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Dr. Christine Egger
President, American College of
Veterinary Anesthesia and Analgesia

Dear Chris;

The following are items that our committee recognized as points that could use clarification:

1. Case-log approved for registration to the examinations: our guidelines state in two separate occasions that a) logs should be submitted within one month of finishing the program, or b) logs should be submitted prior to registration to the exam. We should clarify whether a deadline is to be imposed or not, and if that deadline isn't met, what would the consequence be.
2. This year, many questions to our committee were about how programs deal with resident supervision during staff changes. In all cases, this was solved by hiring board certified locums and ensuring that the required supervised clinical time was met for all residents. The ability (or limitations) to use locums for this purpose could be made explicit in the guidelines to avoid confusions to all the programs.
3. Leaves and interruptions: our committee also dealt with cases in which training was interrupted due to either medical leaves (including pregnancy) or because a resident switched from one institution to another. Our guidelines state that when an interruption longer than 4 weeks occurs, our committee should be notified. In all our cases, this was resolved by extending the training program to "make up" for that lost time. We could clarify our guidelines to state that any interruption longer than 4 weeks would result in an extension of the program to ensure that all requirements are met (in terms of mandatory weeks).

Additionally, different members of the committee have proposed to: a) look at methods to evaluate residents during the training program, or to evaluate programs, to improve resident training; b) review how many weeks residents should be acting chief of service as part of their training; and c) review our guidelines on the mentor:resident ratio.

Sincerely,

Manuel Martin-Flores
Cc: Dr. Lynne Kushner