

**AVMA-RECOGNIZED VETERINARY SPECIALTY ORGANIZATION
Annual Report Form**

An officer of the recognized veterinary specialty organization (RVSO) indicated below is responsible for completion of this form and its return to the AVMA Education and Research Division **by November 1, 2005**.

RVSO **The American College of Veterinary Microbiologists (ACVM)**

1. Number of active diplomates **January 1, 2005:** 164

2. Change in number of active diplomates:

Added	<u>2 (November 2004 after the previous report)</u>
Lost	<u>6 (five emeritus and one died)</u>
Net change	<u>-4</u>

3. Number of active diplomates **December 31, 2005:** 160

a. If applicable, number of active diplomates in each specialty:

<u>Specialty</u>	<u>Number</u>
Microbiology	84
Virology	47
Bacteriology & Mycology	33
Immunology	43

b. If applicable, number of diplomates in each subspecialty:

<u>Subspecialty</u>	<u>Number</u>

4. Number of diplomates having a status other than active:

Honorary 34

Emeritus 87

Other (please indicate status and number)

5. Total of all living diplomates December 31, **2005:** 281

6. Complete the attached form on Credentialing and Examination Outcomes. Use the most current information for each class of candidates. If your college or board has a specialty or subspecialty, a separate form must be completed for each.

Job (task) analysis, test validation, and criteria referencing (for establishing cut scores) improve the fairness, accuracy, and legal defensiveness of the credentialing examination, and certification of specialists. The following questions (7-11) address these functions.

7. a) Has your RVSO conducted a job analysis to help substantiate entry-level requirements and examination? **No**
b) If so, please indicate year undertaken? **Not applicable**
c) If not, is such an analysis planned? **No, none is planned at this time.**

8. a) How does your RVSO develop examination items?

The Examinations Committee (Chair and nine members; three members from each subspecialty) sets the examination from a question bank and then reviews the examination before it is administered. New questions for the bank are solicited from the membership and are required from new Diplomates. All questions submitted and those in the bank are annually reviewed by the Examinations Committee.

- b) Is a professional examination consultant used? If so, to what extent?

No, none is used at this time.

9. How is your examination validated?

The Examinations Committee members serve three-year terms and may not serve longer than two consecutive terms. Three members serve in each specialty area and three to five others are co-opted as needed for question-writing workshops. These provisions assure accumulation of test questions and participation in the examination process by a broad spectrum of the membership. All items are reviewed for appropriateness and accuracy by the committee members. Each question is also evaluated independently by each committee member for the level of knowledge required to answer it. For this purpose the questions are rated in three categories: a. less than entry-level knowledge; b. at entry-level knowledge; and c. more specialized than entry level for board certification. Questions at the two ends of the spectrum are removed from the bank. Any outdated items are deleted. Following completion of the examination, the newly elected Diplomates are invited to critique the procedure. A statistical item analysis is done on the results of the general veterinary microbiology (Part I) and subspecialty (Part II) examinations and questions that do not perform as expected (i.e. have poor difficulty or discrimination indices) are identified. The committee pays special attention to a question's ability to discriminate in both examinations. These, plus any inappropriate items identified after review are deleted from the question data bank.

10. How do you set the pass point?

Based on previous experience from almost forty (40) years of administering the examinations, the pass mark has been set by the Board of Governors; it is 60% for the general veterinary microbiology (Part I) examination and 75% for the subspecialty (Part II) examination for each subspecialty.

11. a) Have your testing methods been previously established and reported to the ABVS? **Yes**
 b) If not, please describe them as part of this report (e.g., 300 multiple-choice questions).
 Are candidates notified of the passing point or the method of setting the passing point before the examination?

The examination for certification as a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists consists of two parts. A general veterinary microbiology (Part I) written examination and a subspecialty (Part II) written examination. The general veterinary microbiology (Part I) examination is designed to test the knowledge of the examinee in the broad field of veterinary microbiology. The 240 multiple choice questions must be completed in four (4) hours and are prepared from information contained in current published literature and in textbooks. The general veterinary microbiology (Part I) examination is on: bacteriology (30%); virology (30%); immunology (30%); mycology (5%) and molecular biology/technology (5%). This is the examination “blueprint.” The examinee is expected to be knowledgeable about zoonotic diseases and the pathogenesis of infectious diseases of animals. The pass mark for the general veterinary microbiology (Part I) examination is 60%.

There are three subspecialties in the subspecialty (Part II) examination: bacteriology/mycology; immunology; and virology. Each subspecialty (Part II) examination consists of 100 questions and each question is based on a series of projected slides. A maximum of three slides per question is used. Adequate time is given for all candidates to complete each question before moving on to the next question. The examinee is required to recognize, interpret, and/or analyze the material presented. The subject matter includes various facets of veterinary microbiology. The pass mark for each subspecialty (Part II) examination is 75%.

Candidates are notified prior to taking the examinations that the pass mark for the general veterinary microbiology (Part I) examination is 60% and the pass mark for each subspecialty (Part II) examination is 75%.

12. Number of active diplomates primarily associated with:

a) Academia	<u>106</u>
b) Industry	<u>17</u>
c) Government	<u>28</u>
d) Practice	<u>9</u>
e) Other (please specify) <u>Diagnostic</u>	<u>47</u>

13. a) Were changes made to your constitution or bylaws during the year?
 Yes X
 No

- b) If yes, please provide a copy with changes indicated. Deletions should be ~~struck through~~ and additions underlined. A “clean” copy of the constitution and/or bylaws must also be provided for ABVS records.

Attached find the revised By-laws with the deletions and additions marked as requested. In addition, we have provided a clean copy of both the Constitution and By-laws.

14. a) Have any complaints been registered with your RVSO against diplomates of your RVSO?

No complaints have been registered.

- b) If yes, how many complaints were filed? **Not applicable**
Please attach details.

15. a) Have any appeals to adverse decisions (credentialing, examination, certification, or other decisions been filed with your RVSO?

No appeals have been filed.

- b) If yes, how many appeals were filed? **Not applicable**

16. a) Provide the number of training/residency programs available in your discipline, if applicable. **Not applicable**

- b) How many individuals are enrolled in these programs? **Not applicable**

17. Provide names, addresses, telephone and facsimile numbers, and e-mail addresses for current officers, ABVS representatives, and RVSO administrative executive.

