Report on the ABVP Council of Regents (COR) Meeting
Washington, DC
April 28, 2005

Overall the meeting was great! I discussed with the COR the lack of direction on their part in helping AEMV get this moving forward. Over the next 2 days, I got an excellent roadmap and timetable.

I.   ABVP contacts. These veterinarians will have access to the Yahoo Group website since they serve as our ABVP liaisons.
   A.   Bill Utroska – current President of ABVP
   B.   Dennis French – current head of the ABVP examination committee
   C.   Dave Bristol – ABVP appointed liaison to AEMV
II.   Reminder of percentages in the ABVP Formal Proposal

Ferret	35%
Rabbit	35%
Guinea Pig	15%
Small Rodents (hamsters, rats, mice, etc.)	10%
Miscellaneous (subhuman primates, prairie dogs, etc.)	5%

QUESTION – we need to define what is in the miscellaneous group for the development of job content analysis, credentialing, and exam questions.
III. Rubric
   A.   Definition – a method of classifying an examination question. ABVP uses an 8 part alphanumeric code. All questions need to be rubric before they can be added to the item databank. Only items in the databank are eligible for the examination.
   B.   First rubric part is the based on the Condition Score (see http://abvp.atiba.com/site/pdfs/general_conditions.pdf). It is a letter A through Y.
   C.   Next 3 parts is the disease process. For example 601 is dilated cardiomyopathy. I currently do not have a disease listing but it is being forwarded to me. There will be diseases that are not on this list. We will create new diseases and append them to the end of the list.
   D.   The next 2 parts are the major thought process required for determining the disease. For example, a fasting blood glucose for ferret insulinoma. Therefore blood sample would be the major aid for this disease. Personally I found that trying to name one major process not intuitive and very hard to do. Because the rubric has no extra space and does not have a place to put the species, a general consensus for now was to put the species here. So F= ferret, R = rabbit, G = guinea pig, S = small rodents, M = miscellaneous.
   E.   The next part is the item cognitive complexity.
      1)   Recall item. Recall items primarily test the recognition or recollection of isolated information. Such items predominantly require an effort of memory. ABVP requirement is no more than 20% of exam questions are the recall type and ideally, 0% are recall.
      2)   Application item. Application items primarily test interpretation or application of limited data. They should include a problem solving aspect. Items

at this level will ordinarily be asking: "Knowing X to be true, what would you expect of Y?" ABVP would like 30 – 50% exam items to be application items.

      3)   Evaluation/Analysis item. Analysis items primarily test the assessment of data, problem solving, or the proper alignment of various items into a meaningful whole. Items at this level will ordinarily require examinees to make judgments concerning the effectiveness, appropriateness, or best course of action for a given situation. Clinical vignettes are very useful in developing items. ABVP would like 50% of exam items to be this type. The practical exam typically is made up of this item.

    F.   Last part is the year the question was created (i.e., 1996)

IV.   Task 1 – Job Content Analysis

   A.   Definition: What is expected of an exotic mammal specialist?

   B.   Staffing: I recommend 5 members to undertake this.

   C.   We need to create a survey that asks two questions. First, what exotic mammal conditions are commonly seen? Second, which of these conditions does a specialist need to know? As an example, an equine specialist is not expected to see uncomplicated strangles since the general practitioner typically takes care of these. So when looking at credentialing and exam question point of view, not much time is spent on strangles. A similar example may be vaccine reactions in ferrets. Yes, a specialist knows about them but since the nonspecialist typically sees them, they would not be on a specialty exam.

   D.   The survey would go to experienced exotic mammal practitioners, moderate exotic mammal knowledgeable practitioners and novice exotic mammal practitioners. The more surveys sent, the better. Expect about a 30% return rate.

   E.   The credentialing and exam need to reflect the results of the job content analysis.

   F.   What other specialties have done is take a variety of texts and go down the index and list all the diseases. Then create a survey where the 2 questions are asked and then rated on a 1 (low) to 5 (high) scale. I think Ferrets, Rabbits and Rodents by Quesenberry would be a great starting place.

   G.   When creating the disease listing, make the items fit into the A-Y first place of the Rubric. It'll remove one step from the exam committee's job. So survey questions about Heart diseases would be labeled 'A'.

   H.   The surveys are distributed. I think ExoticDVM website and VIN would be a great place to start. I would mail to people we have addresses for. Perhaps ZEN would include in their ExoticDVM journal? Universities? Give a deadline for sending back.

