

3. The Standard Residency Programme

3.1. Objectives

A training programme approved by the ECAR is designed to:

- (1) provide high quality, in-depth clinical training in animal reproduction, leading to eligibility to take the examination for the Diploma of the ECAR;
- (2) allow the trainee (Resident) to develop aptitude and clinical proficiency in animal reproduction. 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 emphasise 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) provide the Resident with the opportunity to pursue career goals in teaching, research, clinical service, speciality practice and/or animal reproduction institutions. 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) promote high quality training at uniform standards in the discipline of animal reproduction throughout Europe;
- (5) contribute to the continuing development of the speciality of animal reproduction.

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 for entry into the Standard Residency 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) The candidate must have completed a minimum of one year in a general clinical training programme in an academic institution or practice equivalent.
- (4) Applicants who are entering into a programme at an approved training institution shall forward a 'curriculum vitae' and a letter of intent to the College Board within 12 months of commencing the programme for approval together with a supporting letter of their residency supervisor.

3.4 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-certification 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 (externship), 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.

3.5 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.

In order to encourage mobility of the Resident and his / her access to a broader caseload, appoint of additional co-supervisors is possible.

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 trainees performance and progress.

3.6 Total time requirements

The minimum time requirement is three years, and the maximum time is six years.

(1) A Standard Residency Program can be full-time or part-time. The minimum period of a full-time Standard Residency Programme on either (a) small animal reproduction, (b) equine reproduction, (c) ruminant reproduction and herd health, (d) porcine reproduction and herd health, (e) reproductive biotechnology is three years, which consists of at least two years training in an approved training institution under the direct supervision of a College Diplomate or approved equivalent, and one year of related activity such as additional clinical training, research or less closely supervised practice of animal reproduction.

Residents that enrol into a combined full-time residency/PhD programme cannot take the certifying exam until after a minimum of four years of residency of which at least three years full-time training in the approved training institution where they are enrolled in the PhD under the direct supervision of a College Diplomate or approved equivalent, and one year of related activity such as additional clinical training, subspecialisation, research or less closely supervised practice of animal reproduction.

Residents studying on a part-time (50% or more) basis must complete all of the requirements of the residency programme in a period of six years.

(2) In case a Resident chooses to opt for more than one subspeciality of (a) small animal reproduction, (b) farm animal reproduction and herd health, (c) equine reproduction, (d) reproductive biotechnology, a minimum of one extra year of education is required for each additional subspeciality. For instance, in case a Resident chooses to opt for two subspecialities, a minimum of four years of education is required of which at least three years in an approved training institution under the direct supervision of a College Diplomate or approved equivalent, and one year of related activity such as additional clinical training, research or less closely supervised practice of animal reproduction.

(3) In case of parental leave, illness or under exceptional circumstances an extension is possible. The duration of the extension is agreed with the Education Residency Committee.

The residency programme is a 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 externships, approved by both the Programme Director and the Resident Supervisor, is allowed and encouraged.

3.7. Requirements for facilities and equipment

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.

Where a training institution lacks the equipment and/or expertise in some techniques or procedures mentioned above or has an insufficient caseload, the required training may be obtained elsewhere as long as the overall objectives of the programme are fulfilled.

For this externship, approved by both the Programme Director and the Resident Supervisor, 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 exceptional cases a non-veterinarian. The alternative arrangements must be approved in advance by the Board of the College.

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.

3.8. 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.

3.9. Study, Education and Research

3.9.1. Formal Course Work

The participation of the Resident to continuing education meetings and seminars and/or formal courses either organised or approved by the College is encouraged. 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.

3.9.2. 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.

3.9.3. 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 speciality.

(3) The Resident must participate in research in animal reproduction and must have published or submitted, during the residency, 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 be accepted on the 1st of October of the year the Resident intends to take the examination. A thesis or monograph will not be accepted as a publication.

(4) Residents are required to attend and participate in scientific meetings.

3.10. Documentation of training

3.10.1. Resident Case Diary and Activity Diary

(1) Residents must maintain a brief case diary of all cases seen during the programme. The case diary must be prepared in the requested format which lists 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, in the requested format, listing days of clinical service, type and dates of externship and scientific meetings attended and presentations given, other than the scientific publications in which they are first author or co-authors.

(3) In case the Resident chooses to opt for more than one subspecialty, a case diary in the requested format for each subspecialty is required.

3.10.2. Supervisor Progress Report

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 and Supervisor, after verification, compiles an annual progress report to submit to the Education and Residency Committee within March 31st. If these documents are received within 30 days after the deadline, extra fees will be charged for examination admission. If the documents are received more than 30 days after the submission deadline, the College Board may recommend that the trainees programme be suspended.