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18. Describe notable events of the past year.

During the past year, five certificates and cash awards were awarded to five graduate students entered in the ACVM-sponsored competitions at the Conference of Research Workers in Animal Diseases (CRWAD) annual meeting. The ACVM sponsored one symposium during the past year. At the 2004 CRWAD annual meeting, the jointly sponsored AAVI-ACVM symposium in Chicago, Illinois was entitled "Advances in Vaccine Delivery Technologies." At the 2005 CRWAD annual meeting, the jointly sponsored AAVI-ACVM symposium in St. Louis, Missouri will be entitled "Use of Genomics for Disease and Vaccine Research." We had an all time record of 18 applicants for certification and 17 of these candidates were approved to sit for the ACVM examinations in 2005. We initiated efforts to develop an ACVM Biosecurity Task Force. The objective of the task force is to assist local, state, and federal officials in prevention of, response to, and recovery from infectious diseases, which threaten food security or public health. Also, we initiated efforts to develop a new award during 2005. We will recognize an Outstanding Veterinary Microbiologist each year with an award and sponsor a session at a meeting for the individual selected to give a presentation about their research achievements.

19. What perceived or anticipated problems will your RVSO face regarding veterinary specialization now or in the future?

The College is considering ways to revitalize members and make the organization more valuable. Due to projected shortages of microbiologists we need to ensure quality candidates are recruited and mentored to meet the needs of the future.

20. Were any deficiencies identified by the ABVS in your RVSO's last 5-year report or last annual report? **None were identified.**
a) If so, what were those deficiencies? **Not applicable**

- b) Which of those deficiencies have been addressed or corrected by the RVSO? **Not applicable**
- c) How has the RVSO addressed remaining deficiencies in the past year? **Not applicable**

21. a) Has a determination been made of the Federal tax status of your RVSO? YES
- b) If so, what was the determination?

Tax exempt under 501(c)(3) X

Tax exempt under 501(c)(6)

Other

- c) Were income tax forms filed with the IRS for the previous year? NO

- d) Will they be filed for this year? NO
- If not, why?

ACVM income is less than \$25,000.00.

Name of person completing this form (please print) _____

Signature _____

Date _____

THANK YOU
PLEASE RETURN TO THE AVMA BY NOVEMBER 1, 2005.

The American College of Veterinary Microbiologists (ACVM)

Name of Recognized Veterinary Specialty Organization, Specialty, or Subspecialty

Date: November 1, 2005

6. CREDENTIALING/EXAMINATION OUTCOMES

For this report, the RVSO **MUST** group candidates by the year in which they initially applied for certification. Candidates should remain in their candidate class regardless of whether their credentials are initially rejected or whether they reapply at a later time. Each year, the RVSO **MUST** update information for each candidate class as additional candidates complete the credentialing or examination process. This will provide the ABVS with up-to-date information for the current and five preceding candidate classes. If information is not available at the time the Annual Report is submitted, the RVSO should indicate “NA” and provide a brief explanation.

A duplicate of this form **must** be completed and submitted for each recognized veterinary specialty or subspecialty within your organization.

	Candidate Class (by year of original application)					
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
1. Total number of applicants in candidate class	14	5	5	9	2	18
2. Number of candidates per class (ie, #1) for whom credentials were accepted, regardless of when accepted	14	5	4	9	2	17
3. Credentialing percentage: (#2/#1) x 100	100	100	80	100	100	94
4. Number of credentialed candidates (ie, #2) presenting for examination, regardless of previous examination attempts	8	3	3	6	2	IP
5. Number of candidates presenting for examination (ie, #4) who passed the certifying examination and became diplomates	8	3	0	2	0	IP
6. Of candidates who passed the examination (ie, #5), list number who were:						
a. successful on first attempt	6	1	0	2	0	IP
b. successful on second attempt	2	2	0	0	0	
c. successful on ≥3 attempts	0	0	0	0		
7. Diplomate percentage of candidate class (ie, cumulative exam pass rate for each candidate class = [#5/#1] X100)	57	60	0	22	0	IP
8. Diplomate percentage of credentialed candidates per class (ie, cumulative exam pass rate for candidates with accepted credentials = [#5/#2] X 100)	57	60	0	22	0	IP
9. Diplomate percentage of those presenting for examination (ie, cumulative pass rate of candidates presenting for examination = [#5/#4] X 100	100	100	0	33	0	IP

IP = In progress

As requested, following is the current copy of the ACVM By-laws with changes indicated. Deletions have been ~~struckthrough~~ and additions underlined.

BY-LAWS

Article I. ELECTION AND DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1.

Elected members of the board, ten (10) in number of which nine (9), shall be Diplomates elected by the membership of the College by secret ballot, each to serve a term of three (3) years. Tenure in office shall be such that three (3) members of the Board are replaced each year. Any member having been elected to one full term or to fill a vacancy in an uncompleted term may be elected for one (1) additional term. At the completion of this second term, the Board member cannot be re-elected until at least one (1) year absence from the Board.

The President of the Board of Governors shall be a Diplomate elected by the membership of the College by secret ballot, to serve a term of two (2) years. Any member having been elected to President for one full term or to fill a vacancy in an uncompleted term may be elected for one (1) additional term. At the completion of this second term, the President cannot be re-elected until at least one (1) year absence from the Board.

Section 2.

(1) Nomination for all vacancies on the Board and President of the Board shall be made by the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall present the names of at least two (2) candidates for each position to be filled on the Board and shall submit the list of recommendations to the Secretary-Treasurer by the 15th day of December following its appointment. The Secretary-Treasurer shall inform diplomates not later than the first day of January of the committee report. Additional nominations for office may be made by petition over the signature of three (3) Diplomates in good standing if the petition is received by the Secretary-Treasurer on or before the 15th day of February. A petition bearing the names of three (3) Diplomates may nominate only one (1) candidate to office. Nominations of other candidates will each require a similar petition.