  I. Collate the results. Write a summary.

V.   Task 2 - Credentials Committee

   A.   Definition – this committee is in charge of creating the prior experience, CE, self –assessment, case reports, etc. that the applicant needs to successfully complete before they are allowed to take the examination. The credential required should mimic those already in place for ABVP. If you have not done so, please review current ABVP requirements at http://abvp.atiba.com/site/pdfs/form_pdf/abvp_2003_handbook.pdf

B.   Staffing: I recommend 3 members. I would recommend members who are already ABVP certified since they are familiar with the process. These would include Drs. Fiskett, Graham, Hoefer, Kudrak, Lennox, Levine, Morrisey, and Wilson.

C.   Following the ABVP model, I would suggest that one case report be in either a ferret or rabbit report, and the other report be from the remaining three categories (guinea pig, small rodents, miscellaneous).

D.   Develop and self-assessment review for the applicant. Use the Avian one as a model. http://abvp.atiba.com/site/pdfs/form_pdf/abvp_2003_handbook.pdf

E.   A question. Since most applicants will not be from a 'exotic animal' exclusive practice, do we want to have either a percent of caseload seen or total number of hours experience in the exotic mammal field?

VI.   Task 3 - Exam Committee

A.   Definition: People who review questions and make sure they are good questions. They meet the criteria of ABVP and are rubric. **EVERY MEMBER OF THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE IS EXPECTED TO SUBMIT QUESTIONS!** The exam committee will serve as the secure central authority of the questions. Once a question is submitted to the exam committee from an outside source, only the exam committee has access to it.

B.   Staffing: Five members. I would recommend Peter Fisher, Sandra Kudrak, and Tom Donnelly be 3 of the members. This committee needs to elect a chairperson.

C.   **NOTE: members of the exam committee cannot sit for the test for 3 years after ABVS has accepted the specialty.** Other members of the organizing committee can sit for exam earlier.

D.   ABVP would like a 25% turnover rate on exam questions each year.

E.   I attended the ABVP item writing course and it was invaluable for item writing. I would require the course before anyone writes questions. Fortunately, ABVP has an online course and I am in the process of setting up an AEMV exclusive one with ABVP. More details later. An overview is at http://abvp.atiba.com/site/pdfs/form_pdf/item_writing_guide.pdf

F.   Outline of questions.

1)   Questions are to have a clinical basis. Minimize if not eliminate recall questions.

2)   Remember the breakdown of our groups (Ferrets, Rabbits, GP, Small Rodents, Misc). Aim for the percentage of questions created mimic this percentage.

3)   Will need to define what is in our Miscellaneous category.

4)   Questions should be multiple choice. Have the question and three answers (1 right, 2 plausible but incorrect answers). Each right answer needs to have documentation that this is the right answer (see http://abvp.atiba.com/site/recertification/examination_items.htm for details). Ideally, each incorrect answer (also called a distractor) should also have documentation that this is the wrong answer.

5)   The Specialty exam.

  a)   Is given in 2 parts.

     b)   Total number of questions is 300 multiple choice. Aim to have 600-900 questions in databank.

    6)   The Practical exam.

     a)   Typically is visual. A multiple choice question (or a series of questions) is related to each slide or group of slides.

     b)   Each slide/PowerPoint slide is shown for 90 seconds for the applicant to see and answer the multiple choice question. After the first round, each slide is again shown for 30 seconds.

     c)   The practical is 4 hours long. There is no set number of exam questions, but all slides should be shown twice within 3 hours. Again aim to have 2 to 3 times the numbers of questions in the databank.

    7)   Once questions are created and reviewed, a rough draft exam is created and reviewed.

    8)   The Exam Committee Chair then does a final review before submitting for the examination.

    9)   After the exam, the test is reviewed/corrected for bad questions, and a passing score created.

VII.   ABVS (American Board of Veterinary Specialties) Committee

   A.   Writes the proposal to ABVS to accept ABVP- Exotic Mammal as a specialty.

   B.   Staff: Mike Dutton

   C.   ABVP would like to have by July 1, 2006.

VIII.   To Do List

   A.   Decide what are Miscellaneous species.

   B.   Create Job Content Analysis Committee. Have them do their function. Report summary and progress to Mike Dutton.

   C.   Create Credential Committee. Have them do their function. Report summary and progress to Mike Dutton.

   D.   Create Exam Committee. Have them do their function. Report summary and progress to Mike Dutton.

   E.   Re-invite veterinarians still not logged onto the Yahoo Groups Website. Inactivate non-responsive members of organizing committee. Recruit replacements.