

## **American Board of Veterinary Ophthalmology (ABVO) Annual Report, 2021**

The ABVO met this summer to discuss several ideas that could be initiated to encourage discourse, sharing of information between programs and more transparency with leadership. The discussions were a result of the feedback received from the diplomates via the ACVO Membership Survey, thank you to those who participated. The ABVO worked through many recommendations from this summer to present to diplomates. We encourage you to review these recommendations when disseminated, and for diplomates to reach out the ABVO members. We remain available by email daily, find our addresses on the ABVO.us 'Leadership' website.

The ABVO meeting occurred at the ACVO conference, Friday, October 1<sup>st</sup>. The meeting was recorded and the video is available to diplomates upon request to the ACVO office.

### **Annual Credentialing Summary**

After the Fall 2021 meeting, the new 5-year exam clock will be initiated for ALL exam applications, regardless of when residency was completed.

### ***Residency Committee***

From October 2020 – present, thirty-four (34) Provisional Resident Applications were reviewed and accepted for residencies starting in 2021. Three (3) programs did not submit resident contact information/did not select a resident. Seventy-six (76) supporting Supervising Diplomate forms were submitted.

For 2021 completion date, there were 5 four-year programs and 18 three-year programs approved; for a 2022 completion date, there are 3 four-year programs and 22 three-year programs; for a 2023 completion date, there are 4 four-year programs and 23 three-year programs; for a 2024 completion date there are 3 four-year programs and 29 three-year programs; for a 2025 completion date there are 5 four-year programs approved.

The temporary COVID suspension of surgery and case minimums was reinstated for residents finishing in 2022.

New RTP application deadlines were established in 2021 and moving forward as August 15th and February 15<sup>th</sup> annually.

The RTP application now includes an acknowledgement of commitment from Supervising Diplomates in the program to follow the Harassment & Discrimination and Ethics policies.

### ***Credentials Committee***

For the examination application period, the Credentials Committee reviewed and accepted thirty-seven (37) Certifying Examination Applications from twenty-four (24) first-time applicants in addition to thirteen (13) repeat applicants. Three (3) repeat applications were approved during the special window that was created due to COVID restrictions for February-March 2021 practical exam candidates.

## ***Examination Committee***

***2021 ABVO Certifying Examination*** - The Image Recognition (IR) and Multiple Choice (written) were administered remotely on July 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. As for the past four examination cycles, ExamSoft® was the testing platform. Virtual proctoring through Exam Monitor® was used for the second consecutive examination cycle.

The MC part was scored by our statistical consultant, Dr. Rob Malinowski, who has assisted with standard setting and administration of the examination for the past four years. The EC met remotely on 19-21 July to score the IR part of the examination. Exam Monitor® flagged suspicious events in recordings of the candidate's testing sessions. Dr. Malinowski reviewed flagged events, and none were confirmed as suspicious.

Twenty-nine candidates took the IR part of the examination; there were 24 new and five repeat candidates. Twenty-three of 29 (79.3%) were successful. Thirty-three candidates took the MC part of the examination; there were 24 new and nine repeat candidates. Eighteen of 33 (54.5%) candidates were successful. The pass rate for repeat candidates was 3/5 (60%) for IR and 5/9 (56%) for MC. The pass rate for new candidates was 20/24 (83%) for IR and 13/24/ (54%) for MC. Four candidates who passed the IR and/or MC had previously passed the Practical part and were conferred ACVO Diplomate status.

The Practical part of the 2021 ABVO examination was held with 28 candidates taking the extraocular part, 25 taking the intraocular part, and 24 candidates taking both parts. Pass rates were 24/28 (86%) for extraocular, 21/25 (84%) for intraocular, and 23/28 (82%) across both practical parts. Four of five repeat candidates passed (80%). All three repeat candidates taking extraocular only passed; one of two repeat candidates taking both extraocular and intraocular parts passed.

Across all parts of the exam (IR, MC and practical), 18/36 (50%) passed, with 10/24 (42%) first-time candidates passing all parts and 8/13 (62%) passing whatever parts they had remaining.

### ***2022 ABVO Certifying Examination IR and MC Standardization***

The IR and MC parts of the 2022 examination will be standardized using the Angoff validation procedure in April 2022.

### ***2022 ABVO Certifying Examination Administration***

All parts of the 2022 ABVO examination will be given in person at Wheat Ridge Animal Hospital near Denver the week of 22 Aug 2022. Information regarding the examination will be updated on the ABVO website as it becomes available.

