

TRAINING BROCHURE

Last modified: April 2018

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1 CHAPTER I

1.1 Introduction

The European College of Porcine Health Management (ECPHM) is a veterinary specialty organisation approved and fully recognized by the European Board of Veterinary Specialisation (EBVS). The ECPHM is an initiative of a group of European veterinarians, already recognised as nationally and internationally renowned specialists in the field of porcine health management, in response to a growing demand for better veterinary services for pig herds through specialisation, and the need to harmonise postgraduate training. Diplomates of the College will have proven to have a thorough knowledge and experience in all aspects of the delivery of health care for pig populations, production management and all veterinary aspects of pork quality and safety.

The aims of the ECPHM are the improvement and promotion of:

- a) the quality of porcine health care and production management, by making available specialised knowledge and skills in porcine health management to the benefit of pigs, pig producers and consumers of pork and pork products.
- b) the quality of porcine health care and production management in general practice through the contacts of general practitioners with registered specialists of porcine health management.
- c) the quality of the service to pig producers, pork production chains, retailers and consumers of pork products by, among other things, the protection of the public against nonqualified "specialists".
- d) the professional satisfaction of veterinarians.
- e) the further development of porcine health management as a specialisation branch of veterinary science.

The primary objective of the ECPHM shall be to advance health oriented pig production management at population level in Europe and increase the competency of those who practice in this field by:

- a) establishing guidelines and standards for the training in postgraduate education and experience, which is the prerequisite to become a specialist in porcine health management;
- b) examining and authenticating veterinarians as specialists in pig herd health management to serve the patients, their owners, the consumer of pork products and the public in general, by providing expert care for pigs in animal welfare oriented and sustainable production systems;
- c) encouraging research and other contributions to the science and practice of pig herd health management including animal husbandry (genetics, housing,

- nutrition, production systems), internal medicine (infectious and other diseases), reproductive management with special emphasis on epidemiology, pathogenesis, diagnosis, therapy, prevention, and control of diseases directly or indirectly affecting pigs and the maintenance of healthy productive pig herds. Porcine health management also includes those aspects of pig husbandry and diseases and porcine derived pathogens that have an impact on animal welfare and the quality and safety of pork products; and
- d) promoting communication and dissemination of knowledge related to the above issues.

The Specialist in Porcine Health Management will be available to work in a referral capacity. At least 24 hours per week of his/her time will be devoted to the specialty.

Chapter II of this training brochure indicates the requirements for admission to the College.

Chapter III of this training brochure provides an outline of the objectives and the training programme for Specialists in Porcine Health Management.

Chapter IV of this training brochure deals with the application procedure.

Chapter V of this training brochure is dedicated to the qualifying examination.

2 CHAPTER II

2.1 Requirements for admission to the College

The constitution and bylaws of the European College of Porcine Health Management (ECPHM) have established the following requirements for an active membership status. The applicant should:

1. Be licensed to practice veterinary medicine in Europe, and obtained veterinary education from an EAEVE approved establishment, unless relieved of this obligations by the Board.
2. Have a good moral and ethical standing in the profession.
3. Practise the specialty for not less than 60 per cent of his/her professional time. At least 24 hours a week should be devoted to aspects of porcine health management and related activities such as teaching, research, consulting, and the preparation of publications.
4. Have successfully passed the certifying examination procedure of the ECPHM as determined by the Examinations Committee.

2.2 Qualifications to sit the certifying examination

Two categories of candidates will be allowed to sit the examination:

- a. Those giving evidence of satisfactory completion of an approved postgraduate period of at least four years, by the application deadline, dedicated mainly to training and special education in porcine health management at the herd level. The following sequence of training normally is to be used:

- (i) A first period of at least one years must be a rotating internship, or its equivalent, as defined by the Education Committee. An internship shall be a minimum of a one-year term of flexible rotating clinical training in veterinary medicine beyond the professional degree. It shall provide practical experience in applying knowledge gained during formal professional education, and offers an opportunity for recent graduates to obtain additional training in the clinical and basic sciences. An internship is composed of a broad range of clinical assignments within one of the major divisions of veterinary medicine. This year of comprehensive broad postgraduate training and experience prepares a veterinarian for high-quality service in practice or for a decision on an area of specialisation. It is important that an internship be truly a rotation, involving a wide range of

clinical activities. It should be conceived as a training programme for the intern rather than a service benefit for the clinic.

