



April 2, 2021

Dear ACVN Residents and Candidates:

This notification is to provide you with information about the ACVN Certifying Manual, which was favorably voted on by the ACVN membership, and is now in effect as of March 31, 2021.

Dr. Bartges, the Chair of the Training and Credentials Committee, has this summary of the major changes included in the Manual:

The Certifying Manual is based on Article VI from the previous ACVN By-laws. The Manual describes two major changes: Case Reports have been removed as a requirement for credentials and certification and Training Benchmarks have been chosen to replace them. Detailed information about benchmarks is found in Section 1.4.

Training Benchmarks are educational (training) tasks that are not intended to be graded in the traditional sense of a right or wrong answer. The intent of Training Benchmarks is to provide a vehicle for Residents and Resident Advisors to continuously compare the level of training against a set standard and to verify and reinforce the knowledge and/or skills of a Resident. Training Benchmarks ensure regular and continuous progress toward completion of the Training Program, preparation for the examination, and provide Residents and Resident Advisors examples of the depth and breadth of information pertinent to the veterinary nutrition specialty. Training Benchmark assignments might include (but are not limited to) monographs on current topics, multi-part essay questions, multiple-choice questions, and short answer questions.

Training Benchmarks are released periodically to Residents and approximately one month later, the key to that Training Benchmark is released to the Mentor. Mentors and Residents will have approximately one month to review the Resident's completed Benchmark by comparing it to the key. The intent is to spark in-depth discussion about the questions and responses and may include topics not specifically presented or covered in as great of detail in the Benchmark and Key. Mentors can and are encouraged to review Benchmarks with more than one Resident to foster discussion. The Mentor notifies the Training and Credentials Committee of their approval of the completion of the Training Benchmark by the Resident.

Residents who are currently in training or who have completed their training may opt to continue submitting Case Reports or pursue Training Benchmarks. For individuals who have no accepted Case Reports, 4 Training Benchmarks must be completed and for

individuals who have one or two accepted Case Reports, 2 Training Benchmarks must be completed. A calendar is provided in the Certifying Manual. It provides individuals who need to complete 4 Training Benchmarks an opportunity to do so by February 2022, which is when final examination eligibility is assessed. After that, Training Benchmarks will be released twice a year. For individuals who have completed their Program that pursue Training Benchmarks, but whose Mentor may not be available to evaluate the Training Benchmarks, the Certifying Manual provides a mechanism for choosing another Diplomate to help.

Residency Advisors, Residents, and individuals who have completed their Training Program are STRONGLY encouraged to read the Certifying Manual particularly Section 1.4. Questions may be directed to the Training and Credentials Committee through the ACVN Secretary.

We have encouraged mentors to reach out to their trainees and discuss how the new Manual affects their programs. Please feel free to reach out to your mentor directly as well. In the meantime, please download the attached Manual and send any questions you may have to acvnsecretary@gmail.com. The Manual will also be available on the College's website soon.

I hope you and your loved ones continue to be safe and healthy.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Maryanne Murphy".

Maryanne Murphy, DVM, PhD, DACVN
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