(2) The Secretary-Treasurer shall send, no later than the 15th day of March, a final ballot bearing all nominations for office, whether made by the Nominating Committee or by petition, to all eligible voting members

(3) Each voting member shall return the completed ballot properly sealed for secrecy to the Secretary-Treasurer. In order to be counted, a ballot must be received by the Secretary-Treasurer on or before the next succeeding 15th day of April.

(4) The Secretary-Treasurer shall check off the Registry of the College the names of all members voting; shall reject ballots from those who are not in good standing according to these By-Laws; shall deliver all valid sealed ballots to Tellers appointed by the President of the Board to take charge of the election and shall report to the Board upon ballots rejected. The Tellers shall count the ballots and report to the Secretary-Treasurer who shall announce the results promptly.

(5) The candidates who receive the highest number of votes shall be elected to fill the vacancies on the Board.

(6) Newly elected members of the Board shall take office during at the close of the July Board meeting ~~following their election~~.

Section 3.

(1) The Board shall elect annually from its membership a Vice President. Nominations for Vice President shall be made by a nominating committee comprised of the President of the Board of Governors and one other Diplomat not currently serving on the Board. Nominations will be announced to the College before the July meeting of the Board. Additional nominations by Board members may be made at the July Board meeting.

(2) The Vice President in any year shall automatically assume the office of President if the latter is unable or unwilling to complete a term. New officers shall assume office at the close of the July Board meeting.

Section 4.

(1) The Board shall elect from the Diplomates a Secretary-Treasurer who need not be a member of the Board. The Secretary-Treasurer, if not an elected member of the Board, shall be an ex-officio member without the power to vote. The Secretary-Treasurer shall serve a term of 3 years beginning one year after election to office. In the second year of the term of office of the Secretary-Treasurer, nomination for the position shall be made by a nominating committee comprised of the President of the Board of Governors and one other Diplomat not currently serving on the Board. The nomination shall be announced to the College before the July meeting of the Board. Additional nominations by Diplomates or by Board members may be made at the July Board meeting.

(2) In the event that a Secretary-Treasurer cannot complete the term of office, an interim Secretary-Treasurer will be nominated by a committee comprised of the Board of Governors and one other Diplomat not currently serving on the Board. The Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected by a telephone poll of the Board members. The interim Secretary-Treasurer shall serve until the election procedure described above can be completed.

Section 5. Duties of the President and Vice President:

(1) The President shall preside over all meetings of the College and meetings of the Board, shall be a member, ex-officio, of all committees and shall perform the usual duties of such office. The President shall have no vote in the Board except in case of a tie, and no vote on committees in an ex-officio capacity. The President is expected, with the assistance of the board, to develop strategic plans for ACVM and to develop and implement strategies to achieve objectives.

(2) The Vice President shall be an ex-officio member of all committees, shall preside at meetings in the absence of the President, and shall succeed to the office of President should that office be vacated. The Vice President shall have no vote on a committee when serving in an ex-officio capacity.

Section 6. Duties of the Secretary-Treasurer:

(1) The Secretary-Treasurer shall serve as executive officer of the College. As directed by the Board, the Secretary-Treasurer shall conduct business affairs of the College, collect fees and dues, issue receipts for such fees and dues, draw vouchers, and pay bills and expenses. The Secretary-Treasurer shall arrange for safekeeping of College funds, shall keep records of all transactions and submit a yearly statement of financial affairs to the Board. All records of financial transactions of the College shall be submitted annually to the Budget Committee for auditing.

(2) The Secretary-Treasurer shall keep minutes of all meetings and shall perform the usual duties of the Secretary and such other duties as are assigned by the Board.

Section 7. Duties of the Board:

The Board shall have the duties and power ordinarily delegated to the governing body of a corporation. Responsibilities given by the Constitution are as follows:

- (1) Shall organize and operate an agency for certification of Diplomates in Veterinary Microbiology.
 - (a) The Board shall judge compliance for certification of applicants with the requirements as set out in the Constitution.
 - (b) Appoint an Examinations Committee to operate under its supervision.
 - (c) Certify such candidates who qualify as specialists (Diplomates) in Veterinary Microbiology.

- (d) The Board shall make available to candidates and the interested public a detailed account of experience and training prerequisite to the Board examination.
 - (e) The Board shall serve the public by preparing and furnishing lists of those individuals who have been certified.
 - (f) The Board shall hear petitions of candidates and Diplomates and recommend appropriate actions.
- (2) Shall create appropriate committees, appoint committee members and supervise their ~~report~~ activities.
 - (3) Shall report to the College annually its work and activities, including a full financial statement and shall make such interim reports as are necessary and advisable.
 - (4) Shall exercise its constitutional authority in promoting and attaining the objectives of the College, especially those pertaining to professional, institutional, and public relations.
 - (5) Shall identify and elect to Emeritus Diplomate status those Diplomates who have retired from active practice of the specialty. This will be undertaken upon the Diplomate's request or consent.
 - (6) Shall solicit nominations for Honorary Diplomate and, after consideration of each nomination, shall nominate candidates for election by the voting membership. Such elections shall take place in conjunction with the balloting for officers of the College.

Article II. COMMITTEES

Section 1. There shall be the following committees:

(1) Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee shall consist of three (3) Diplomates. In making the appointments, due regard shall be given to the various fields of endeavor in veterinary microbiology. Members of the Board during their term of office shall not be appointed to the Nominating Committee. Members of the nominating committee shall not be eligible for election to the Board of Governors.

(2) Examinations Committee

The Examinations Committee shall consist of no fewer than nine (9) Diplomates. In making appointments, due regard shall be given to the various fields encompassed in veterinary microbiology. The committee shall examine the prerequisite qualifications of applicants for examination according to standards of eligibility established by the Board and recommend action to the Board. The committee shall develop and conduct examinations, evaluate results, and make reports and recommendations to the Board with respect to certification of candidates.

(3) Continuing Education and Program Committee

This committee shall consist of nine (9) Diplomates. The committee shall plan the continuing education programs of the College and oversee the presentations.

(4) Continuing Education Funding Committee

This committee shall consist of three (3) Diplomates. The committee shall solicit funds to support the continuing education program

(5) Graduate Students Awards Committee

The Graduate Student Awards Committee shall consist of twelve (12) diplomates. The committee will establish procedures for the recognition of graduate students who present outstanding papers at the Conference of Research Workers in Animal Diseases.

