

## **American Board of Veterinary Ophthalmology (ABVO) Annual Report, Fall 2023**

### **EXAMINATION COMMITTEE (EC)**

#### **2023 ABVO Certifying Examination - Image Recognition (IR), Multiple Choice (MC) and Practical Portions**

All parts of the Examination were administered in-person at Hyatt Place Hotel Downtown Denver, July 31-August 4, 2023. ExamSoft® was the testing platform used under the guidance of our statistical consultant Rob Malinowski. Ten members of EC were present in Denver for a full five days, one member, Kelly Sigle participated remotely.

### **EXAMINATION RESULTS**

#### **IR:**

- 34 candidates in total: 25 new and 9 repeat; 30/34 (88%) were successful
- pass rate for new candidates = 22/25 (88%)
- pass rate for repeat candidates = 8/9 (89%)

#### **MC:**

- 39 candidates in total: 25 new and 14 repeat; 27/39 (69%) were successful
- pass rate for new candidates = 15/25 (60%)
- pass rate for repeat candidates = 12/14 (86%)

#### **Practical:**

##### *Intraocular:*

- 29 candidates in total: 25 new and 4 repeat; 24/ 29 (83%) were successful
- pass rate for new candidates = 21/25 (84%)
- pass rate for repeat candidates = 3/4 (75%)

##### *Extraocular:*

- 29 candidates in total: 25 new and 4 repeat; 23/29 (79%) were successful
- pass rate for new candidates = 20/25 (80%)
- pass rate for repeat candidates = 3/4 (75%)

With successful completion of all parts of the examination, 23 candidates were conferred ACVO Diplomate status in the Fall of 2023.

### **PROPOSED CHANGES IN POLICIES AND/OR PROCEDURES**

#### **Remote Exam 2024**

A remote option for the IR and MC parts of the Examination will be available beginning in 2024. A remote exam will only be available for repeat candidates who do not plan to take the Practical the same year. An *in-person* MC, IR, and the Practical examination will still be held for: 1) all

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first-time candidates, 2) repeat candidates taking any portion of the Practical, and 3) repeat candidates who prefer to take the examination in-person even though they are not taking any portion of the Practical.

Remote candidates will take the MC and/or the IR at the same time as the in-person exam is given (MST) and the content of both exams will be the same. The remote MC and/or IR exam will be administered by Rob Malinowski through ExamSoft® only, and not at regional testing sites. Each remote candidate will be responsible for finding a suitable location for taking their exam and EC Chairs would need to approve the location. Additionally, each remote candidate must provide their own in-person proctor for the entirety of the examination and the virtual proctor system will also be engaged. In-person proctors will need to be approved by the Exam Committee (EC) Chairs to avoid conflicts of interest.

Dr. Mary Lassaline has been working with a task force with regard to the reading list for the MC portion of the exam. Their recommendations are currently under consideration by the ABVO. Plenty of advance notice will be given before any changes are put into effect (i.e.-these will not take affect for the 2024 exam).

## **RESIDENCY COMMITTEE (RC)**

### **1. Review of 6-Month Evaluations and Approval of RTP Applications**

- a. Reviewed RTP 6-month evaluations submitted in July 2023.
- b. For a 2024 completion date, there are 3 four-year programs and 31 three-year programs; for a 2025 completion date there are 5 four-year programs and 28 three-year programs; for a 2026 completion date, there are 2 four-year programs and 26 three-year programs; for a 2027 completion date, there are 2 four-year programs.

### **2. ABVO Case, Education, and Surgical Minimums**

- a. Surgery and case minimums remain active for all ABVO residents.
- b. No significant concerns from CDs have been brought to the Committee's attention since reinstatement.
- c. The Committee will continue to more closely monitor through 2023 RTPs.

### **3. Residency Committee Expansion**

- a. With ABVO permission, the RC took steps to expand the Committee to 10 active members.
- b. Two new members, Drs. John Warren and Nikki Scherrer have accepted invitations to join the Committee as of August 2023.

### **4. 2023 RTP Application Deadlines February 15<sup>th</sup> and August 15<sup>th</sup>**

- a. Spring applications went well overall; an announcement went out 2 weeks before the February deadline.
- b. An announcement went out 1 week before the August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023 deadline.

