

## **ACVAA-AVTAA LIAISON COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018**

Members of the ACVAA exam committee assisted the AVTAA try in an attempt improve their testing process.

- 2 members of our college with exam committee experience (Becky Johnson, Erin Wendt-Hornickle) reviewed their MCQ and practical exams for the September 2017 test.
- After the 2017 exam, the chair of the AVTAA exam committee has now directly reached out to the ACVAA exam committee in order to further efforts in improvement.
- The ACVAA liaison committee may be involved in helping to review smaller sections of their exam, but these details have yet to be outlined.

The credentialing process for AVTAA is in a constant state of improvement. A meeting between AVTAA leadership and ACVAA (president, liaison, annual planning rep) to discuss their process and concerns over communication issues. Here are the meeting minutes:

### **ANNUAL ACVAA-AVTAA MEETING: September 14, 2018**

In attendance at the meeting,

ACVAA: Christine Egger, Odette O, Kirsten Wegner

AVTAA: Kim Spelts, Katy Waddell, Darci Palmer, Brenda Feller

Discussion regarding concerns over ACVAA-L post about AVTAA testing process, here is a summary of the main points -

#### **I. Their Process:**

- groups of 3 VTS read over 3 to 4 credential applications
- score sheet is used for objectivity. AVTAA credentials chair reviews all score sheets applications can be bumped to BOD + Executive Secretary if no consensus
- they decide which applications are acceptable vs not
- looking for candidate to explain protocol and monitoring choices- show thorough understanding of medical decisions +/- explain what they may have decided to do differently
- appeals follow same criteria and application, a new group reviews. Detailed reports on applications available upon request but may not be complete prior to appeal. Note: information about a candidate can NOT be shared directly to Diplomate, must be via applicant

#### **II. Testing issues:**

- increasing applicants who work with DACVAA are being denied (?) Check numbers
- need to demonstrate BOTH advanced skill and knowledge + ability to illustrate the process that occurred in writing! Many case reports contain concepts that are not explained in proper detail
- AVTAA assures us cases are not assessed on protocol or ASA status. (ASA 1-2, 3+ score). They assessors want to understand why or why not decisions were made for a case
- reprogram culture where people who provide anesthesia regularly and work with a Diplomate are entitled to VTS status. Not so! An outsider needs to understand skill and knowledge via communicating it in application package. They want to uphold the meaning and standard of VTS and want candidates to show they are amongst the most knowledgeable and interested in continuing knowledge. All this in light of not having formalized training programs comparable to our residencies

- AVTAA is open to hearing our concerns and initiating change, but please follow proper channels, i.e. BOD of AVTAA has never been contacted by a diplomate to ask how candidate's performance can be improved, simply complaints about process

### **III. Ideas for improvement:**

- Webinar/pamphlet for prospective candidates
- DACVAA to review ENTIRE application packet with applicants in order to truly understand process and expectations
- transparency of reasons candidate wasn't accepted, i.e. not ready ahead of detail list
- analogy of almost ready, but needing to bake a little more...
- Continued help to review ACVAA test by ACVAA, perhaps small # Q's ahead of time
- benchmarks for applicants. Multi-step? Preliminary exam? Early case submissions?

### **SHARED GOAL OF IMPROVING ANESTHESIA KNOWLEDGE AND PATIENT CARE!**

The ACVAA hosted the annual ACVAA-AVTAA luncheon for the first time in approximately 4 years. It will be AVTAA's turn next year, with hosting responsibility rotating on an annual basis. ACVAA will need to host banquet next for September 2020.

Two new members of the AVTAA liaison committee were welcomed this year, Chris Norkus and Kirsten Wegner.

Joint project in progress: ACVAA-AVTAA articles to be written by a DACVAA with VTS (A&A) on common anesthesia topics aimed at a broad audience. Today's Veterinary Nurse is interesting in publishing, and it will be a great way to increase awareness of for both institutions as well as practical veterinary anesthesia topics. Multiple teams have works in progress...