3. The Standard Residency Programme

3.1. Objectives

A training programme approved by the ECAR is designed to
(1) provide in-depth training in the field of animal reproduction
(2) allow the trainee (Resident) to develop aptitude and clinical proficiency in animal repro-
duction, to develop a comprehensive knowledge of the pathology, physiology and biotechno-
logy of animal reproduction and to add to that body of knowledge
(3) provide the Resident with the opportunity to pursue career goals in teaching, research, clinical service, specialty practice and/or animal reproduction institutions
(4) to promote high quality training at uniform standards in the discipline of animal repro-
duction throughout Europe
(5) meet the training requirements of the ECAR College Board that are required to take the ECAR diploma examination.

3.2. Subspecialisation

A training programme contains comparative components of all and focuses on one of the following fields of animal reproduction: (a) small animal reproduction, (b) equine reproduction, (c) ruminant reproduction and herd health, (d) porcine reproduction and herd health, (e) reproductive biotechnology.

3.3. Requirements of the Programme

3.3.1. The Resident

All ECAR residents have to be veterinarians and must:
(1) Be registered/licensed to practice veterinary medicine in a European country. The College Board may waive this requirement under special circumstances.
(2) Have a satisfactory moral and ethical standing in the profession and the community.
(3) Have completed a minimum of one year in a general clinical training programme in an academic institution or practice equivalent.

3.3.2. The Training Institution

Training programmes are to be conducted at a veterinary school or other approved institution, including an approved private veterinary clinic. The parent institution must supply adequate space, facilities and caseload. These must be guaranteed for the duration of the programme. All training institutions must be approved by the Board of the College and are subject to current College guidelines including re-approval at intervals as determined by the Board. Approved training institutions can offer training programmes (residencies). Parts of the training may be given at different institutions, which offer certain facilities or caseloads not provided by another. Co-operation in the training with other institutions (for example a Centre for Artificial Insemination and/or Embryo transfer) is encouraged.

The parent institution must provide all equipment required for the examination, diagnosis and management of patients. A complete and retrievable record must be maintained for each case. Library facilities, providing current veterinary and life science books, journals and abstracts as well as an internet access must be available. In a programme in which the resident receives
training at more than one centre, each centre must be approved by the College as fulfilling the requirements for that part of the training.

3.3.3. **Supervision of Training**

All training programmes must be under the direct supervision of a Diplomate of the ECAR or an individual with approved equivalent training, experience and qualifications (the Programme Director). The Programme Director is responsible for the administration, continuity and continuing development of the programme in general.

All Residents must be under the direct supervision of a Diplomate or an individual with approved equivalent training, experience and qualifications (the Resident Supervisor). The Supervisor is responsible for the direction and evaluation of an individual Resident and the administration of his/her individual programme. Each trainee must be assigned a Supervisor by the Programme Director within the first 30 days of appointment. The Programme Director and the Supervisor may be the same individual. Each supervisor may train up to three Residents or the part-time equivalent, concurrently. The trainee must meet formally with his/her Supervisor at least on a monthly basis to evaluate the trainee’s performance and progress.

3.4. **Description of the Standard Residency Programme leading to the Examination for the European Diploma in Animal Reproduction**

3.4.1. **Requirements for entry into the programme**

(1) The candidate must be eligible to practice veterinary medicine in a European country.
(2) The candidate must be of satisfactory moral and ethical standing in the profession.
(3) Applicants who are entering into a programme at an approved training institution shall forward personal information to the College Board within 12 months of commencing the programme.

