During the previous five (5) years the applicant must have managed a minimum of 400 canine or 300 equine clinical cases that involved sports medicine or rehabilitation principles or practice.

The applicant must provide two letters of recommendation from veterinarians who can attest to the caseload and case type managed by applicant during the prior five years.

- b. **Retrospective or prospective seminars and continuing education.** The applicant must have participated in a minimum of 125 hours continuing education related to sports medicine or rehabilitation such as would be sponsored by local, state, and national veterinary or human medical organizations. Monthly local veterinary association meetings would, however, fall into this category if the subject is appropriate to this discipline. Topics should cover a wide range of issues in sports medicine or rehabilitation. The continuing education requirement can be fulfilled by a one-time

enrollment in a comprehensive continuing education program. The continuing education requirement can be met in part or entirely by qualified hours completed within the five years prior to starting the Practice Experience Training Program. The intent of the requirement is to ensure a continuum of active participation in formal continuing education. All continuing education must be clearly documented with listing of the name of the program, date, location, lecture titles, speaker, and hours) (**Appendix 3-MasterLog**).

- c. **Retrospective or prospective publication.** The applicant will be required to be first author on a peer-reviewed, hypothesis-driven publication on the subject of veterinary sports medicine or rehabilitation. The publication must be accepted by August 1st of the year prior to taking the board certification examination and must not be more than five (5) years old at the time of application.

A manuscript is considered accepted when the author receives a letter of unconditional acceptance from the journal editor. A copy of the accepted version of the manuscript (including the title page with author information and all images, tables and figures) or, if in print, a copy of the published manuscript showing the date of publication must be submitted in the credentials application. An e-mailed letter of acceptance from the editor of any journal can be submitted in lieu of a hard copy letter from the journal, provided that the following conditions are met:

- i. The e-mail must contain the date of acceptance within the body of the message (not simply within the header).
- ii. The e-mail must indicate the name of the manuscript.
- iii. The e-mail must show all routing information within the message header.

Non peer-reviewed publications such as book chapters, proceedings, review articles and case reports are not acceptable material to meet this publication requirement. The material within the publication must not have been published previously by the same author, other than in an abstract or proceedings format. Clinical studies that fulfill the above criteria are acceptable to meet this publication requirement. The publication must be written in or fully translated to the English language.

- d. **Prospective specialty rotations.** Candidates must spend at least 12 weeks of additional training in the following specialty areas. The goal of this requirement is to provide in-depth training in ancillary areas that are judged to be critical to the practice of sports medicine and rehabilitation. All specialty rotations must be supervised by a board-certified Diplomate within that specialty, as recognized by the American Board of Veterinary Specialties (ABVS) or the European Board of Veterinary Specialization (EBVS).

- i. **Diagnostic imaging** – 1 to 4 weeks
With required exposure to radiology, diagnostic ultrasound, nuclear scintigraphy, and MRI or CT.
- ii. **Surgery** – 1 to 4 weeks
With suggested exposure to regenerative medicine, gait analysis, lameness examinations, and arthroscopy.
- iii. **Internal medicine** – 1 to 4 weeks

With suggested exposure to nutrition, gastrointestinal disorders, upper and lower respiratory disease, exercise physiology, and cardiology.

iv. **Neurology** – 1 to 4 weeks

With suggested exposure to neurologic examinations, diagnostic tools, and post-mortem evaluation.

v. **Pain management** – 1 to 4 weeks

With suggested exposure to both acute and chronic pain conditions, pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical approaches (e.g., acupuncture, cryotherapy, etc.), and multimodal pain management approaches. Pain management may be supervised by diplomates of American College of Veterinary Anesthesia and Analgesia (ACVAA), or alternatively by a veterinarian with documented certification qualifications in acupuncture or pain management (e.g., Certified Veterinary Pain Practitioner).

6. WRITTEN DOCUMENTATION

Upon approval of the proposed Practice Experience Training Program, the candidate must register with the college office within 30 days of starting their program. (**Appendix 2: Practice Experience Resident Registration Form**)

The following documentation must be provided by Practice Experience Training Program candidates to apply to take the board certification examination.

- a. The candidate must provide written documentation (**Appendix 3: MasterLog**) to the diplomate mentor that the listed requirements have been completed. The mentor is responsible for verifying that all of these requirements have been met prior to any credentials submission for the Practice Experience Training Program to board certification. An annual progress report (**Appendix 4: Annual Progress Report**) must be signed by the mentor and submitted to the College Secretary at secretary@vsmr.org for inclusion in the applicant's credentialing materials.
- b. Once all requirements have been met, the MasterLog, annual progress reports, one peer-reviewed publication, and a completed Practice Experience credentials submission form (**Appendix 5: Practice Experience Credentials Submission Form**) must be submitted to the College Secretary at secretary@vsmr.org for review by the Credentials and Residency Committee to establish eligibility for taking the board certification.

7. Appendices

Appendix 1. Practice Experience Training Program checklist

Appendix 2. Practice Experience Resident Registration Form

Appendix 3. Practice Experience Training Program MasterLog

Appendix 4. Practice Experience Training Program annual progress report

Appendix 5. Practice Experience Training Program credentials submission form