(6) Honorary Diplomate Selection Committee

This committee shall consist of three (3) Diplomates. The committee shall review the qualifications of individuals proposed as Honorary Diplomates and prepare a summary of the credentials and achievements of each candidate recommended to the College membership for election.

(7) Budget Committee

This committee shall consist of three (3) Diplomates, at least one of whom is a member of the Board of Governors. The committee shall audit the income and expenditures of the College for the recently completed year and recommend to the Board a budget (proposed income and expenditures) for the current year. The committee, in consultation with the Secretary-Treasurer, shall, every three (3) years, contract with a professional certified public accountant for an audit of the College's financial records. The committee shall make recommendations regarding honoraria for officers of the College.

Section 2. Members on all standing committees shall serve three (3) years. One third of the members of each committee shall be appointed annually by the President of the Board with the approval of the majority of the Board at the time of the July meeting. Tenure of standing committee members shall begin immediately following appointment at the July meeting.

Section 3. Members of standing committees may be elected for one (1) additional term but are ineligible for additional service until they have been absent from the committee for at least one (1) year.

Section 4. The Board may at their discretion approve the establishment of additional committees to assist in the business and scientific programs of the College.

Article III. DUES AND FEES

Section 1.

(1) Annual dues or assessments, when established, shall become payable in advance on July 1 of each year and shall be remitted to the Secretary-Treasurer.

(a) A person who fails to pay dues or assessments for six (6) months after the due date shall be designated not in good standing and shall not be eligible to vote or hold office until the arrears and the ensuing years' dues or assessments are paid in full.

(b) Persons whose dues or assessments are in arrears for two (2) full years will be disassociated from the College after due notice has been given. Persons who have lost their membership status may be reinstated upon approval of the Board after payment of arrears as well as dues or assessments for the ensuing year.

(2) Emeritus and Honorary Diplomates shall be exempt from the annual dues and assessments.

Section 2. Fees for application and examination shall be determined by the Board.

Article IV. DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Section 1. The Board shall have the authority to recommend censure, suspension, expulsion, or revocation of the certificate of any member for cause.

Section 2. If a Diplomate feels that by unethical conduct, fraud, nonpayment of dues for two (2) years, or for any other reason any member has brought discredit upon the College, charges may be presented in writing to the Board. If the charges are considered sufficiently serious to warrant action, the accused member shall be notified by the Board in writing by registered mail of the details of all charges. The accused Diplomate shall have full opportunity to reply in writing or to appear before the Board in person. The Board shall weigh the evidence and with concurrence of two-thirds (2/3) of the members may recommend suitable disciplinary action. Such disciplinary action shall be published and executed only after being sustained by an affirmative vote of the majority of the members of the College who are voting.

Section 3. Other provisions for revocation of the Certificate granted or issued by the Board are specified in Section 10 of Article V of the Constitution. Appeal procedures are specified in Article V, Section 12 of the Constitution.

Article V. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Section 1. Quorum:

(1) A quorum of the Board shall consist of a simple majority of the Board.

(2) Regular or special meetings of the Board and the College shall be called by the President, subsequent to approval of the Board. Should the President fail to set the date for regular or special meetings, the Board may by a simple majority action, set a date for such meetings.

Section 2. Suspension of By-Laws:

The By-Laws may be suspended at any regular or special meeting, as defined above, by unanimous consent of all voting members present and voting.

Section 3. Rules of Order:

Robert's Rules of Order, revised, shall govern the conduct of all meetings.

CONSTITUTION

Article I. NAME

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists (ACVM). It is referred to hereinafter as the College.

Article II. INCORPORATION

Section 1. The College is incorporated under the laws of the State of Illinois as a nonprofit educational organization. The term for which it is organized shall be perpetual. However, in the event of dissolution of the Corporation, its property shall be distributed for educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501 (C) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Article III. OBJECTS

Section 1. To further educational and scientific progress in the specialty of veterinary microbiology.

Section 2. To strengthen and improve instruction at the pre- and postdoctoral level in veterinary microbiology.

Section 3. To promote the highest professional standing of veterinary microbiologists.

Section 4. To establish standards of postdoctoral training and experience for qualification of specialists in veterinary microbiology.

Section 5. To certify qualified and competent veterinary microbiologists in specialty areas of bacteriology and mycology, virology, and immunology.

Article IV. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The types of membership in this College shall be:

- (1) Diplomate
- (2) Emeritus Diplomate
- (3) Honorary Diplomate

Section 2. Qualification for membership:

- (1) Diplomate

(a) A veterinarian of good moral character who satisfactorily meets the training and experience requirements outlined hereinafter in Article V and who successfully completes the board examination shall be an eligible candidate.

(b) Election of the candidate shall be accomplished by a majority vote of the Board of Governors, hereinafter referred to as the Board.

- (2) Emeritus Diplomate

Any Diplomate, who because of age or disability has retired from active practice of this specialty may, with his consent, be designated Emeritus Diplomate by the Board.

- (3) Honorary Diplomate

(a) A microbiologist of good moral character who has had not less than ten (10) years experience in the specialty and who has achieved unquestioned eminence in Veterinary Microbiology may be nominated for election as an Honorary Diplomate.

(b) Nomination and sponsorship are to be submitted to the Honorary Diplomate Nominating Committee. Nomination shall require the support of two (2) Diplomates in good standing. The Committee shall make an annual report to the Board, identifying qualified candidates and presenting biographical information about each.

(c) Upon receiving at least a 2/3 favorable vote of the Board, the nomination shall be submitted to the voting membership at the time of the regular election of Board members.

(d) Election requires a favorable vote by at least a 2/3 majority of the total ballots cast.

(e) The American College of Veterinary Microbiologists shall elect no more than one (1) Honorary Diplomate per year.

Section 3. Voting and Office Privileges:

(1) Voting

Only Diplomates in good standing and Emeritus Diplomates shall be eligible to vote.

(2) Office

Only Diplomates in good standing shall be eligible to hold office.