An example of an equivalent to this would be a period of at least two years in a specialised pig practice which has not been approved as a training centre beforehand with evidence of significant postgraduate continuing education, as specified above.

- (ii) A subsequent residency period shall comprise a training programme with a minimum duration of three years in porcine health management conducted under the supervision of one (or in some circumstances more than one) Diplomat of the College or an equivalent who is the person whose excellence using documentation or proofs of clinical experience, publications, teaching, training programs, certifications is approved by the Credentials Committee. Such person has to pass the College's re-approval process every five years. In addition, such a recognized and approved expert could act only as co-supervisor, and a Diplomat should always be responsible for the programme. The period can be taken consecutively or on a part-time basis as long as the total time approximates to three-years and the total period does not exceed six years. Each preceptor shall prepare a statement that the candidate has satisfactorily completed the approved time of training. There shall be no restriction on training institutions/approved practices as long as they meet the requirements for approved residency agreed by the Education Committee. Residents are encouraged to gain experience in more than one institution or approved practice during the period of their training in order to ensure they experience a sufficiently wide caseload to gain experience into all aspects of the specialty. Parental leave shall not be counted as a part of the residency, and time spent on parental leave shall be deducted from the total time of the residency in cases where the total time is exceeded.

The total duration of training (internship and residency) should be minimum 4 years.

- b. Those having completed an alternative training programme dedicated mainly to special education in porcine health management at the herd level with a solid background in porcine general medicine, herd health, zoonotic disease, and reproductive management at herd level.
- (i) The Education Committee should approve an alternative training programme before it starts. An alternative programme should be comparable to a four-year full-time internship/residency based

programme under the supervision of a Diplomate or an equivalent who is the person whose excellence using documentation or proofs of clinical experience, publications, teaching, training programs, certifications is approved by the Credentials Committee; the alternative programme should not last longer than six years. For example an alternative programme may involve working in a specialised pig practice under the supervision of a Diplomate or an equivalent as defined by the Credentials Committee taking into account the qualifying criteria of the respective College. Parental leave shall not be counted as a part of the alternative programme, and time spent on parental leave shall be deducted from the total time of the alternative programme in cases where the total time is exceeded

In all cases, training programmes and centres, and individual alternative training programmes must be approved by the Credentials Committee, in consultation where necessary with the Education Committee. In undertaking this process the Credentials Committee will take due regard of the required level of training in areas of overlap between the disciplines covered by the ECPHM and the other European Colleges. The areas of overlap with these associated disciplines should be taught by either a Diplomate of the other appropriate Colleges or an equivalent.

It is not possible to be prescriptive regarding the exact quantity of training required in these overlapping disciplines as each training programme will be uniquely tailored to the needs of the trainee. Hereby, the need for other appropriate training e.g. in nutrition, reproductive management, and pathology will be met.

In addition, the two categories of candidates shall meet the requirements:

Two (2) original porcine herd health management papers as the first author in journals included in the ISI list (see website: www.ecphm.org) or in other peer-reviewed journals not included in the ISI list but complying with 1) international review board, 2) distribution in different countries and 3) published with at least an English abstract.

Plus three (3) cases related to porcine herd health management personally handled, with a maximum of 3000 words each, which give an impression of the analytical approach of the candidate (word count including tables and figures, but not references).

The responsibility for evaluating a candidate's eligibility to sit the examination and the quality of the publications rests with the Credentials Committee.

3 CHAPTER III

The ECPHM Residency Programme

3.1 Definition

ECPHM Residency Programme is a training programme that has been approved by the Education Committee, allowing a graduate veterinarian ("Resident") to acquire in-depth knowledge of porcine health management and its supporting disciplines under the supervision and guidance of one or more Diplomates of the ECPHM ("Diplomate") or equivalent, approved by the ECPHM Credentials Committee. Such person has to pass the College's re-approval process every five years. In addition, such a recognized and approved expert could act only as co-supervisor, and a Diplomate should always be responsible for the programme.

3.2 Main objectives

- To promote aptitude and proficiency in all aspects of the practice of porcine health management, but particularly in the herd context.
- To instruct the Resident in the science and practice of porcine health management and its supporting disciplines. This may be recognised by the award of an advanced university degree such as Master's or Ph.D., and constituent modules of relevance to the training of other EC's.
- To provide the Resident with the opportunity to pursue career goals in teaching, research, clinical service, and/or specialist practice.

