

Standard Operating Procedures for EBVS National Representatives
(as approved April 21, 2017)

The EBVS is a non-profit-making organisation, committed to leading and promoting veterinary specialist professional training and certification in Europe to ensure superior animal and public health and wellbeing. This will be achieved, among others, by:

- working with Specialist Colleges to create frameworks for training and qualifications, “professional specialist diplomas”, not directly related to the academic system, focussed on services provided by the veterinary profession to the public.
- the provision of information on veterinary specialisation in Europe to government bodies, private organisations, veterinarians and animal owners.
- working with other veterinary organisations to ensure national and EU recognition of the need for specialist knowledge and expertise, as part of the range veterinary professional services available to and protecting the public.

In recent years, it has become apparent that there are times when geographical areas have particular needs or interests, such as problems with Specialist recognition (or lack thereof), conflict between national Specialist recognition and the recognition of EBVS Specialists, financial support in particular for residency training, membership fees and travel costs to attend College AGMs etc. Moreover, it is not just that countries need input into the EBVS decision making process, but EBVS vitally needs feedback about national issues and movements which impact on EBVS, and more importantly on Veterinary Specialisation in Europe.

Therefore the EBVS aim, for the ‘national representative’ role, is to broadcast the existence and purpose of the EBVS and European Veterinary Specialisation, within all countries in which EBVS Diplomates of any disciplines work. In line with the EBVS aims, we wish to nurture and promote the recognition, utilisation and availability of qualified veterinary speciality services to the public and the veterinary profession across all geographical areas, especially throughout Europe.

The role of the National Representative will be even more important now that an application for approval of a Common Training Framework (CTF) has been submitted to the European Commission. If approved, this will allow European Veterinary Specialists to benefit from automatic recognition across the participating in the CTF countries. The decision will be made by a committee of representatives of all EU Member States.

National Representatives should be:

- recognized at country level and active in their national specialist association (where applicable);

- able to meet with chambers and statutory bodies of their country so they can act on behalf of EBVS;
- good ambassadors for EBVS and the Colleges. They should not be isolated to their own discipline but must be willing and able to support all Colleges.
- a Diplomate of suitable seniority (ideally with a letter of endorsement from their College).

National Representatives will be tasked with:

- contacting their professional veterinary licensing body (competent authority) to enquire if they are recognising the EBVS Diplomates, and if not, understanding the issues and working with the support of EBVS to gain recognition of EBVS and its Colleges.
- maintaining a watching brief on any 'veterinary professional political or other activity' within their geographical area, which might impact on or be contrary to the interests of EBVS and to bring this to the EBVS Executive Committee without delay.
- gathering a database of Veterinary Educational organisations, Professional groups and societies within their geographical area, to whom EBVS should send the periodic EBVS Newsletters.
- fielding and working with the EBVS Secretariat on any correspondence from their own nationals, relating to national issues which may have some interaction with EBVS.
- using periodically the promotional material, as posted by the EBVS on the country representatives page, to achieve publication in their own countries/regions in the most appropriate and widely read journal, magazine or website.
- encouraging all Diplomates in their country to use the EBVS specialist title and the EBVS logo on their letterhead, and promotional materials.
- preparing an annual report of activities
- exploring the possibilities to establish a national veterinary specialist organization
- attending any National Representatives' meeting organized by the EBVS Executive Committee, for which travel and accommodation expenses will be covered by the EBVS

Appointments will be evaluated by the EBVS Nominations Committee, reviewed by the Executive Committee, and will be appointed by the EBVS Board.

They will be appointed for 4 years, and normally can be extended once.