Article V. REQUIREMENTS FOR BOARD EXAMINATION AND CERTIFICATION

Section 1. The College shall fully endorse and actively support:

(1) The attainment and maintenance of the highest professional standards of competency and excellence in the certification of specialists in veterinary microbiology.

(2) The constant improvement of specialty training programs and training facilities.

(3) Improvement in the standards of excellence and competence of those veterinary microbiologists employed in departments of veterinary microbiology or related areas in schools or colleges of veterinary medicine, research institutions, veterinary medical diagnostic laboratories, and those other institutions where veterinary microbiological activities are conducted.

Section 2. The candidates for Diplomate status must have capabilities extending over the broad area encompassed by microbiology as applied to veterinary medical science. The candidate must be well informed in bacteriology, mycology, virology and immunology, and must be qualified to assume responsibility for the basic and/or applied aspects of veterinary microbiology in research and teaching, or clinical and diagnostic microbiology.

Section 3. The candidate shall have knowledge of and mastery of veterinary Microbiology, which includes the disciplines of bacteriology, mycology, virology and immunology as they apply to veterinary medical science. The science of microorganisms includes knowledge of the molecular biology, structure, function, propagation and biological and ecological relationships of microbes and prions with animals, plants, humans, other microbes and the environment. Immunology includes knowledge of the components and functions of host defense mechanisms in both antigen-specific and nonspecific responses, and applications of immunological processes in laboratory assays. Veterinary medical science includes knowledge of the etiology, pathogenesis, transmission, immunity/resistance, diagnosis, therapeutics, prevention and control of diseases of animals and zoonotic diseases as applied in the practice of teaching, research, clinical veterinary medicine, comparative medicine, or public health. Therefore,

knowledge of veterinary microbiology is not to be narrowly defined as related only to microbial agents of disease in non-human animals or the laboratory characteristics of microbes and is expected to include current literature and modern laboratory techniques.

Section 4. The candidate must have a comprehensive knowledge of at least one of the following subspecialties:

- (1) Bacteriology and Mycology
- (2) Virology
- (3) Immunology

Section 5. General requirements for eligibility:

The following prerequisites must be met to the satisfaction of the Board before the applicant is determined eligible to take the Board Examination in Veterinary Microbiology:

- (1) Have graduated from a college or school of veterinary medicine accredited or approved by the American Veterinary Medical Association, or possess an Educational Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates (ECFVG) Certificate, or be legally qualified to practice veterinary medicine in some state, province, territory, or possession of the United States or Canada or other country.
- (2) Have satisfactory moral and ethical standing in the veterinary profession.
- (3) Must be sponsored by two (2) Diplomates of the College.

Section 6. Academic training and experience requirements:

(1) In addition to having earned the DVM degree, the applicant must satisfy one of the following conditions:

(a) The Standard Route. Have earned the Ph.D. degree with major emphasis in veterinary microbiology and the thesis was in an area directly related to veterinary microbiology (as defined in Article V, Section 3).

(b) Alternate Route 1. Have earned the Master's degree with major emphasis in veterinary microbiology (as defined in Article V, Section 3) and have sufficient additional experience relevant to veterinary microbiology (as defined in Article V, Section 3) to equate with a candidate who has completed a Ph.D. Experience relevant to veterinary microbiology may be obtained through teaching, research or service that concentrates on veterinary microbiology (as defined in Article V, Section 3). The experience should, in the opinion of the Examinations Committee, be sufficient to make the candidate proficient in the practice of veterinary microbiology (as defined in Article V, Section 3) and an expert in at least one of the subspecialties: bacteriology/mycology, immunology, or virology. Examples of acceptable experience are: (i) full time practice in a diagnostic laboratory run by a university, state, or commercial organization; or (ii) full time practice in research in a university, state, not-for-profit, federal or commercial organization; or (iii) full time teaching at the undergraduate (baccalaureate) and graduate levels in a university (most of the courses taught should be in veterinary microbiology; at least one course each year should be at the graduate level; and teaching at non-degree institutions does not qualify.); or (iv) obtaining a grade of at least a "B average" or a "Pass" in courses which, in the opinion of the Examinations Committee were directly related to veterinary microbiology as described above, or (v) any combination of the above.

(c) Alternate Route 2. Subsequent to earning the DVM, VMD, or equivalent professional degree, have sufficient professional experience [as defined in Article V, Section 6 (1) (b)] relevant to veterinary microbiology (as defined in Article V, Section 3), with increasing responsibility over this time period to equate with a candidate who qualifies by the standard route.

(2) The applicant shall submit to the Board complete and full details of qualifications, including a list of all publications and any other evidences of professional experience, competence and achievements as a veterinary microbiologist.

Section 7. Method of application: (1) All applications shall be made on forms prescribed by the Board and shall be sent with all necessary documents to the Secretary-Treasurer.

(2) The application must be accompanied by a fee in a sum fixed by the Board.

3) Eligibility will be determined by the Board.

Section 8. Examinations:

(1) The Secretary-Treasurer shall notify the applicant of eligibility and when and where the examinations are to be held.

(2) Each applicant who has been found eligible to be examined pursuant to the provisions of this Article shall, if required by the Board, appear in person at a meeting of the Board, at such time or times, whether before or after the examinations herein provided for, as the Board shall specify, for such interrogation as the Board may deem advisable and shall also submit to and satisfactorily pass such examinations as shall be prescribed by or pursuant to the provisions outlined in this Constitution.

(3) Eligible candidates will be examined at the times and places fixed by the Board, by an Examinations Committee approved by the Board, provided, however, that the Board may at any time appoint such other or additional examiners, who may but need not be, members of the Board, as the Board may deem advisable for the proper examination of an applicant.

(4) The Board Examination in Veterinary Microbiology shall consist of two (2) parts; namely, a general veterinary microbiology examination and a specialty examination.

(5) The general veterinary microbiology examination shall include:

(a) Material of a fundamental or general nature in bacteriology, mycology, virology, immunology and serology.

(b) Material of an applied or specialized nature pertinent or applicable to veterinary microbiology, including ecological relationships relating to animal and human exposure and methods of prevention and control.

(6) The general veterinary microbiology examination shall be administered on the day preceding the specialty examinations.