3.3 Specific objectives

3.3.1 Concerning practicing the specialty

The specialist should be able to:

- recognise and work-up problems related to all aspects of the specialty;
- perform all procedures according to the principles of good veterinary practice;
- co-operate with specialists and colleagues in other related and complementary disciplines, to the benefit of swine under his/her care, the swine livestock sector, animal welfare, swine owners / clients, colleagues, the consumer of products originating from swine, the public in general and the environment;
- contribute to the development and application of concepts and methods in herd health management and livestock production;

- handle emergencies in swine practice;
- perform diagnostic and therapeutic procedures in swine;
- establish indications for laboratory diagnostic support, perform laboratory diagnostic procedures (eg gross pathology) and/or interpret the outcome (eg. of virological, parasitical, bacteriological, histopathological and serological examinations), take actions and give advice on the basis of knowledge of herd health and preventive medicine, zoonoses, nutrition and housing and environment;
- recognise new developments in the specialty;
- be aware of current E.U. and national regulations with regard to all aspects of porcine health, production and welfare;
- contribute to the development and application of concepts, methods and clinical practice in porcine health and herd health management.

3.3.2 Concerning transfer of knowledge

The Resident should be able to:

- express thoughts clearly, in both oral and written form;
- approach herd and individual animal problems in an analytical and scientific way to find solutions and be able to assign priorities for these;
- organise all aspects of his/her work efficiently and effectively;
- find required information quickly;
- develop clinical and scientific activities in order to contribute to the development of the specialty.

3.3.3 Concerning working as a professional specialist

The specialist should be able to:

- keep abreast of new developments in and outside the specialty and become familiar with new methods, before applying these in the practice of porcine health management;
- understand the limitations of his/her own specialty;
- understand the possibilities that other specialties may have to offer;
- be familiar with the potential of multidisciplinary co-operation;
- develop self-confidence, self-criticism and sense of responsibility that are essential for the practice of the specialty.
- have a high moral and ethical standard with regard to his/her contribution to the protection of pig health and welfare, human health and the environment.

3.4 Requirements for entry in the ECPHM Residency Programme

3.4.1 Professional requirements

Internship programme: prospective Residents will be required to have broad training and experience in clinical porcine health management and their supporting disciplines, which must be attained by participation in an at least one years' rotating internship, or its equivalent, as defined by the Education Committee. An internship shall be a minimum of a one-year term of flexible rotating clinical training in veterinary medicine beyond the professional degree. It shall provide practical experience in applying knowledge gained during formal professional education, and offers an opportunity for recent graduates to obtain additional training in the clinical and basic sciences. An internship is composed of a broad range of clinical assignments within one of the major divisions of veterinary medicine. This year of comprehensive broad postgraduate training and experience prepares a veterinarian for high-quality service in practice or for a decision on an area of specialisation. It is important that an internship be truly a rotation, involving a wide range of clinical activities. It should be conceived as a training programme for the intern rather than a service benefit for the clinic.

Internship programmes should meet the requirements for each of the three categories (i-iii) listed below.

- i. Period of Training
the programme should include a minimum of 12 months clinical experience.
- ii. Conditions of training
 - the programme should cover all aspects of general swine practice at both the individual and herd level.
 - the internship programmes should preferably be under the direct supervision of at least one ECPHM Diplomate or an equivalent as defined by the Credentials Committee, this may not be possible for practice based equivalents to internship programmes.
- iii. Documentation of Training
The programme should document for each intern the dates on which the period of training commenced and ended, and the name of the supervisor. A certificate of internship and/or a covering letter signed by the supervisor are sufficient.

If a candidate's internship programme does not meet these general guidelines, the candidate should if possible submit a description of his/her programme to the

Credentials Committee for approval before beginning the Residency. If this is not done then a description should be submitted within 60 days of beginning the Residency programme. Under these circumstances the Credentials Committee may advise on modifications to the Residency (including extending it) to make up any deficiencies in the Resident's prior experience and training.