### ***Maintenance of Certification (MOC)***

One diplomate in the 2021 cycle was audited and found to have sufficient credits to maintain certification.

The MOC committee is preparing for the 2022 cycle. Applications will be due by January 31, 2022.

Using a computer random number generator, up to 10% of the applicants will be randomly selected for auditing to determine if they have sufficient credits to maintain certification.

### ***Appeals Committee***

The ABVO Appeals Committee received one appeal in October 2021 regarding the appellant's scoring on the practical examination and its relationship to the provided grading rubric. No discrepancies were identified and the appeal was denied. 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 meeting occurred during the ACVO conference in Indianapolis. A Zoom format was provided for those unable to attend in person. That recorded session link is available for review upon request of the ACVO office.

As always, the ABVO encourages ACVO Diplomates with questions or feedback related to our credentialing programs and committees to contact the Board at any time. Board members' direct emails are located on the leadership page of ABVO.us.

### ***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***

At the Fall 2021 meeting, the ABVO welcomed Dr. Brad Nadelstein to his 4-year term on the ABVO Board. We bid farewell to our Chair, Dr. Bob Munger who completed his term, and thank him for his continued dedication to the College. The Board thanks Mr. Kyle Denomme for his continued service as the ABVO Board public member.

In June, 2021, the ABVO dealt with an unprecedented set of events related to the board elections, these are herein briefly summarized.

As of May 31, 2021, the ABVO had not received nominations to fill the upcoming vacancy on the ABVO. Our Policies and Procedures (P&Ps) specify that nominations will be sought during or before the month of May by an announcement sent out to all Diplomates. Multiple notices were sent out by the ACVO office and posted on the announcements page of the ABVO.us website. The P&Ps further state that the vote for the new member of the board will be held during the month of June.

The ABVO was advised of the lack of nominations by the ACVO office. Despite the Board contacting several ACVO member diplomates to extend a nomination directly, only one diplomate, Dr. Brad Nadelstein, agreed to be placed on the ballot. Historically we have sought to maintain a balance between board members who serve in private practice and those who serve in universities/academia.

This balance of experience helps us to best accomplish our mission, to protect the public and ensure that diplomates meet the minimal qualifications of a veterinary ophthalmologist.

As noted above, Dr. Nadelstein agreed to be nominated, and although he had not served on Credentials, Residency, or the Examination Committee, the board agreed that his distinct experience on the Governance Committee co-authoring the ABVO's separation documents and his close work with Dr. Mark Nasisse in forming the ABVO, provided unusual but relevant qualifications to serve. Further, he had served as President of ACVO's Vision for Animals Foundation and led that organization to become a major force in funding research for our organizations. He has also successfully trained numerous residents as a Supervising Diplomate, and is thus well versed in the working of Residency Committee requirements as well as Credentials and Examinations committees.

While numerous members supported this nomination, we were contacted by two members via e-mail, questioning if this nomination was a violation of the P&Ps. In reviewing our Charter from the ACVO, it does not specify methods or qualifications for elections when no nominations are put forward, and the P&Ps do not specify a solution to the lack of nominations. Since the P&Ps were already violated by the failure of members to come forward by the deadline, the ABVO provided a reasonable solution that avoided further delays in electing a candidate and prevented further violations of the P&Ps. A memorandum of these events was shared with both the ACVO Board of Regents and the ACVO Governance Committee.

In a recent survey of the membership, several voiced concerns that qualifications to serve were too restrictive. The ABVO discussed and accepted modifications to the P&Ps this fall, these changes should serve to allow diplomates to serve and be more inclusive to experienced diplomates. The ABVO has finalized those changes and the updated documents became available to diplomates this winter. They are now posted on the ABVO.us website.

The ABVO is taking steps to make the nomination process easier for prospective candidate consideration. General information about the nominations process is always located on the ABVO.us leadership page year-round. For 2022 and beyond, the call for nominations process will open earlier, April 1<sup>st</sup> and remain open approximately 45 days to allow more time for interested individuals to gather the necessary materials and submit their information.

ABVO welcomes your thoughts and stands ready to answer any questions you may have.

Submitted by,  
The ABVO Board  
Dr. Bob Munger (Chair)  
Dr. Susan Nelms  
Dr. Steve Hollingsworth  
Dr. Ralph Hamor  
Mr. Kyle Denomme (Public Member)