**5. Proposal to Accept ECVO Diplomates as Supervising Diplomates for ABVO RTPs**

The following proposal applies only to the ECVO and is not applicable at this time to other board-certifying organizations for veterinary ophthalmology. The proposal is not intended to define or specify reciprocity between ACVO and ECVO Diplomate status. It will also be clearly stated that residents trained under this structure are only eligible for the ACVO Board Examination and not the ECVO Board Examination.

Proposed Guidelines are as follows:

1. The ECVO Diplomate's RTP must be approved by the ABVO RC.
2. At least one ACVO Diplomate must be a Supervising Diplomate for the RTP.
3. The Corresponding Diplomate for a RTP must be an ACVO Diplomate.

Under the proposed procedure, ECVO Diplomate applicants will submit an application and accompanying materials, where indicated. Each application will be considered individually by the RC. Following approval by the RC, the application will then be sent to the ABVO for final approval.

**6. Incorporation of an Anesthesia Requirement for ABVO-Approved RTPs**

- a. The RC is in the process of developing an anesthesia requirement for ABVO approved RTPs.

**CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE (CC)**

1. No edits were suggested for the Policies and Procedures document.
2. From April 2023 – present, seventeen (17) Provisional Resident Applications (PRA) were reviewed and accepted for residencies starting in 2023. Four (4) programs submitted resident contact information but did not select a resident this cycle (confirmed via contact with corresponding diplomate).  
A total of twenty-nine (29) PRAs were approved for upcoming residency programs commencing in 2023 with one (1) continuation from another program.
3. Incident Reporting Information System (IRIS): the system is active with ten current forms (two duplicates). This can serve as both a notification of changes/issues within residency programs as well as a reference for all ABVO committees.

**Planned activities:**

- 1) Discuss, at our Credentials Committee meeting, any issues involving the credentialing process and identify any areas where communication can be improved/clarified.
- 2) Review ABVO website for any issues that may lead to confusion over the credentialing process.

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- 3) Review 2024 Provisional Resident Applications and departing Supervising Diplomate Exam Applications
- 4) Review 2024 Certifying Examination Applications and Supervising Diplomate Forms from November 15, 2023 to January 15, 2024.

## **Proposed changes in policies and/or procedures:**

The committee will review previous changes and will suggest changes to Credentials and/or Certifying Examination policies, especially given the new procedure regarding allowed attempts to pass the ABVO Certifying Examination.

## **Other comments/concerns:**

No other major concerns

## **MAINTENANCE OF CERTIFICATION (MOC)**

All mandatory applicants successfully maintained their certification.

## **APPEALS COMMITTEE**

The ABVO appeals committee did not receive any appeals for review in 2023. A detailed description of the current appeals process is available in the ABVO Policies and Procedures document available on the ABVO website ([www.ABVO.us](http://www.ABVO.us)).

## **ABVO DIPLOMATE MEETING**

The annual meeting occurred in person at our Boston conference on Saturday, September 23. The ABVO would like to thank all members who attended and participated.

## **ABVO WEBSITE**

Please remember that all important announcements for diplomates and residents are always posted on the announcements page at [www.ABVO.us](http://www.ABVO.us).

## **ABVO ELECTIONS AND POLICY UPDATES**

The ABVO holds its elections each spring online. A call for nominations will be sent to all diplomates no later than April 1st and voting will commence June 1st. The board tries to maintain a balance between members in academia and those in private practice to best ensure the public is protected and the views of all members are represented fairly.

Three candidates were nominated this year and three hundred and nineteen diplomates voted in this election. Thank you to all diplomates who took the time to vote. After the Fall 2023 meeting, Dr. Mary Lassaline will begin her 4-year term on the ABVO Board. Dr. Steve Hollingsworth will complete his term. The Board thanks Mr. Kyle Denomme for his continued service as the ABVO Board public member.

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As always, the ABVO encourages ACVO Diplomates with questions or feedback related to the certification process to contact the Board at any time. Board members' direct emails are located on the leadership page of [ABVO.us](http://ABVO.us).

Respectfully submitted,  
The ABVO Board  
Dr. Steve Hollingsworth (chair)  
Dr. Ralph Hamor  
Dr. Brad Nadelstein  
Dr. Jane Cho  
Mr. Kyle Denomme (Public Member)