3.4.2 Administrative requirements

Each resident should have a Programme Director and a Resident Advisor:

The Programme Director has to be a Diplomate of the ECPHM and is responsible for the administration and continuity of the Programme. He/she will assign a Resident Advisor. The Resident Advisor has to be a Diplomate of the ECPHM or an equivalent who is the person whose excellence using documentation or proofs of clinical experience, publications, teaching, training programs, certifications is approved by the Credentials Committee. He/she may train up to two residents concurrently, while under certain circumstances up to three residents may be trained by the Resident Advisor concurrently for a limited time. He/she is responsible for the administration and evaluation of the general and specific programme requirements for the Resident. The Programme Director and Resident Advisor may be the same individual. At each institution or practice involved in the Porcine Health Management Residency Programme, the applicant should have a Supervisor. Supervisors should also be Diplomates of the ECPHM or an equivalent as defined by the Credentials Committee.

3.5 Description of the ECPHM Residency Programme

A Porcine Health Management Residency Programme ("Programme") shall consist of a period of at least three years of supervised training, postgraduate education, and clinical experience in the science and practice of porcine herd health management and its supporting disciplines under the supervision of one (or in some circumstances more than one) Diplomate of the College or an equivalent as defined by the Credentials Committee. Such person has to pass the College's re-approval process every five years. In addition, such a recognized and approved expert could act only as co-supervisor, and a Diplomate should always be responsible for the programme. The period can be taken consecutively or on a part-time basis as long as the total time corresponds to at least three years and the total period does not exceed six years. Training will take place under the supervision of at least one (1) Diplomate who participates actively in that programme or its equivalent, as defined by the ECPHM Credentials Committee. There shall be no restriction on training institutions/approved practices as long as they meet the requirements for approved residency agreed by the Education Committee. Residents are encouraged to gain experience in more than one institution or approved practice during the period of their training in order to ensure they experience a sufficiently wide caseload to gain experience into all aspects of the specialty.

In all cases, the Education Committee will approve the training programme of each institution in consultation where necessary with the Credentials Committee. In undertaking this process, the Education Committee will take due regard of the required level of training in areas of overlap between the disciplines covered by the ECPHM and other EBVS approved European Veterinary Colleges. The areas of overlap with these associated disciplines should be taught by either a Diplomate of the Colleges concerned or an equivalent who is the person whose excellence using documentation or proofs of clinical experience, publications, teaching, training programs, certifications is approved by the Credentials Committee. It is not possible to be prescriptive regarding the exact quantity of training required in these overlapping disciplines as each training programme will be uniquely tailored to the needs of the trainee. However, general guidelines are available to the Education Committee when assessing the suitability of a training programme. For example, with regard to swine nutrition the Resident should spend approximately 1-2 months in attending nutritional conferences and courses or working with a swine nutritionist. In the case of swine reproduction, a Resident would be expected to spend the equivalent of 2-3 months working in applied swine reproduction under the supervision of an ECAR Diplomate (approved for the ECAR sub-field Porcine Reproduction and Herd Health) or an equivalent as defined by the Credentials Committee. In addition, a Resident must obtain theoretical knowledge of the physiology and pathology of swine reproduction through seminars and lectures or by attending scientific conferences. The amount of time spent in seminars, lectures and conferences related to reproduction is expected to be approximately 40 hours.

3.6 Total time requirements of the ECPHM Residency Programme

3.6.1 Pig herd health management practice

1. Residents must spend minimum 30 to maximum 70% for the residency programmes of the 3 year programme in a pig herd health management practice under the direction of a Diplomate of the ECPHM or an equivalent as defined by the Credentials Committee, for a total time devoted to the speciality not being less than 60 % based on a 40 hour working week.
2. The Resident must spend 5% of his/her time with a Diplomate of ECVP to gain a training in post-mortem techniques, sample collection, sample packaging/transport, processing in the laboratory including routine bacteriological methods, evaluating pathological and serological findings, rudimentary toxicology and an understanding of all relevant terminology and nomenclature. Residents should attend pathological conferences and/or seminars, even if material being discussed does not always originate from pigs.

This pathological training is required to teach the trainee more about the activities of the veterinary laboratory and how to work with the laboratory when investigating problems in the field. Participation, discussion and observation within the laboratory

should lead to a deeper appreciation and understanding of the teamwork required by the pathologist, laboratory personnel and specialist in porcine health management.

