



ACVIM® Code of Conduct

Veterinarians are members of a regulated profession and serve the public and society. All veterinarians, including American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine® (“ACVIM” or the “College”) Diplomates, earn and maintain the public’s trust through adherence to a code of ethical conduct as well as standards of practice. The College and the public have a reasonable expectation that ACVIM Diplomates (“*Diplomates*”) must reflect these values in the care and service they provide their patients and in their interactions with their clients and with each other.

All ACVIM Diplomates are required to adhere to this Code of Conduct as a condition of retaining status as an ACVIM Diplomate and membership in the College. ACVIM Members serving as regents or volunteer leaders of ACVIM have additional requirements including, but not limited to, ACVIM’s Board of Regents & Volunteer Code of Conduct. Attendees at ACVIM conferences, including but not limited to the ACVIM Forum and ACE programs, are required to adhere to additional attendee conduct requirements as defined in the relevant program registration materials.

This Code of Conduct is to be affirmed annually by all ACVIM Diplomates to demonstrate their understanding of the ethical standard that the ACVIM expects of its Diplomates. This annual affirmation is required upon payment of the annual membership dues and maintenance of certification fees.

Conduct Expectations

ACVIM expects the following conduct from its Diplomates. Since only Diplomates are eligible for membership, the expectations described in this Code of Conduct are equally applicable to ACVIM Members.

1. Ethical and professional behavior consistent with the American Veterinary Medical Association’s (“AVMA”) Principles of Veterinary Medical Ethics (“PVME”). The ACVIM expects its Diplomates to be familiar with and abide by the Veterinarian’s Oath and the Principles of Veterinary Medical Ethics (“PVME”) of the American Veterinary Medical Association (“AVMA”). See: <https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/avma-policies/principles-veterinary-medical-ethics-avma>).
2. To not engage in any act or omission that results in the suspension or termination of a professional license, designation, or certification by the applicable governmental licensing body.



3. To abide by all applicable laws, rules, and regulations in the jurisdiction(s) where they live and practice veterinary medicine.
4. To maintain, follow, and complete the requirements for board certification or maintenance of certification.
5. To abide by the College's bylaws, policies, and procedures, including but not limited to its Antitrust Policy, Inclusiveness and Nondiscrimination Policy, and ACVIM360 Community Rules & Etiquette and Privacy guidelines, all of which are located on the College's website.
6. If attending an ACVIM-sponsored event, to follow the Code of Conduct for such events.
7. To timely pay all applicable Dues and Fees.
8. To report any violations of this Code, legal, or ethical breaches, or unprofessional behavior that poses a risk to the safety of patients, members of the Diplomate's health care team or the public; or is a threat to the trustworthiness of the profession or of the certification to the ACVIM or the appropriate authority.

Please initial each box indicating that you understand and will abide by the statement:

- ☐ I have read and agree to abide by the Principles of Veterinary Medical Ethics of the AVMA.
- ☐ I agree to abide by the ACVIM Bylaws, Articles of Incorporation, and policies and procedures as they may be modified from time to time.
- ☐ I acknowledge that I must adhere to the Maintenance of Certification requirements as set forth in the ACVIM Bylaws.
- ☐ I acknowledge that if I fail to maintain my certification with ACVIM, or if my Diplomate status is revoked under the *ACVIM Disciplinary Procedures*, I (or an employer, employee, or agent of mine) shall not call myself a veterinary specialist, a Diplomate of the ACVIM, a member of the ACVIM, a **BOARD-CERTIFIED VETERINARY [SPECIALTY]** or use DACVIM in any forum whatsoever,



- ☐ I understand that the following are grounds for discipline of ACVIM members:
- Failure to follow the provisions of the Bylaws of ACVIM or other applicable policies and procedures.
 - Failure to fully follow, complete, or maintain the requirements of board certification or Maintenance of Certification, including but not limited to the payment of all Diplomate Fees.
 - Failure to adhere to the Principles of Veterinary Medical Ethics as determined by the Judicial Council of the AVMA or comparable body.
 - Any act or omission that results in the suspension or termination of a professional license, designation, or certification by the applicable governmental licensing body.
 - Violation of the College's Disciplinary Policies and Procedures, including any terms of probation or suspension.
 - Conviction of a felony or agreement to a plea bargain where the Diplomate admits to a felony.
 - Failure to adhere to this Code of Ethics.
- ☐ I acknowledge and agree that I will immediately notify the ACVIM if I am convicted of a felony or have my veterinary license suspended or terminated.

Printed Name

Signature

Date