3.4.2. **Objectives**

(1) The training programme aims to provide high quality, in-depth clinical training in animal reproduction, leading to eligibility to take the examination for the Diploma of the ECAR.
(2) The programme will provide an in depth understanding of animal reproduction (obstetrics, gynaecology, perinatology, andrology, gamete and embryo preservation and artificial insemination, embryo transfer and associated in vivo and in vitro biotechnologies, reproductive endocrinology, reproductive surgery, immunology, pathology of the reproductive organs and disorders of the mammary gland in small animals, farm animals and equidae as well as in laboratory, wildlife and avian and exotic animal species). The practical training of a programme must emphasize on either one, two or on three of the following fields: (a) small animal reproduction, (b) equine reproduction, (c) ruminant reproduction and herd health, (d) porcine reproduction and herd health, (e) reproductive biotechnology.
(3) The training programme aims to produce veterinarians proficient in the use of current techniques for the diagnosis, therapy and prophylaxis of reproductive diseases, in the use of current techniques in reproductive biotechnology in farm animals, equidae, small animals as well as exotic, wildlife and avian species with an understanding of developing techniques, and
the ability to contribute to the discipline through participation in research, congresses and publications.
(4) The programme shall contribute to the continuing development of the specialty of animal reproduction.

3.4.3. **Total time requirements**

A standard program can be full time or part time. A part time program will be lasting 50% or more and as such taking twice as long to complete the residency (6 years). Residents that enrol into a combined residency/PhD program cannot take the certifying exam until after a minimum of 4 years of residency.

(1) In case, a resident emphasizes on either (a) small animal reproduction, (b) equine reproduction, (c) ruminant reproduction and herd health, (d) porcine reproduction and herd health, (e) reproductive biotechnology, a minimum of three years education is required of which at least two years full-time must be supervised experience in an approved clinical setting. The rest of the time may be spent in additional clinical training, subspecialisation or research provided it is related to animal reproduction.

(2) In case, a resident emphasizes on two or three of the fields of (a) small animal reproduction, (b) farm animal reproduction and herd health, (c) equine reproduction, (d) reproductive biotechnology, a minimum of four years education is required of which at least three years full-time must be supervised experience in an approved clinical setting. The rest of the time may be spent in additional clinical training, subspecialisation or research provided it is related to animal reproduction.

(3) The residency programme is full-time, with supervised training, post-graduate education and experience in the science and practice of animal reproduction. The majority of the training will take place at the parent institution and will be supervised by the Resident Supervisor but external instruction, approved by both the Programme Director and the Resident Supervisor, is allowed and encouraged.

(4) Residents studying on a part-time (50% or more) basis must complete all of the requirements of the residency programme in a period of not less than six years.

3.4.4. **Requirements for personnel, facilities and equipment**

(1) The programme must be administered by a Diplomate of the ECAR / ACT.

(2) The candidate must be supervised by a Diplomate of the ECAR or a person with equivalent qualifications, approved by the Board of the College.

(3) Adequate space and ancillary equipment must be available to ensure an effective programme. Equipment must be appropriate for the diagnosis and treatment of reproductive diseases and for the performance of techniques in reproductive biotechnology in farm animals, equidae and small animals. Facilities must include adequately built and equipped examination rooms, ultrasound equipment for transrectal and transabdominal ultrasonography, adequate rooms and equipment for semen collection in large and small animals, rooms and equipment for reproductive surgery, a laboratory for gamete analysis and biotechnology, a reproductive endocrinology laboratory and a laboratory for embryo transfer and associated techniques. A training institution may be approved for training in one or more of the following fields (a) small animal reproduction, (b) equine reproduction, (c) ruminant reproduction and herd health, (d) porcine reproduction and herd health (e) reproductive biotechnology.

(4) Where a training establishment lacks the equipment and/or expertise in some techniques or procedures mentioned under (3) or has an insufficient caseload, the required training may be obtained elsewhere as long as the overall objectives of the programme are fulfilled. A local Resident Advisor must be appointed to supervise and certify this period of training. The local Resident Advisor must be a specialist in the field of animal reproduction and only in excep-
tional cases a non-veterinarian. The alternative arrangements must be approved in advance by the Board of the College.

(5) A scientific library containing recent textbooks and current journals relating to animal reproduction and its supporting disciplines must be accessible to the programme participants. In addition to the national standard textbooks, the library must provide access to some periodicals and some original textbooks in the English language. An access to the internet must be available to the Resident.