3.6.2 Academic training

Residents must spend minimum 30 to maximum 70% for residency programmes of the 3 year programme, for a total time devoted to the speciality not being less than 60 % based on a 40 hour working week, in one or more of the following ways:

1. Research and publications:

- Research project/s: the Resident must complete a full or part-time investigative project that contributes to the advancement of porcine health management over a period of at least 12 months. This may produce some of the material referred to in 2 below. This may be part of graduate degree studies.
- Case summaries and publications to be produced by all candidates:

Two (2) original porcine herd health management papers as the first author in journals included in the ISI list (see website: www.ecphm.org) or in other peer-reviewed journals not included in the ISI list but complying with 1) international review board, 2) distribution in different countries and 3) published with at least an English abstract.

Plus three (3) cases related to porcine herd health management personally handled, with a maximum of 3000 words each, which give an impression of the analytical approach of the candidate.

2. Seminar and teaching responsibilities:

- Definition of seminar: a scientific presentation, which is followed by a discussion period, the total time being at least 45 minutes.
- Seminar requirement: the Resident must present a minimum of 6 seminars during the Programme.
- Resident's conference presentations: the Resident must regularly present cases at porcine health management Resident's conferences or comparable meetings. During the period of the Residency at least one presentation/paper should be given at a national or international scientific or professional meeting/conference.
- Teaching: the Resident is required to participate in the clinical education of graduate veterinarians and/or veterinary undergraduate students. This dedication should be at least 0.25 to 0.5 ECTS, respectively, for candidates following an academic and alternative residency programmes.

3. Continuing education: continuing education programmes, as the sole method of training will not meet the requirements of certification as a Diplomate. Good quality continuing education courses may be part of the Residency training programme.
4. Attending conferences:
 - The Resident is required to attend "in house" resident conferences, formal case discussion sessions, journal clubs, seminars, etc.
 - Residents should attend at least 3 national or international porcine health management conferences during the Residency Programme. Attendance at other scientific presentations, including conferences on other livestock species is also to be encouraged, as is attendance at courses in the area of porcine health management. Many different organisations and institutions have been identified that already provide such courses, meetings and programmes.

3.7 Contents of the ECPHM Residency Programme

The resident should gain an in-depth and detailed knowledge (unless otherwise stated) of the following areas of porcine health management:

3.7.1 Infectious and non-infectious diseases

Viral, bacterial and parasitological diseases and syndromes of swine which are commonly encountered in Europe, including their aetiology, epidemiology, prevalence, pathology, differential diagnosis, diagnosis, treatment, control and prevention.

General herd health management issues.

Zoonoses; epidemiology, pathology, clinical signs, diagnosis, differential diagnosis, treatment and control.

Diagnostic methods (at individual and herd levels) including clinical examination, case recording, post-mortem examination, collection and preservation of samples for laboratory examination, routine diagnostic laboratory techniques, interpretation of the results of serological, virological and bacteriological examinations.

Immunity and vaccination used to prevent infectious disease at the herd and population level.

Biosecurity and infectious/non-infectious disease control methods on pig units and within the pig and pork industry in its widest context.

Notifiable diseases of swine and all related appropriate legislation at the level of the E.U.

3.7.2 Reproduction

Normal and abnormal reproductive behaviour, artificial control of reproduction, husbandry aspects of reproduction, principles of boar usage and sow management, the effects of nutrition on reproduction, pregnancy diagnosis and examination of the reproductive tract and foetus, diseases of the reproductive tract and their treatment, factors influencing oestrous detection rate, infertility in the sow, problems during pregnancy, normal parturition and basic obstetrical procedures, common causes of reduced herd reproductive performance, recording reproduction data, methods for investigation and correcting lowered reproductive performance, interpretation of records, organisation of fertility control schemes, an understanding of the principles of AI, infertility in the boar and clinical examination, competent use of ultrasonography for reproductive examination. Residents should be competent to advise or implement reproductive herd health policies and have a basic understanding of modern reproductive technologies. However they need not have specific specialist expertise in modern reproductive technologies such as embryo transfer and associated techniques.

3.7.3 Epidemiology

The application of epidemiological principles, methods and techniques. Examples: measures of disease occurrence and association, sampling methods, surveillance and diagnostic test evaluation, measures of association between exposures and outcomes, validity and understanding bias, confounding and interaction, multivariable analysis in epidemiology, quality assurance and control, reporting, application and communication of epidemiological results, epidemiology and veterinary public health, emerging and re-emerging diseases, epidemiological and statistical tools and disease modeling, molecular epidemiology, risk assessment in herd health programmes on an international, national, multiple herd and individual herd basis, export and import rules and regulation both within Europe and with countries outside Europe, etc.

