



American College of **Veterinary** Internal Medicine

NEUROSURGERY CERTIFICATE OF TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

The Neurosurgery Committee has created a process by which interested ACVIM Neurology Diplomates may obtain a Certificate of Neurosurgery Training.

Neurology candidates interested in attaining the ACVIM Certificate of Neurosurgery Training are welcome to prepare for the certificate but you must be Board-certified in Neurology to be eligible to apply. *This is not a requirement for exams or credentials and is considered separate from any Residency Training Program, however, portions of the process may be completed during or after completion of an approved program. Procedures performed during an internship are not allowed.*

Applicants will submit their application package to include completion of items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 below.

1. Application fee: \$500.00. Payment will be due after your submission. You will receive an email confirmation of your submission followed by request for payment from the ACVIM office.
2. Evidence of achieving ACVIM Neurology Board certification.
3. Provide case log showing evidence of completion of 50 thoracic or lumbar hemilaminectomies and 20 ventral slots. At least half in each category must be as primary surgeon. All procedures included in the logs must have been completed within the last 5 years.
4. Provide case log showing evidence of completion of at least one of each of the following “special procedures” as primary or secondary surgeon. All procedures included in the logs must have been completed within the last 5 years.
 - i. Transfrontal craniotomy
 - ii. Lateral craniotomy / craniectomy (e.g., brain tumor removal)
 - iii. Foramen magnum decompression
 - iv. Shunt placement for hydrocephalus
 - v. Atlantoaxial stabilization
 - vi. Dorsal cervical decompression (laminectomy or hemi-laminectomy)
 - vii. Cervical distraction / stabilization
 - viii. Dorsal laminectomy in the TL region
 - ix. Vertebral fracture / luxation repair
 - x. Approach for spinal tumor removal (actual or “staged” in lab setting). This may also qualify for a dorsal laminectomy.
 - xi. Lumbosacral decompression
 - xii. Muscle / nerve biopsy

5. Attendance at the ACVIM organized Advanced Techniques in Neurosurgery course. Where procedures taught at the Advanced Neurosurgery course are the same as those in the required special procedures list above, they may be used in the case log. Completion of the ECVN Veterinary Neurosurgery Advanced Course surgical wet lab is equivalent to completion of the ACVIM Advanced Techniques in Neurosurgery Course for the purposes of this certificate.
6. A supervisor-signed declaration showing they have spent 4 weeks on clinical rotation with an ACVS Board-certified surgeon or an ACVIM Neurology Board-certified individual who has received his/her Neurosurgery Certificate or an ECVN boarded individual that has received his/her Neurosurgery Certificate and is training an ACVIM resident.

Application Process:

1. Completed applications and all supporting documents must be sent to Sarah.Z@ACVIM.org no later than March 15 or October 15 for reviews to be completed April 15 and November 15.
2. Payment will be due after your submission is received. You will receive an email confirmation of your submission followed by request for payment.
3. Late applications will be reviewed during the following review date.
4. Applications must be typed using the forms provided on the ACVIM website.

Although not required with the application package, it is important that applicants have a case log that is verifiable as random auditing of applications is performed. If selected, you will need to provide evidence (e.g., billing receipts) to demonstrate authenticity of all your selected patients in the case log. We appreciate that this may be an onerous task for the person(s) selected but it is necessary to provide veracity to the case log process.

Note that the Phase 1 process was completed at the end of December 2016. Any Diplomate that was Board-certified before July 1, 2011 or entered their neurology residency on July 1, 2011 or after still desiring a certificate will need to go through the additional requirement of attending the course and 4 weeks of rotation with ACVS Boarded Surgeon or ACVIM Neurology (Neurosurgery-certified) individual who has received his/her Neurosurgery Certificate of Training.

Thank you for your interest in the Neurosurgery Certificate. Please submit your completed application and direct any questions to Sarah at Sarah.Z@ACVIM.org