3.4.5. Requirements for clinical and practical training

(1) The clinical training must provide adequate coverage of the diagnosis, treatment and prophylaxis of reproductive diseases as well as the use of current techniques in reproductive biotechnology and basic sciences in domestic animal reproduction. A certain degree of training of exotic animal, wildlife, laboratory animal and avian reproduction is expected. (2) The programme must provide a sufficient number of animals/cases to provide the Resident with the opportunity to obtain familiarity with the techniques used for the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of reproductive problems and disease and with the techniques in reproductive biotechnology. The Resident should be given progressive responsibility for performing all types of examinations, treatments and procedures. (3) At least 60% of the programme must be spent on clinical work in animal reproduction.

3.4.6. Documentation of training

3.4.6.1. Resident Case Diary and Activity Diary

(1) Residents must maintain a brief case diary of all cases seen during the programme. This must list the date, identification, species, breed, gender and age, primary problem, diagnosis and outcome as well as the degree of responsibility taken by the resident. Detailed records of these cases must be available for inspection. (2) Residents must maintain a diary listing days of clinical service, type and dates of external instruction and scientific meeting attended and presentations given.

3.4.6.2. Supervision

The Supervisor must be available at the request of the Resident to supervise the clinical activities of the trainee. Meetings between Resident and Supervisor to review and discuss written (such as case and activity diary, case reports) material concerning the resident’s performance must be scheduled at least once a month.

3.4.7. Study, Education and Research

3.4.7.1. Formal Course Work

(1) The Resident must receive tuition in the physiology and pathology of reproduction, including reproductive endocrinology and gamete biology, in the legal aspects of animal breeding, artificial insemination and embryo transfer, in the ethical aspects of reproductive biotechnology, in microbiology, pharmacology, anaesthesiology and in the technical and safety aspects of diagnostic imaging as far as the reproductive organs or reproductive functions are concerned. Details of the requirements for formal course work will be given by the Board of the College. (2) Residents are expected to participate in the clinical education of veterinary students.

3.4.7.2. Clinical Training
(1) Clinical training must be a directed educational process. Unsupervised clinical duty alone is not suitable.
(2) Discussion between Resident and Supervisor to review and discuss performance and interpretation of diagnostic studies, the accuracy of the written reports and case management must be scheduled at least on a monthly basis.
(3) The Resident must be given opportunities to regularly attend clinical rounds in animal reproduction and participate in academic conferences.
(4) The Resident may participate in clinical teaching of veterinary students and/or graduate students.

3.4.7.3. Research Activities

(1) The programme must provide an opportunity for original investigative work by the Resident with appropriate supervision. This may take the form of basic research in a laboratory or analysis of clinical material.
(2) During the period of training, the Resident must make two presentations to international conferences devoted to animal reproduction or a particular field of this specialty.
(3) The Resident must participate in research in animal reproduction and must have published or submitted, as first author or co-author, at least two original full papers in a branch of animal reproduction to a peer-reviewed journal of international repute. Details of the publication requirements are defined by the Board of the College. The publications must have been accepted before the admission to the examination. A thesis or monograph will not be accepted as a publication.
(4) Residents are required to attend and participate in scientific meetings.

3.4.8. Quality Assurance of Training Programmes

3.4.8.1. Programme Modification

Changes in a residency programme which may have a significant impact on programmes registered with the College must be reported to the College immediately. Such factors include, but are not limited to, decreased availability of the Resident Supervisor, reduction or cessation of areas of training due to loss of association with a co-operating department or institution and a non-transient reduction in the clinical case load.

3.4.8.2. Programme Interruption

Formal residencies should be filled on a regular basis. If a residency remains unfilled, for whatever reason, for more than 24 months, the College Board must be notified and the programme reviewed before it is offered again.

3.4.8.3. Procedures to Evaluate a Candidate

(1) At the time of enrolment for the examination, an application shall be submitted to the College Board for evaluation.
(2) The trainee’s progress is reviewed annually by the Education and Residency Committee by means of the Supervisor’s progress report and of copies of the verified case and activity diaries. It is the Resident’s responsibility to initially provide the required documents to the Supervisor who, after verification, submits them with the progress report. If these documents are not received within 60 days of the submission deadline, the College Board may recommend that the trainee’s programme be suspended.

(3) The Education and Residency Committee shall review the Supervisor’s report of the candidate’s performance, and the adequacy of each residency programme. If weaknesses are identified, the Supervisor will be notified of the steps required to correct them. If severe deficiencies are noted, the trainee’s progress may be suspended. If the deficiencies cannot be corrected, the College Board, on recommendation of the Education and Residency Committee, may withdraw approval of the programme.

(4) If a training programme is not proceeding satisfactorily, deficiencies must be addressed rapidly, to ensure that the trainee does not waste training time in activities not leading to his/her effective education. The reviews outlined above may not be timely enough to ensure this. Therefore at any time the Programme Director, Supervisor or trainee may initiate a College review of any change which may affect the effectivity of the programme. The College Board will inform the Programme Director in writing of any deficiencies. Deficiencies may result in a programme being put on probation. Programmes on probation are not allowed to enrol new ECAR-recognised residents until the deficiencies have been corrected to the satisfaction of the Board of the College. Should the latter not occur, the general programme’s approval by ECAR may be withdrawn. Once such withdrawal of approval has occurred, any resident in training will not be able to take the ECAR examination.

(5) The trainee may apply to the College Board for provisional approval to take the examination before the completion of the programme, provided that the programme will have been completed by the time of the examination and the trainee will have been qualified as a veterinary surgeon for at least four years prior to the examination.

(6) The application will be reviewed and voted upon by the Education and Residency Committee.

3.4.9. Appeals Procedure

A written appeal against the decision of the Education and Residency Committee or the College Board (to recommend withdrawal of approval or putting on probation an institution’s residency programme, or terminating or suspending the programme of a specific trainee) may be made by notice to the Executive Secretary of the ECAR within 90 days of the postmarked notification of the Programme Director and the resident. The appeal against adverse decisions will then be instituted as outlined below. Adverse decisions by the College include, but are not limited to: denial of approval of a training (residency) programme, denial of adequacy of an individual’s credentials, denial of Diplomate status to an individual, temporary or permanent suspension of a Diplomate.

(1) Any candidate who wishes to appeal against the decision on his/her application for eligibility to take the examination must do so within 90 days of the postmarked date of his/her notification. The request for appeal must be made in writing to the Executive Secretary and shall include a statement of the grounds for reconsideration and documentation in support of the petition. The Executive Secretary shall notify the President of the College and the President shall appoint a committee of three Diplomates to serve as an Appeals Committee, indicating the reason(s) for rejecting the candidate. The complete dossier of the candidate will be provided for the Appeals Committee to review. The Appeals Committee shall meet and make a decision within 30 days of its appointment.

(2) Any Dean of a Veterinary College, or official of a veterinary institution or practice organisation, who wishes to appeal against the decision on the denial of approval or withdrawal approval of a training programme must do so within 90 days of the postmarked date of the ad-
verse notification. The request for appeal must be made in writing to the Executive Secretary and shall include a statement of the grounds for reconsideration and documentation in support of the petition. The Executive Secretary shall notify the President of the College who shall appoint a committee of three Diplomates to serve as an Appeals Committee. The Executive Secretary shall submit a written statement to the Appeals Committee indicating the reason(s) for denial of approval of the training programme. The Appeals Committee shall meet and make a decision within 30 days of its appointment.

(3) After completion of the appropriate procedure as described above the affected party, if not satisfied with the final decision rendered by the ECAR Appeals Committee, may request mediation by the European Board of Veterinary Specialisation (EBVS). This procedure will follow the rules of the EBVS. The President or approved deputy of the ECAR will present the opinion of ECAR to the EBVS.
4. The Alternative Residency Programme

4.1. Objectives

The objective of the alternative residency programme are
(1) to provide veterinary practitioners and veterinarians not affiliated with academic institutions who have specialised in animal reproduction with an opportunity to be admitted to the qualifying examination and to become Diplomates of the College.
(2) to integrate practitioners and veterinarians not affiliated with academic institutions that have considerably contributed to the discipline of animal reproduction into the College
(3) to strengthen contacts between the College and practitioners specialised in animal reproduction

4.2. Requirements

Candidates attempting to fulfil the training in animal reproduction via an alternative residency programme must
(1) be registered/licensed to practice veterinary medicine in a European country.
(2) have a satisfactory moral and ethical standing in the profession and the community.
(3) have worked in veterinary practice or equivalent veterinary or animal breeding institutions for at least 5 years before taking the qualifying examination of the College and have devoted continuously at least 60% of their work time to animal reproduction.
(5) have worked under guidance of a Diplomate of the College (Mentor) for the last 3 years before taking the qualifying examination of the College. The Mentor does not have to be affiliated with the same institution or practice as the candidate.