A basic working knowledge of biostatistics.

Awareness of information and communication technology, data-handling and the use of computer technology in herd health programmes.

3.7.4 Animal production

3.7.5 Economics

Structure and economics of the European pig and pork industry. Animal health economics as applicable to pig units and pig populations. Pig markets and pig marketing.

3.7.6 Genetics

Genetic improvement of stock, heritability of characteristics, selection for specific characteristics, breeding programmes, economic assessment of genetic gain, national and international testing of progeny performance and other methods of genetic evaluation, hereditary and congenital diseases.

3.7.7 Housing

Production systems: a detailed knowledge of all aspects of commonly used production systems. Pig housing and its impact on health, animal welfare and disease for all classes of pigs.

3.7.8 Nutrition

Anatomy, physiology and principles of normal digestion, methods of feed analysis, an understanding of principles of diet formulation, nutritional requirements of swine at different ages and stages of production, common dietary constituents used in compounding and formulating rations, various commonly used methods of feed storage and conservation, feed supplements and additives, methods of food dispensing.

3.7.9 Animal welfare and ethics

Welfare and ethics: normal behavioural patterns and their alteration by stress, pain and disease, pain recognition and assessment, welfare in relation to stockmanship, housing, nutrition and breeding, welfare standards on the farm, during transport and at the slaughterhouse. Care and welfare of sick and injured pigs, slaughtering and transport methods, impact of biotechnology on welfare, EU legislation.

3.7.10 Food safety

Pre-harvest food safety measures (Salmonella control, Trichinella and Toxoplasma control, prudent use of antibiotics etc.), meat inspection data and slaughter checks. Herd Health Planning and Quality Assurance Schemes.

3.7.11 Drugs

Therapeutics and medicines control, prudent use of antibiotics. Clinical trials. EU medicine legislation. The administration of medicines and their strategic use in herd health management programmes.

3.7.12 Surgery and anaesthesia

A basic knowledge of common methods and procedures is required but not specialist knowledge or expertise.

3.7.13 Reporting and communication

Scientific writing and the presentation of reports from investigations in the scientific literature. Report writing for clients. Communication skills.

3.8 Documentation & Verification of a ECPHM Residency Programme

The Programme Director, Resident Advisor, Resident and the European College of Porcine Health Management have responsibilities for documentation and verification of satisfactory training for each resident.

- A. The Programme Director is responsible for:
 - 1. Verification of pre-residency training and presence of suitable porcine health management facilities, equipment, and supplies within 30-days of programme initiation.
 - 2. Distribution of the documentation and verification forms to each resident annually.
- B. The Resident Advisor is responsible for:
 - 1. Verification of semi-annual progress and performance evaluations.
 - 2. Verification of the Resident Activity Log.
 - 3. Verification of the Resident Dossier.
 - 4. Stimulation and facilitation of interdisciplinary contacts and co-operation where appropriate.
 - 5. Keeping an annual report on the Resident based on the items B1 to B3, signed by both the Resident and the Resident Advisor.
- C. The Resident is responsible for:
 - 1. Maintenance of the Resident Activity Log (indicating his/her training steps, results achieved, service provided, instructions completed).
 - 2. Maintenance of the Resident Dossier (comprising the Activity Logbook along with lists of presentations, publications, seminars given/attended, congress/conference attendance, documentation on external training).
 - 3. Providing annually updated curriculum vitae to the Resident Advisor and Programme Director.
 - 4. Submission of copies of the updated Resident Activity and Resident Dossier to the Resident Advisor by July 1st of each year.
 - 5. Sending the annual self-evaluation form (see: www.ecphm.org) to the chair of the Education Committee.
- D. The Resident Advisor is responsible for evaluation of the Resident's progress and will communicate deficiencies to the Resident. In case of structural deficiencies the Education Committee will be notified by the Resident Advisor or the Resident.

3.9 Facilities, services & equipment required in a ECPHM Residency Programme.

- A. Library: a library containing recent textbooks and current journals relating to porcine health management and its supporting disciplines must be accessible to the Programme participants.
- B. Access to swine herd health cases.
- C. Records: a complete record must be maintained for each case and those records must be retrievable.
- D. Computer facilities: up-to-date computer facilities with access to the Internet and relevant software including herd health programs and automated literature search systems.
- E. Pathology: an appropriate room for pathological examination must be available. Anatomic pathology reports must be retained and retrievable.

