

**Report of the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners Council of Regents Meeting concerning the Formal Proposal presented by AEMV concerning specialty status for Exotic Mammal Practice.**

The meeting took place on May 20, 2004 at the ABVP Council of Regents (COR) meeting (New Orleans, LA) at 11:20 a.m.

COR had previously received the AEMV Formal Proposal and had reviewed and discussed it.

I gave a 12 minute presentation that was an overview of the proposal.

A question and answer period then occurred.

Questions that were presented included:

1. How many diplomates per year would be anticipated? Currently Avian and Feline see about 6 per year. I would anticipate a similar number.
2. What is the volunteer base to help in the recognition process? I felt we could easily have 20 volunteers.
3. AEMV thoughts on combining avian, exotic mammal, and reptile? May be in the future but not now.

Discussions that occurred:

1. The cost of getting specialty recognition is about \$10,000 – 15,000 dollars. This includes development of reading list, preparation guide, job content analysis (sent to AEMV members and other interested parties), mentors, question item bank (each question is peer reviewed by two people. The bank would have 600-900 questions. Each question has one right answer (preferably with 2 references) and 2 distracters. Each question has an irrefutable answer. Develop a passing grade for each question.), rubric<sup>1</sup>, development of application, general question, specialty question, practical questions. I was unsure of who bore this cost. It sounded like ABVP but I do not know for sure.
2. Must also comply with American Board of Veterinary Specialties (ABVS). In the end, ABVS certifies the specialty.
3. Why is there not a reptile specialty yet? ARAV started in 1996 but due to poor organization and communication, they have not gotten their proposal together yet.
4. Is there enough information out there? Yes. This is the area that Dr. Teresa Lightfoot (ABVP Avian Regent) helped enormously by stating examples and so forth.
5. Certification is a 3-5 year process. ABVP meets next in the Fall.
6. The next step is to gather at least 20 interested people from which the ABVP selects an organizing committee. We need the names and curriculum vitae (that conforms to ABVS requirements) of these.

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<sup>1</sup> Rubric Definition: A set of authoritative rules to give direction to the scoring of assessment tasks or activities. To be useful, a scoring rubric must be derived from careful analysis of existing performances of varying quality. A task-specific rubric describes levels of performance for a particular complex performance task and guides the scoring of that task consistent with relevant performance standards. (A task-specific rubric is more specific than a performance standard and can apply a performance standard to a particular context found in a performance task.) A general rubric is an outline for creating task-specific rubrics, or for guiding expert judgment, where task-specific scoring rules are internal to the scorer.

We broke for lunch. Dr. Lightfoot and I discussed COR wanting to combine the exotics. One idea that had occurred is subspecialties (for examples, ABVP-Exotic- Avian, ABVP-Exotic- Mammal). Because of the e-mail discussions I had with members who went to ICE2004, I suggested the possibility of a super-specialty. In this rough draft of this idea, veterinarians would need to individually pass ABVP-Avian, ABVP-Exotic Mammal, and ABVP – Reptile. Once they accomplished all three goals, then they could become ABVP- All Exotics. They could then re-certify in All Exotics at some future date (I'm not sure when the 10 year trigger would occur). At this point it is a moot point since only ABVP-Avian exists.

After lunch, another question and answer period occurred in which there were no questions. A motion was made to accept the formal proposal and seconded. I left the room for the ABVP COR discussion.

About 10 minutes later, Dr. Lightfoot came out and escorted me back into the room. The proposal had passed. I thanked the COR. So on the 'Requirements For Incoming Practice Groups' by the ABVP, we passed Stage 1.

Submitted on May 22, 2004

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