4.3. Application

(1) Candidates attempting to fulfil the requirements of training in animal reproduction via an alternative residency programme shall forward information on their training and professional activities to the College at least three years before the time anticipated to take the qualifying examination of the College.
(2) At the time of application, the candidates must have devoted continuously at least 60% of his/her professional activities to work in animal reproduction in veterinary practice or an equivalent veterinary or animal breeding institution for at least two years.
(3) The candidate must satisfy the College Board that his/her professional activities can be considered equivalent to a formal residency or individual training programme.
(4) A diary of all cases seen and surgeries/procedures performed during the last two years must be included with the application.
(5) The Board of the College will solicit the advice of the Education and Residency Committee.
(6) The Board of the College will decide on each application individually if the Candidate’s professional activities can be considered equivalent to a standard residency programme.
(7) If a Candidate is accepted for qualification via the alternative residency programme he/she will be assigned a Diplomate as a Mentor.
4.4. Supervision of Training

For an alternative residency programme, supervision is required for a minimal period of 3 years. Supervision is done in the form of tutoring by a College Diplomate (Mentor). The candidate must meet formally with his/her Mentor within one month after the start of the programme and for a minimum of one day every month or equivalent to evaluate the Candidate’s performance and progress. The Mentor must provide written reports to the Board of the College after each meeting.

4.5. Case Diary

Candidates must maintain a brief case diary of all cases seen. This must list the date, identification, species, breed, gender and age, primary problem, diagnosis and outcome. Detailed records of these cases must be available for inspection.

4.6. Course Work

The candidate must participate in continuing education meetings and/or formal courses either organised or approved by the College. He/She will receive credit points for all such meetings and courses attended. Details on the number of points conferred and the minimum number of points a candidate must have obtained before being admitted to the qualifying examination of the College will be decided by the Board of the College.

4.7. Research Activities

(1) Candidates qualifying via the alternate route must participate in research in animal reproduction.
(2) During the period of work under the supervision of the Mentor, the candidate must make two presentations to international conferences devoted to animal reproduction or a particular field of this specialty.
(3) The Candidate must have published or submitted at least two original full papers in a branch of animal reproduction in a peer-reviewed journal of international repute. Details of the publication requirements are defined by the Board of the College. The publications must have been accepted by the time of admission to the examination. A thesis or monograph will not be accepted as a publication.
(4) Candidates are required to attend and participate in scientific meetings.

4.8. Procedures to Evaluate a Candidate

Evaluation of a candidate before admission to take the qualifying examination will be performed as outlined for standard residency programmes.

4.9. Appeals Procedure

The procedure of appeal against adverse decisions will be instituted as outlined for standard residency programmes.

5. Procedures of the Examination for the Diploma in Animal Reproduction

5.1. Application
1. The candidate must have satisfied the Board of the College that he/she has fulfilled the training requirements. The examination fee, case and activity reports both verified by the Supervisor and a letter from the Supervisor must be included in the application for the examination.  
2. The examination application must be submitted on or before the day determined annually by the Board of the College.  
3. The College Board in conjunction with the Examination Committee will be responsible for the formulation and administration of the examination.  
4. The ECAR examination consists of a general and and a subspecialty-specific examination.  
5. In the event of a candidate failing the examination, the Examination Committee will provide the candidate and the supervisor a written critique of the candidate’s performance in the examination including recommendations for future preparation.  
6. A candidate who fails any part of the examination must re-apply if he/she wishes to take the examination in a subsequent year. The full examination fee must accompany the re-application and all parts of the exam have to be repeated.  
7. Candidates must pass the examination within 8 years of being initially notified that they meet the requirements for admission to the examination. The candidate may take the examination on three occasions only. A candidate who fails either of these requirements must re-submit his/her application to the Board of the College for re-evaluation. Additional periods of training and/or experience may be required by the Board of the College.  
9. The language of the examination is English.