(7) The candidate is not required to pass the general veterinary microbiology examination before being eligible to sit for a specialty examination.

(8) The specialty examinations shall be in three specialty areas; namely:

(a) Bacteriology and Mycology

(b) Virology

(c) Immunology

(9) The specialty examination will include material of:

(a) a fundamental or generalized nature, including molecular biology, biochemistry and history; and

(b) an applied and specialized area pertinent or applicable to the specialty area.

(10) The specialty examination is a practical examination utilizing visual aids and involving both a test of theoretical knowledge and an ability to solve problems. The candidate is asked to recognize, interpret and analyze the material presented, as if in a real world situation.

(11) The candidate may sit on one, two or all three specialty examinations. The candidate must pass at least one specialty examination and the general veterinary microbiology examination to be certified. The candidate will be certified in each specialty area for which competence is demonstrated.

(12) The Examinations Committee shall notify the Board of its recommendations on each candidate.

(13) After final action of the Board, the Secretary-Treasurer shall notify the candidate of the results.

(14) The candidate shall have five (5) years (five consecutive examination periods) to complete all phases of the examination successfully. A limit of two (2) attempts during one five year period will be granted for the general veterinary microbiology examination and two attempts for each specialty examination. Any candidate who has not successfully completed all phases of the examination within five years after application will be permitted to reapply after a waiting period of one (1) year. Such candidates will be required to submit a new application and examination fees. The applicant will be required to take the entire examination.

(15) No Diplomate of the College who is serving or has served on the Examinations Committee or has participated in examination question writing sessions may take any portion of the examination in order to become certified in an additional specialty area. Any other Diplomate of the College who wishes to become certified in an additional specialty area may take the specialty examination for that area if both the general veterinary microbiology examination and the specialty examination will be completed within the same five (5) year period. If not, the Diplomate must pass the general veterinary microbiology examination again, within the same five (5) year period of the specialty examination.

Section 9. Issuance of Certification:

The affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Board shall be necessary and, subject to the preceding provisions of this Article V, shall be sufficient to authorize issuance of a Certificate in accordance with the provisions of Article III.

(1) Certificates shall be in such form as shall be prescribed and approved by the Board, and shall be signed by the President or Vice President and by the Secretary of the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists, Inc., and shall have its seal affixed. Certificates shall be and remain the property of the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists, Inc., but each person to whom a Certificate shall be issued shall be entitled to its possession unless and until such certification shall be revoked.

Section 10. Revocation of Certificate:

Any Certificate granted or issued by the Board of the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists may be revoked by resolution of the Board:

(1) In case the granting or issuance of the Certificate was contrary to or in violation of any provision of the Constitution of the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists, or

(2) In case the person to whom the Certificate was granted made any misstatement or misrepresentation of facts, or omitted to state or concealed any fact, either in the application for certification or otherwise, as to any matter referred to in the application or in any of the preceding sections of Article V, or

(3) For cause following disciplinary action. In case of the revocation of a certificate, the Board shall authorize the Secretary to request the return of the certificate. The names of members whose certificates

have been revoked shall be deleted from future American College of Veterinary Microbiologists' directories.

Section 11. Discretion of the Board:

Notwithstanding any provisions of Article V or any other section of this Constitution and its By-Laws authorizing or contemplating the exercise of any power or the making of any decision, finding, or determination of the Examinations Committee or any other committee, the Board shall have final power, authority and discretion to prescribe, determine and decide any and all matters and questions relating to or arising under any of the provisions of this Article V, including, but not without limitation to:

- (1) The sufficiency of the compliance by an applicant for a Certificate within the provisions of Section 6 of this Article,
- (2) What standards of competency shall be possessed by applicants, and whether any applicant meets such standards,
- (3) The eligibility under appropriate sections of this Article of any applicant for a certificate.
- (4) Except as otherwise provided in Section 7 of this Article, whether and to what extent and in what manner and as to what matters any such applicant shall be examined pursuant to the provisos of Section 7, and whether any such examination has been satisfactorily passed,
- (5) Whether a Certificate shall be granted or issued to any applicant; and
- (6) Whether any Certificate granted or issued by the Board shall be revoked. The determination or decision of the Board as to any and all such matters shall be conclusive.

Section 12. Appeal procedures:

Adverse decisions by the College may include, but are not limited to: Denial of eligibility for Board examination; Denial of certification of an individual; and Revocation of certification. In the event of an adverse decision by the College, the Secretary-Treasurer shall advise the affected person of the decision within thirty (30) days and of the procedure for appealing the adverse decision. An affected party desiring to appeal the adverse decision must adhere to the following procedures:

- (1) Grounds for reconsideration or review:
The affected party may petition for reconsideration or review of the decision of the College on the grounds that the College ruled erroneously by:
 - (a) Disregarding the established College criteria for certification;
 - (b) Failing to follow its stated procedures; or
 - (c) Failing to consider relevant evidence and documentation presented.
- (2) Petition for reconsideration:
 - (a) An affected party may, at his or her option petition the Board of the College to reconsider its decision by filing with the Secretary-Treasurer of the College a written petition for reconsideration, which shall include a statement of the grounds for reconsideration and documentation, if any, in support of the petition.
 - (b) Such petition must be received in the College office within 90 days of the date on which the College has announced its adverse decision.

(c) The affected party may, at the discretion of the Board of the College, be invited to appear at the next regular meeting of the governing board of the College. The cost of travel, food and lodging for the petitioner will be borne by the petitioner.

(d) The Board of Governors of the College will meet in executive session to reach a final decision. This decision will be sent in writing by mail to the affected person not more than thirty (30) days after this final decision is made.

(e) Upon completion of steps (a) through (d) above, if the affected party is not satisfied with the final decision, he or she may request mediation by the AVMA, American Board of Veterinary Specialties (ABVS).

(f) The Chair of ABVS will call a meeting of the parties in dispute or their representatives. The meeting will be held at AVMA headquarters and will be chaired by the Chair of ABVS. The parties in dispute will be guided to seek equitable solutions. The College and the appellant will each pay the expenses of the meeting including travel, food, and lodging expenses of the representative of ABVS.