4 CHAPTER IV

Application procedure for the ECPHM examination

Applicants must submit their credentials to the Secretary and the Credentials Committee on or before December 1st of the year preceding the year of anticipated examination. Applicants may submit their credentials for approval no later than 2 years after the completion of the training programme. The requirements for admission (items 1-4) as described in Chapter II must be met at the time the application is made. Late or incomplete applications will not be processed or reviewed.

All candidates must submit the standard application form of the College available at www.ecphm.org together with other required documents and the application fee. The credentials must verify the successful completion of a standard Residency or alternate training programme.

The responsibility for accuracy and availability of all required credentials rests with the applicant.

4.1 Documentation

The following completed and verified documentation must accompany the application (only one PDF-document containing everything: send by email to the Secretary).

4.1.1 Complete Application Form - available from the secretary.

4.1.2 Curriculum vitae - the CV should follow the following format:

NAME

ADDRESS

GENDER AND DATE OF BIRTH

EDUCATION

COLLEGES / UNIVERSITIES

DATES

DEGREES

OTHER PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

SCIENTIFIC ORGANISATIONS

HONOURS

PROFESSIONAL

PUBLIC SERVICE

OFFICES HELD

PROFESSIONAL

PUBLIC SERVICE

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

BIBLIOGRAPHY

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS AND BOOK CHAPTERS

ALL OTHER PUBLICATIONS

4.1.3 Activity Log Book

(for those having followed a residency programme).

4.1.4 Correspondence

Previous correspondence pertinent to the training programme and application (for those having followed a residency programme).

4.1.5 Reports of three cases

These cases must relate to porcine herd health management personally handled, with a maximum of 3000 words each, which give an impression of the analytical approach of the candidate and do not cover the same material used in 4.1.6 below.

4.1.6 Reprints

Reprints of two original porcine herd health management or research papers in journals included in the ISI list (see website: www.ecphm.org) or in other peer-reviewed journals not included in the ISI list but complying with 1) international review board, 2) distribution in different countries and 3) published with at least an English abstract. In all these papers, the applicant must be the principal author

In the case of papers accepted for publication but not yet published, letters of full acceptance and copies of accepted manuscripts are required; papers still undergoing peer review are not acceptable.

These six categories of material must be arranged in the sequence listed.

4.2 Letters or reference

There must be a letter of reference from the Supervisor(s) at each institution or practice involved in the Residency Training Programme. All letters must be from persons familiar with the candidate's post-graduate training programme and mailed directly to the Secretary by each referee. (THESE CONFIDENTIAL LETTERS ARE NOT TO BE FORWARDED BY THE CANDIDATE). Requests by the applicant for reference letters from supervisors and referees should be made early as to assure arrival with the Secretary on or before the application date (i.e. December 1st). It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that all letters are sent to the Secretary on time. The Credentials Committee is responsible for absolute discretion and confidentiality regarding the reference letter(s). After approval of the candidate to sit the examination, the reference letter(s) will be destroyed.

Reference letters must document the following:

- a. Verification of the Training Programme and level of supervision.

- b. The applicant's proficiency, judgement and competence as a specialist and academic readiness to sit the examination.
- c. The commitment of the applicant to the constitutional objectives of the ECPHM.
- d. The moral and ethical standing of the applicant within the veterinary profession.

4.3 Credentials evaluation fee

- a. The application will not be processed or evaluated without the application fee being paid in full.
- b. The application fee is non-refundable.
- c. If any portion of the application has to be resubmitted the fee will be payable again.
- d. The application fee for evaluation of credentials is set at €150. The fee may be changed at the discretion of the Board.

The Credentials Committee will notify Candidates about the evaluation result no later than 6 weeks after the deadline of submissions of Credentials. If the credentials are accepted by the Credentials Committee the chair of the Credentials Committee will then notify the applicant and the Examination Committee that he/she may proceed to the examination. The Examination Committee will notify successful applicants of the dates and procedure of examination.

Unsuccessful applicants will be notified by a letter explaining the deficiencies in their credentials. A subsequent reapplication must include resubmission of all credentials including a written outline of the applicant's self-evaluation of his/her remedy to correct the deficiencies. The application materials must be presented in the manner previously described with the addition of the applicant's self-evaluation report. In cases where there were only minor or technical deficiencies in the credentials the Credentials Committee may invite a reapplication of the credentials by March 1st of the same year subject to the payment of another evaluation fee. Under these circumstances applicants will be informed of the Credentials Committees decision by mid-March.

