BOARD CERTIFIED VETERINARY NUTRITIONISTS

If you're not completely familiar with what a board certified veterinary nutritionist® can do, look no further! Learn more about what they do, how they can help, how you can get in touch with one, and more.

WHAT IS A BOARD CERTIFIED VETERINARY NUTRITIONIST®?

- A specialist specifically trained in the nutritional management of both healthy animals and those with one or more diseases.
- A Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Nutrition (ACVN®). The ACVN is the AVMA-recognized specialty organization for nutrition.
- After receiving a veterinary medical degree, ACVN diplomates must complete at least 1 year of internship or clinical experience followed by at least 2 years of residency training.
- Residency training involves intensive clinical, teaching, and research activities under the mentorship of at least one board certified veterinary nutritionist®. Some programs require graduate-level course work and rotation with other specialists. Trainees must prepare written case reports and publish a peer-reviewed scientific article. They are also required to pass a two-day written examination

WHAT DO THEY DO?

A board certified veterinary nutritionist® is uniquely qualified to formulate and evaluate commercial foods and supplements, formulate home-prepared diets, manage the complex medical and nutritional needs of individual animals, and understand the underlying causes and implications of specific nutritional strategies that are used to prevent and treat diseases.

HOW DO THEY DETERMINE DIETARY NEEDS?

A board certified veterinary nutritionist® does complex calculations to determine that every nutrient in a diet or ration is at a safe and appropriate level for a healthy animal or for a patient with one or more diseases. They can also utilize these mathematical evaluations to determine the optimal diet for a pet or herd, especially when there are medical or nutritional issues.

WHERE CAN I FIND ONE?

If you would like to work with a board certified veterinary nutritionist® to recommend a diet or develop a customized home-prepared diet for your pet, produce and market a pet product, or consult on any other issue, please visit our Diplomate Directory at www.acvn.org/directory

WHAT CAN I EXPECT?

During a consultation, a board certified veterinary nutritionist® will:

- Review the herd or patient's records, the current diet and feeding methods, and the goals for the consultation.
- Examine the patient and determine a body condition score and muscle condition score, if possible.
- Provide a nutrition plan (likely written) for the primary care veterinarian and animal owner.
- Follow up after the consultation, to ensure that the patient is responding well to the nutritional plan.

ACVN MISSION STATEMENT:

The primary objective of the American College of Veterinary Nutrition is to advance the specialty area of veterinary nutrition and increase the competence of those who practice in this field by establishing requirements for certification in veterinary nutrition, encouraging continuing professional education, promoting research, and enhancing the dissemination of new knowledge of veterinary nutrition through didactic teaching and postgraduate programs.

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

VISIT US ONLINE AT **WWW.ACVN.ORG** FOR MORE INFORMATION, INCLUDING A DIRECTORY OF PROVIDERS AND EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES.