

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

A. The ACEPM Residency Program consists of a minimum of three (3) years of full-time, supervised training and clinical practice in exotic pet medicine. The residency can be offered in an authorized and routinely pre-approved exotic pet specialty medical facility (*i.e.*, clinic, hospital, *etc.*) or an exotic pet medical service in a referral hospital or a veterinary teaching hospital (*i.e.*, academia).

B. An ACEPM Diplomate in good standing serves as the residency advisor.

C. An ACEPM Resident must complete at least twelve (12) months of full-time internship or equivalent training program, or three (3) years in clinical practice before they can be accepted for a residency.

D. Applications for new ACEPM residency programs are evaluated by the ACEPM Residency Committee and may be approved, disapproved, or returned for revision.

Application fees apply and are listed and updated on the ACEPM website (<https://www.acepm.org/application>).

DESCRIPTION OF RESIDENCY PROGRAM

A. All residency programs must supply an opportunity for training and clinical experience in the following disciplines at the highest standards as determined by the Residency Committee:

- i. Anesthesiology
- ii. Behavior, Husbandry, Species natural history
- iii. Dentistry, Dermatology, Ophthalmology
- iv. Diagnostic imaging (ultrasound and advanced imaging (CT) are mandatory)
- v. Endoscopy
- vi. Internal Medicine
- vii. Pathology (clinical and anatomical, including Histopathology)
- viii. Soft tissue and Orthopedic Surgery
- ix. Urgent Care

B. The duration of the residency program must consist of a minimum of 144 weeks of full-time training and clinical practice.

Two (2) weeks' vacation and two (2) weeks for research and article writing per year are provided.

Each advisor may approve additional time for elective rotations in support of the program (approved by the Residency Committee).

A three (3)-year program will include graduate studies, research, classes, or other relevant activities.

Each mentor can supervise up to three (3) residents at any given time, but no more than two (2) residents can begin the program in the same year.

Exam: At the present time the exam is designed as a verbal exam (in person/Zoom) in front of an appointed *ad-hoc* exam board consisting of the program advisor and other experts in the field. At the exam, the resident will be "defending" their research project and will be examined on various aspects of their research along with their general

exotic pet medical knowledge and experience (using the case log criteria provided). The purpose of such an exam is to use the research project as a foundation and divert to general exotic pet medical applications and knowledge.

Passing rate is set at 70%.

Case Log

Case logs are submitted every six (6) months and must be reviewed and signed by the program advisor. The residents can be primary or secondary and assisted by the advisor in complicated procedures. Procedures may include up to two (2) qualifications (*e.g.*, endoscopic salpingectomy can serve as avian spay and avian coelioscopy).

Descriptions should be concise and include enough detail so that the Residency Committee can readily evaluate the scope and depth of the described case. Routine cases such as wellness exams (healthy animals seen for vaccination, preventative or grooming care) shall be accounted for no more than 10 hours/year for purposes of evaluating the Resident through the case log.

Enter the date on which the case was first seen (or later date if recheck). Case numbers and identifying information are optional but helpful.

- Enter the signalment (age, sex, breed, species, other information).
- Enter the main problem or problem list and either differential diagnosis or final diagnosis (if known).

Enter a brief description of any diagnostic, medical, or surgical procedures performed.

Enter the case outcome including results of diagnostics or procedures

and case status (discharged, improved, worsened, died, euthanized, etc.).

- Select the type of case (medical category); up to two (2) may be selected.
- Select the Resident's role (primary or assistant).

Before submission, the case log should be proofread for accuracy. Errors in grammar reflect poorly on the Resident and will be considered by the Residency Committee as part of the evaluation.

Scientific literature should be reviewed for each case and references should be provided. The Resident must research and expand their knowledge thoroughly during the Program. Abstracts/Proceedings are acceptable as ancillary references when published references are unavailable.

In cases where a residency program may not be able to provide such experience at a given time, the Residency Committee may approve an alternative experience such as a lab/course/class at another location or the ability to complete the necessary experience at another facility.

Each case represents one (1) hour of clinical experience. The listed hours below are counted per one year. Residents may submit a final log after thirty (30) months (two and a half years) and may complete missing procedures in the last six (6) months of the residency and submit their exam/research project evaluation after thirty (30) months. A residency completion certification will be awarded after completion of thirty-six (36) months of clinical training signed by the advisor. A Diploma in Exotic Pet Medicine will be awarded after passing the exit exam and completion of thirty-six (36) months of training and all other requirements.

The following disciplines are mandatory. Please note that the caseload described below reflects the minimal caseload that is required:

Anatomical Pathology: (20 hours) - necropsies and histopath submissions (at least 20 necropsies /year that include final histopathology).

Anesthesia: (40 hours) - The Resident must be the primary anesthesiologist. Knowledge and competency in using blood gas devices and interpretation, capnography, blood pressure, mechanical ventilation and intubation techniques are required.

Analgesia: Knowledge and competency in analgesia and pharmacology are required.

Behavior: (10 hours) - Describe all aspects including environmental modification and/or pharmacology.

Clinical Pathology: (20 hours) - Knowledge and competency in, but not limited to, hematology, microbiology and parasitology are required.

Endoscopy: In all species groups if applicable: A minimum of three (3) procedures in each category overall (*e.g.*, three (3) gastroscopic procedures, *etc.*) are required (over three (3) years).

- Biopsy and sample collection (lung, spleen, liver, renal in avian and reptiles)

- UpperGI/Gastroscopy/Colonoscopy/Cloacoscopy/Coelioscopy/Tracheoscopy/ Rhinoscopy/Urethroscopy

Imaging: (20 hours advanced imaging (CT or MRI)): (20 hours US, Traditional radiology (X-ray) will be assumed.)

Internal Medicine: (60 hours) - A minimum of 5 hours in each sub discipline is required: Infectious diseases, cardiology, dermatology, gastroenterology (including hepatology and endocrinology), nephrology, neurology, pharmacology, pulmonology, theriogenology, and ophthalmology

Surgery (soft tissue): listed procedures: Three procedures are required in each category overall (in three (3) years)

- Sterilization of small mammals; Sterilization of reptiles/amphibians; Sterilization of birds
- Coeliotomy in birds and reptiles
- Cystotomy in small mammals, reptiles
- Enterotomy, gastrotomy
- Biopsy of internal organs
- Eucleation
- Dentistry and maxillofacial surgery: Three (3) procedures in small mammal dentistry without surgery (crown restoration, simple tooth extraction, etc.,) and three (3) maxillofacial surgical procedures are required.
- Splenic/hepatic/endocrine surgical experience is recommended but not required.

Surgery (orthopedic): Limb amputation: fracture repair, plastrotony, shell repair, tail amputation; 3 procedures in each category overall (in three (3) years). Any species group is applicable.

Urgent Care: (20 hours) - Knowledge and competency in, but not limited to, oxygen therapy (delivery, toxicity, physiology), air sac cannula placement, iStat (blood gasses) use and interpretation, IV therapy, CPR therapy, wound management, fracture stabilization and coaptation, thoracocentesis, abdominocentesis, and coelomocentesis.

Wellness: (10 hours) - Routine exam, vaccination, preventative medicine, grooming, behavior, husbandry and species natural history. The Residency Committee may require additional procedures based on the submitted logs despite an acceptable number of procedures based on the depth and diversity of cases submitted.

Record of Continuing Education

The Resident is required to obtain a minimum of seventy-five (75) hours of CE during the training program. A minimum of (25) hours must be formal CE each year. This requirement must be met by attending and participating in RACE-approved programs; national conferences, forums, and symposiums; state conferences; and high-quality regional or local meetings.

Examples of formal CE include: RACE- (or state licensing board) approved meetings. Internet-based coursework, videos, journal-based quizzes, *etc.* will be accepted only for the number of hours credited by the sponsoring organization.

Coursework such as college classes are not considered formal CE unless they are RACE-approved or accepted for state licensure requirements.

Enter the date of the CE followed by the title of the program, conference, or meeting. Enter the city and state/province (or select International) of the CE event. Enter the first and last name of the speaker/presenter. More than one (1) name may be entered if multiple people presented the CE.

- Enter the topic or title of the session.
- Enter the number of credit hours awarded by the CE event.
- Select the type of CE.

- Be sure to list each session or topic on a separate line even if given by the same speaker or included at the same event. Do not group multiple hours or topics on one (1) line.