5.2. General Part of the Examination

1. The general part of the examination consists of a combination of 100 multiple choice questions (each with one correct answer) and 25 essay questions. This part of the examination is designed to determine whether the candidate has an acceptable level of knowledge covering the following areas: physiology of reproduction including endocrinology and gamete biology, anatomy as far as it concerns reproduction, pathophysiology, gross pathology and histopathology of the reproductive organs, treatment and prophylaxis of reproductive diseases, diagnostic evaluation of reproductive function including clinical examination, ultrasonography and radiology as far as it concerns reproductive function, laboratory techniques in reproductive endocrinology and biotechnology, gamete and embryo analysis, reproductive surgery including knowledge of standard anaesthetic techniques, gamete and embryo preservation including cryobiology, embryo transfer, in-vitro maturation, fertilisation and culture, genetics and hereditary diseases, legal aspects of artificial insemination, embryo transfer and animal breeding.  
2. The general part of the examination emphasises on general and comparative aspects of animal reproduction but will also cover basic aspects of farm animal reproduction and herd health, equine reproduction and small animal reproduction but will also include exotic animal, wildlife, laboratory animal and avian reproduction. The approximate composition of the examination will be 30% farm animals and herd health, 20% small animals, 20% equine, 10% exotic animals, wildlife, laboratory and avian and/or poultry reproduction and 20% basic, general and comparative aspects of animal reproduction.  
3. The examination is taken in the English language. A working knowledge of English and veterinary medical and specialist terminology in English is assumed.

5.3. Subspecialty Part of the Examination

1. The second (subspecialty) part of the examination will be held after the general examination and will be delivered usually on the next day.
(2) This second part of the examination is designed to test the ability of the candidate to: examine clinical cases with reproductive problems, come to a diagnosis based on a thorough examination, suggest and perform treatments, and to carry out techniques in reproductive biotechnology. Questions based upon technical, practical and background aspects of animal reproduction may be asked.

(3) This part of the examination will focus on either (a) small animal reproduction, (b) equine reproduction, (c) ruminant reproduction and herd health, (d) porcine reproduction and herd health or (e) reproductive biotechnology. The examination will be devoted to the respective subspecialty, although comparative aspects may be involved as well. This part will mainly be based on slides and laboratory material (mainly slides as well) of e.g. uterine biopsies, vaginal smears, semen samples, embryos. Written answers to a sentence are expected. Candidates can choose up to three subfields but candidates can only take one subfield at a particular examination. Additional subfields can be added at subsequent exams only. In this case, candidates do not have to repeat the general part of the exam.

5.4. Criteria for Successful Passing of the Exam

The candidate’s grade will be derived from the multiple choice questions (30%), essay questions (30%) and the subspecialty examination (40%). The level of difficulty for each question is scored by the Exam Committee before the exam. In case the average score is at least 70% (70% of the successful candidates are expected to answer the question correctly), an individual score of at least 55% is needed for both the general and the subspecialty part of the examination. An overall score of 70% is needed to pass the examination. In case the average score determined by the Examination Committee before the exam is below 70% (less than 70% of the successful candidates are expected to answer the question correctly), the Examination Committee may suggest to the Board of the College to alter the pass rate and require an individual score of at least 51% for both the general and the subspecialty part of the examination and an overall score of 65% to pass the examination.

5.5 Diploma

(1) After having passed the examination of the College, successful candidates will receive a Diploma document, stating that the successful candidate is authorised to use the designation of Diplomate of the European College of Animal Reproduction.

(2) The subspecialty fields covered in the examination are stated on the diploma document. The successful candidate is authorised to use the designation of Diplomate of the European College of Animal Reproduction in combination with the respective subspecialty fields.