

Report on American Board of Veterinary Specialties/Veterinary Specialties Organizing Committee

James Barton – Representative to Veterinary Specialties Organizing Committee

July 2, 2024

Non-Poultry Activities

- 1) In response to concerns about a product being offered that described itself as an AI Radiologist, the subcommittee on artificial intelligence explored the issue.
 - a. It appears that no effective action can be taken by ABVS, VSOC, or AVMA on the issue.
 - b. The technology is already ahead of legislation.
 - c. Veterinarians should anticipate that artificial intelligence will advance to the point that analysis of lesions or images of lesions may exceed the capabilities of the human eye.
 - d. Training programs, veterinarians and specialty colleges should anticipate the need to utilize artificial intelligence generated diagnostics and look for ways to provide services that are not provided through artificial intelligence.
- 2) Advocacy committee is considering ways to promote the use of veterinary specialists
 - a. AVMA is made up of mostly non-specialists
 - b. There is overlap between services provided by veterinary specialists and non-specialists.
 - c. This is largely a communication, PR, and philosophical concern about how to
 - i. Best use veterinary specialists to the benefit of society
 - ii. Assure that veterinary specialists are properly remunerated for the advanced training.
 - iii. Create relationships that encourages non-specialists to utilize veterinary specialists for continuing education training, referral services, and codification of best practice standards.
- 3) ABVS continues to liaise with the European Board of Veterinary Specialists (EBVS). There is interest in creating a system for ABVS recognized specialists to be recognized in Europe and for EBVS recognized specialists to be recognized in the US.
- 4) There is continued discussion regarding veterinary interns. The concern is that new graduates enter into privately run internship programs without a good understanding of the work hours or conditions and may not actually be exposed to cases that prepare the new grad for additional training.
- 5) Similarly, the ABVS is considering developing a system to regulate veterinary Fellowships. Currently, fellowships are not reviewed for efficacy of training and competency following completion of a fellowship.

Activities that affect ACPV

- 1) A subcommittee is discussing revision to recommendations for exam question turnover and psychometrician input.

- 2) ABVS is considering a revision of the 3-year report to reduce inconsistencies in counts of a) not in good standing, inactive, and retired categories and to increase the consistency between the 1-year report and the 3-year report.
- 3) There is continued discussion of the use of terms like “residency trained” or “specialty trained.” There is an assertion that the term “specialist” should only be used by veterinarians who have been admitted into one of the ABVS-recognized veterinary specialty organizations. Legal advice through AVMA indicates that there is no way to stop veterinarians who have not been admitted to ABVS-recognized veterinary specialty organizations from calling themselves specialists. There is legal remedy by the ABVS-recognized veterinary specialty organization to stop a non-boarded individual from stating that they are “Board Certified by the American College of Poultry Veterinarians” (or similar), if they are not members in good standing AND the name of the ABVS-recognized veterinary specialty organization has been trademarked. Ultimately, the regulatory authority to describe oneself as a veterinarian or veterinary specialist lies with each state.