

ABVO BOARD ANNOUNCEMENT AND INVITATION TO COMMENT REGARDING TARGET MATERIAL

FOR CANDIDATES TAKING THE ABVO CERTIFYING EXAMINATION

SHORT EXPLANATION

From our ABVO Mission Statement: “...**The goal of both the certification and maintenance of certification programs is to assure the pet-owning public that professionals certified by the ABVO have completed an approved training program and successfully passed a rigorous examination process designed to assess the medical knowledge and the diagnostic and surgical skills necessary to treat ophthalmic disorders of animals...**” As one of the primary purposes of ABVO is to ensure the protection of the pet-owning public, the Multiple Choice (MC) part of the ABVO Certifying Examination is designed to assess knowledge of the current literature that is critical, important and relevant for veterinary ophthalmologists.

Currently, there is no process in place to identify content that is critical, important and relevant for the Multiple Choice (written) portion of the ABVO Certification Examination. A broad and nonspecific criterion is used to identify target material for the Multiple Choice portion of the ABVO Certification Examination.

- Questions may come from a 7-year publication window of pertinent articles from 8 required journals, along with a list of 13 required textbooks and 4 required atlases.
- Questions may also come from a 7-year publication window of pertinent articles in an additional 17 human, veterinary and basic science ophthalmology journals.

Authors also have an increasing number of choices for publishing veterinary ophthalmology content, including an ever-increasing list of open-access peer-reviewed journals. This allows for critical, important and relevant information to remain uncovered by these current broad and nonspecific criteria.

There is no process in place to:

1. identify content in the required or recommended journals within this 7-year window that is critical, important and relevant.
2. identify such content that is not found in currently required or recommended material.
3. retain such content from any source that does not become part of a required textbook or is otherwise lost after this 7-year window has expired.

Two challenges have arisen over time with this current situation.

1. The first challenge is that critical, important and relevant content may be published outside this 7-year window and not found in any required or recommended textbook.
2. Second, information that is critical, important and relevant may be found in journals outside those on the specified list of required or recommended journals.

Specifically identifying critical, important and relevant material becomes increasingly crucial in our goal to protect the pet-owning public.

Two processes are proposed to meet these challenges:

1. *The creation of a Key Articles list.* The Key Articles list would be reminiscent of the Classic Articles list but would be an updated version of that list, covering articles that are critical, important and relevant. The prior Classic Articles list was last required in 2013 and is provided on the Resource Material for ABVO Residents list but is no longer required as target material for the MC part of the exam.

2. Consider a change to the current 7-year publication window. Adding a Key Articles list to the current 7-year publication window may increase the amount of target material. If that is a concern, then a reduction in the length of the publication window may be something to consider.

The goals of redefining target material in this proposal are:

1. to target material that is critical, important and relevant.
2. to protect against the loss of material that is critical, important and relevant.

The ABVO Board is seeking input from our stakeholders regarding this proposal:

- Do you support the creation of a Key Articles list?
- If a Key Articles list is created, should the current 7-year publication window be retained?
- If a Key Articles list is created, should the current 7-year publication window be reduced to 5 years?
- Do you support, if approved, the implementation of this proposal as soon as possible while allowing at least one year for candidates to prepare for this change?

Please review the proposal and provide any comments, feedback or suggestions in the survey link provided. Feedback will be harvested for 3 months from the date the survey link is provided.

If you have other questions, please do not hesitate to contact me (rhamor@acvo.org).

Ralph Hamor, ABVO Board Chair