All correspondence regarding application procedure and notification should be addressed to the secretary and the Credentials Committee. All submitted application materials become the sole property of the ECPHM and will not be returned to the applicant.

4.4 Examination fee

- a. The candidate is only allowed to take the examination if the examination fee has been paid prior to the examination.
- b. The examination fee is only refundable if the candidate is unable to attend the examination for health or grave personal problems (at the discretion of the Education Committee).
- c. The examination fee for the Certifying Examination is set at €400. The fees may be changed at the discretion of the Board.

5 CHAPTER V

5.1 Examination

The examination process of the ECPHM is intended to identify and certify specialists of the highest order in the veterinary field of porcine health management. To this end, multiple choice questions are used to define the **breadth** of knowledge, written answers are used to define the **depth and understanding** of knowledge, and case management questions are used to define the **problem-solving skills** of candidates. All Diplomates of the ECPHM need a sound working knowledge of general swine veterinary practice skills as well as the specialist skills attributable to the discipline of porcine health management in the herd context. The examination is intended to assure that members of the College have the required level of knowledge in the discipline that is on a level equal to, or better than, any other specialist qualification in this (or closely related) fields world-wide.

While it is not intended that English language skills should provide an unfair advantage, successful candidates are likely to be sufficiently proficient in English to be able to read, write, and understand veterinary publications and examination questions written in that language.

The examination will test all aspects of porcine health management and is composed of two parts:

1. The written examination consists of two parts: (i) multiple-choice questions with one correct answer and (ii) essay questions, including problem solving and data assessment type questions. The total time of the written examination will not exceed 5-6 hours approximately. Paper 1 comprising multiple-choice and essay parts and Paper 2 essays only. Example questions, when available, will be provided to every applicant after his/her credentials are approved. A (non-medical) dictionary is allowed to help with language problems.
2. The second section of the examination will examine case management covering any aspect of porcine health management. This will be undertaken in a practical setting, for a maximum total time of 5-6 hours approximately. The practical section of the examination is designed to test problem solving capabilities and skills as well as practical skills. The submitted work elements (case summaries and publications) may be examined in this section, the relevant submissions having been made available to the Examinations Committee in advance.

The minimum acceptable standard to achieve a pass in the qualifying examination will be defined by the Examinations Committee and ratified by the Board of the College.

The Chairperson of the Examination Committee will forward details of candidates' results to the President. The results of the examination will be forwarded to candidates, in writing, within 14 days of the completion of the examination. The result of the examination is announced to all candidates on the same date. In cases where a candidate fails to satisfy the Examination Committee that he/she has reached the required standard a comprehensive written examiners report will also be provided to the candidate to aid his/her preparation for future examination attempts. Candidates who fail the examination will be informed about the individual performance in every part of the examination. They will further receive feedback about deficiencies in knowledge, skills and competencies that did not meet the requirements in the ECPHM examination.

A candidate must pass all parts of the examination within eight years of completion of the residency programme. The result of the exam is announced to all candidates on the same date. The number of re-applications to sit the examination is limited to three (four attempts in total). Examinations are organized annually.

A candidate must pass the overall threshold score of 60 % as present by the examination committee, based on the Angoff procedure. In addition, to pass the exam, a candidate needs to achieve at least 50% of the points in all parts of the exam, as specified in the bylaws. So, if a candidate has less than 50% of the points in a specific part of the exam, he or she fails even if exceeding the required overall exam threshold score of 60 %.

5.2 Repeat Examinations

Candidates repeating the examination may be required to undertake and satisfactorily complete the credentials process again, either partly or fully at the discretion of the Credentials Committee. Additional periods of training and/or experience may be required by this committee. The second approval by the Credentials Committee will be reviewed annually, the incoming Examination Committee chairperson and the incoming Credentials Committee chairperson having the option of recommending reapplication on an annual basis.

Re-application credentials must include:

- a. A written outline of the re-applicant's remedy to correct the deficiencies identified previously as noted by the report from the Credentials and/or Examinations Committee.
- b. All sections required for the initial credentials evaluation suitably updated.
- c. A list of all dates of previous applications for credentials approval and dates of examination attempts.