(g) The role of ABVS is advisory only; final authority rests with the Board of Governors, ACVM.

Article VI. OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of this organization shall be a President, a Vice President and a Secretary-Treasurer. Officers shall be Diplomates of the College.

Section 2. The election of these officers and their duties shall be provided in the By-Laws.

Article VII. BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Section 1. The Board shall consist of ten (10) members, nine (9) of which shall be elected Diplomates as provided in Article VI of this Constitution, and a President who shall also be an elected Diplomate.

Section 2. The general management and business of this organization shall be vested in the Board.

Section 3. The President shall be elected to no more than two (2) two-year terms as provided for in the By-Laws (Article 1, Section 1). The Board shall annually elect from its membership a Vice President. In addition, they shall also elect a Secretary-Treasurer as provided in the By-laws (Article I, Section 4). The immediate past President shall continue for one year as an ex-officio member.

Article VIII. AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Proposed amendments to this Constitution and to the By-Laws, signed by at least three (3) Diplomates in good standing, shall be submitted to the Board for its consideration. An affirmative vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the Board shall be required for adoption of any amendment.

BY-LAWS

Article I. ELECTION AND DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1.

Elected members of the board, ten (10) in number of which nine (9), shall be Diplomates elected by the membership of the College by secret ballot, each to serve a term of three (3) years. Tenure in office shall be such that three (3) members of the Board are replaced each year. Any member having been elected to one full term or to fill a vacancy in an uncompleted term may be elected for one (1) additional term. At the completion of this second term, the Board member cannot be re-elected until at least one (1) year absence from the Board.

The President of the Board of Governors shall be a Diplomate elected by the membership of the College by secret ballot, to serve a term of two (2) years. Any member having been elected to President for one full term or to fill a vacancy in an uncompleted term may be elected for one (1) additional term. At the completion of this second term, the President cannot be re-elected until at least one (1) year absence from the Board.

Section 2.

(1) Nomination for all vacancies on the Board and President of the Board shall be made by the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall present the names of at least two (2) candidates for each position to be filled on the Board and shall submit the list of recommendations to the Secretary-Treasurer by the 15th day of December following its appointment. The Secretary-Treasurer shall inform diplomates not later than the first day of January of the committee report. Additional nominations for office may be made by petition over the signature of three (3) Diplomates in good standing if the petition is received by the Secretary-Treasurer on or before the 15th day of February. A petition bearing the names of three (3) Diplomates may nominate only one (1) candidate to office. Nominations of other candidates will each require a similar petition.

(2) The Secretary-Treasurer shall send, no later than the 15th day of March, a final ballot bearing all nominations for office, whether made by the Nominating Committee or by petition, to all eligible voting members

(3) Each voting member shall return the completed ballot properly sealed for secrecy to the Secretary-Treasurer. In order to be counted, a ballot must be received by the Secretary-Treasurer on or before the next succeeding 15th day of April.

(4) The Secretary-Treasurer shall check off the Registry of the College the names of all members voting; shall reject ballots from those who are not in good standing according to these By-Laws; shall deliver all valid sealed ballots to Tellers appointed by the President of the Board to take charge of the election and shall report to the Board upon ballots rejected. The Tellers shall count the ballots and report to the Secretary-Treasurer who shall announce the results promptly.

(5) The candidates who receive the highest number of votes shall be elected to fill the vacancies on the Board.

(6) Newly elected members of the Board shall take office at the close of the July Board meeting.

Section 3.

(1) The Board shall elect annually from its membership a Vice President. Nominations for Vice President shall be made by a nominating committee comprised of the President of the Board of Governors and one other Diplomate not currently serving on the Board. Nominations will be announced to the College before the July meeting of the Board. Additional nominations by Board members may be made at the July Board meeting.

(2) The Vice President in any year shall automatically assume the office of President if the latter is unable or unwilling to complete a term. New officers shall assume office at the close of the July Board meeting.

Section 4.

(1) The Board shall elect from the Diplomates a Secretary-Treasurer who need not be a member of the Board. The Secretary-Treasurer, if not an elected member of the Board, shall be an ex-officio member without the power to vote. The Secretary-Treasurer shall serve a term of 3 years beginning one year after election to office. In the second year of the term of office of the Secretary-Treasurer, nomination for the position shall be made by a nominating committee comprised of the President of the Board of Governors and one other Diplomat not currently serving on the Board. The nomination shall be announced to the College before the July meeting of the Board. Additional nominations by Diplomates or by Board members may be made at the July Board meeting.

(2) In the event that a Secretary-Treasurer cannot complete the term of office, an interim Secretary-Treasurer will be nominated by a committee comprised of the Board of Governors and one other Diplomat not currently serving on the Board. The Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected by a telephone poll of the Board members. The interim Secretary-Treasurer shall serve until the election procedure described above can be completed.

Section 5. Duties of the President and Vice President:

(1) The President shall preside over all meetings of the College and meetings of the Board, shall be a member, ex-officio, of all committees and shall perform the usual duties of such office. The President shall have no vote in the Board except in case of a tie, and no vote on committees in an ex-officio capacity. The President is expected, with the assistance of the board, to develop strategic plans for ACVM and to develop and implement strategies to achieve objectives.

(2) The Vice President shall be an ex-officio member of all committees, shall preside at meetings in the absence of the President, and shall succeed to the office of President should that office be vacated. The Vice President shall have no vote on a committee when serving in an ex-officio capacity.

Section 6. Duties of the Secretary-Treasurer:

(1) The Secretary-Treasurer shall serve as executive officer of the College. As directed by the Board, the Secretary-Treasurer shall conduct business affairs of the College, collect fees and dues, issue receipts for such fees and dues, draw vouchers, and pay bills and expenses. The Secretary-Treasurer shall arrange for safekeeping of College funds, shall keep records of all transactions and submit a yearly statement of financial affairs to the Board. All records of financial transactions of the College shall be submitted annually to the Budget Committee for auditing.

(2) The Secretary-Treasurer shall keep minutes of all meetings and shall perform the usual duties of the Secretary and such other duties as are assigned by the Board.

Section 7. Duties of the Board:

The Board shall have the duties and power ordinarily delegated to the governing body of a corporation. Responsibilities given by the Constitution are as follows:

- (1) Shall organize and operate an agency for certification of Diplomates in Veterinary Microbiology.
 - (a) The Board shall judge compliance for certification of applicants with the requirements as set out in the Constitution.
 - (b) Appoint an Examinations Committee to operate under its supervision.
 - (c) Certify such candidates who qualify as specialists (Diplomates) in Veterinary Microbiology.
 - (d) The Board shall make available to candidates and the interested public a detailed account of experience and training prerequisite to the Board examination.
 - (e) The Board shall serve the public by preparing and furnishing lists of those individuals who have been certified.
 - (f) The Board shall hear petitions of candidates and Diplomates and recommend appropriate actions.

- (2) Shall create appropriate committees, appoint committee members and supervise their activities.
- (3) Shall report to the College annually its work and activities, including a full financial statement and shall make such interim reports as are necessary and advisable.
- (4) Shall exercise its constitutional authority in promoting and attaining the objectives of the College, especially those pertaining to professional, institutional, and public relations.
- (5) Shall identify and elect to Emeritus Diplomate status those Diplomates who have retired from active practice of the specialty. This will be undertaken upon the Diplomate's request or consent.
- (6) Shall solicit nominations for Honorary Diplomate and, after consideration of each nomination, shall nominate candidates for election by the voting membership. Such elections shall take place in conjunction with the balloting for officers of the College.

Article II. COMMITTEES

Section 1. There shall be the following committees:

(1) Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee shall consist of three (3) Diplomates. In making the appointments, due regard shall be given to the various fields of endeavor in veterinary microbiology. Members of the Board during their term of office shall not be appointed to the Nominating Committee. Members of the nominating committee shall not be eligible for election to the Board of Governors.

(2) Examinations Committee

The Examinations Committee shall consist of no fewer than nine (9) Diplomates. In making appointments, due regard shall be given to the various fields encompassed in veterinary microbiology. The committee shall examine the prerequisite qualifications of applicants for examination according to standards of eligibility established by the Board and recommend action to the Board. The committee shall develop and conduct examinations, evaluate results, and make reports and recommendations to the Board with respect to certification of candidates.

(3) Continuing Education and Program Committee

This committee shall consist of nine (9) Diplomates. The committee shall plan the continuing education programs of the College and oversee the presentations.

(4) Continuing Education Funding Committee

This committee shall consist of three (3) Diplomates. The committee shall solicit funds to support the continuing education program

(5) Graduate Students Awards Committee

The Graduate Student Awards Committee shall consist of twelve (12) diplomates. The committee will establish procedures for the recognition of graduate students who present outstanding papers at the Conference of Research Workers in Animal Diseases.

(6) Honorary Diplomate Selection Committee

This committee shall consist of three (3) Diplomates. The committee shall review the qualifications of individuals proposed as Honorary Diplomates and prepare a summary of the credentials and achievements of each candidate recommended to the College membership for election.

(7) Budget Committee

This committee shall consist of three (3) Diplomates, at least one of whom is a member of the Board of Governors. The committee shall audit the income and expenditures of the College for the recently completed year and recommend to the Board a budget (proposed income and expenditures) for the current year. The committee, in consultation with the Secretary-Treasurer, shall, every three (3) years,

contract with a professional certified public accountant for an audit of the College's financial records. The committee shall make recommendations regarding honoraria for officers of the College.

Section 2. Members on all standing committees shall serve three (3) years. One third of the members of each committee shall be appointed annually by the President of the Board with the approval of the majority of the Board at the time of the July meeting. Tenure of standing committee members shall begin immediately following appointment at the July meeting.

Section 3. Members of standing committees may be elected for one (1) additional term but are ineligible for additional service until they have been absent from the committee for at least one (1) year.

Section 4. The Board may at their discretion approve the establishment of additional committees to assist in the business and scientific programs of the College.

Article III. DUES AND FEES

Section 1.

(1) Annual dues or assessments, when established, shall become payable in advance on July 1 of each year and shall be remitted to the Secretary-Treasurer.

(a) A person who fails to pay dues or assessments for six (6) months after the due date shall be designated not in good standing and shall not be eligible to vote or hold office until the arrears and the ensuing years' dues or assessments are paid in full.

(b) Persons whose dues or assessments are in arrears for two (2) full years will be disassociated from the College after due notice has been given. Persons who have lost their membership status may be reinstated upon approval of the Board after payment of arrears as well as dues or assessments for the ensuing year.

(2) Emeritus and Honorary Diplomates shall be exempt from the annual dues and assessments.

Section 2. Fees for application and examination shall be determined by the Board.

Article IV. DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Section 1. The Board shall have the authority to recommend censure, suspension, expulsion, or revocation of the certificate of any member for cause.

Section 2. If a Diplomate feels that by unethical conduct, fraud, nonpayment of dues for two (2) years, or for any other reason any member has brought discredit upon the College, charges may be presented in writing to the Board. If the charges are considered sufficiently serious to warrant action, the accused member shall be notified by the Board in writing by registered mail of the details of all charges. The accused Diplomate shall have full opportunity to reply in writing or to appear before the Board in person. The Board shall weigh the evidence and with concurrence of two-thirds (2/3) of the members may recommend suitable disciplinary action. Such disciplinary action shall be published and executed only after being sustained by an affirmative vote of the majority of the members of the College who are voting.

Section 3. Other provisions for revocation of the Certificate granted or issued by the Board are specified in Section 10 of Article V of the Constitution. Appeal procedures are specified in Article V, Section 12 of the Constitution.

Article V. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Section 1. Quorum:

(1) A quorum of the Board shall consist of a simple majority of the Board.

(2) Regular or special meetings of the Board and the College shall be called by the President, subsequent to approval of the Board. Should the President fail to set the date for regular or special meetings, the Board may by a simple majority action, set a date for such meetings.

Section 2. Suspension of By-Laws:

The By-Laws may be suspended at any regular or special meeting, as defined above, by unanimous consent of all voting members present and voting.

Section 3. Rules of Order:

Robert's Rules of Order, revised, shall govern the conduct of all meetings.