3.11. Quality Assurance of Training Programmes

3.11.1. 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 caseload.

3.11.2. 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.

3.11.3. Procedures to Evaluate a Candidate for Exam Admission

(1) At the time of enrolment for the examination, an application shall be submitted before June 15th of the examination year to the Education and Residency Committee for evaluation. An updated case and activity diary in the requested formats both verified by the Supervisor and a letter from the Supervisor must be included in the application for the examination. After the deadline, no application will be accepted.

(2) The trainees 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 (see 3.10.2).

(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 Resident'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 Resident 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 Resident may initiate a College review of any change which may affect the effectivity of the programme. The Education and Residency Committee 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 Resident may apply to the Education and Residency Committee for provisional approval to take the examination before the completion of the programme, provided that the programme will have been completed by six weeks before the examination.

(6) The application will be reviewed and voted upon by the Education and Residency Committee that provides the final approval to each Resident prior to them being admitted to the examination. The Education and Residency Committee shall work under the direction of, and report its findings to the Board of the College.

(7) The Resident shall submit five multiple choice questions and five essay questions either general on animal reproduction or in their subspecialty (including answers and backed by references) by the 31st August and shall pay their examination fee by the same date.

3.12. 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 adverse 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. 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.

4.3. Requirements for entry into the Alternative Residency 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) The candidate must have worked in veterinary practice or equivalent veterinary or animal breeding institutions for at least two years and have devoted continuously at least 60% of its work time, based on a normal working week of 40 hours, to animal reproduction;
- (4) Applicants who are entering into a programme shall forward 'curriculum vitae' and a letter of intent to the College Board within 12 months of commencing the programme for approval together with a supporting letter of their residency supervisor.
- (5) The candidate must satisfy the College Board that his/her professional activities can be considered equivalent to a formal residency or individual training programme.
- (6) A diary of all cases seen and surgeries/procedures performed during the last two years must be included with the application.
- (7) The Board of the College will solicit the advice of the Education and Residency Committee.
- (8) 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.
- (9) If a candidate is accepted for qualification via the alternative residency programme he/she will be assigned a Diplomat as a Supervisor.

4.4. Supervision of Training

For an alternative residency programme, supervision is required for a minimal period of three years. Supervision is done in the form of tutoring by a College Diplomat (Supervisor). The Supervisor does not have to be affiliated with the same institution or practice as the candidate. The candidate must meet formally with his/her Supervisor 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.

In order to encourage mobility of the Resident and his/her access to a broader caseload, appoint of additional co-supervisors is possible. Each supervisor may train up to three Residents or the part-time equivalent, concurrently.

4.5. Total time requirements

The minimum time requirement is five years, and the maximum time is six years.

(1) The minimum period of an Alternative Residency Programme for qualification through work in veterinary practice on either (a) small animal reproduction, (b) equine reproduction, (c) ruminant reproduction and herd health, (d) porcine reproduction and herd health, (e) reproductive biotechnology is five years (devoted continuously at least 60% of their work time, based on a normal working week of 40 hours, to animal reproduction) out of which at least the last three years have to be under the guidance of a College Diplomate acting as a Supervisor.

(2) In case, a Resident chooses to opt for more than one subspeciality of (a) small animal reproduction, (b) farm animal reproduction and herd health, (c) equine reproduction, (d) reproductive biotechnology, a minimum of one extra year of education is required for each additional subspeciality. For instance, in case a Resident chooses to opt for two subspecialities, a minimum of six years of education is required of which at least four years have to be under the guidance of a College Diplomate acting as a Supervisor.

(3) In case of parental leave, illness or under exceptional circumstances an extension is possible. The duration of the extension is agreed with the Education Residency Committee.

4.6. Study, Education and Research

4.6.1. Formal Course Work

The participation of the Resident to continuing education meetings and seminars and/or formal courses either organised or approved by the College is encouraged.

4.7. 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 speciality.

(3) The Resident must participate in research in animal reproduction and must have published or submitted, during the residency, 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 be accepted on the 1st of October of the year the Resident intends to take the examination. A thesis or monograph will not be accepted as a publication.

(4) Residents are required to attend and participate in scientific meetings.

4.8. Documentation of training

4.8.1. Resident Case Diary and Activity Diary

(1) Residents must maintain a brief case diary in the requested format 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.

(2) Residents must maintain an activity diary in the requested format listing continuing education meetings and/or formal course, scientific meeting attended and presentations given, other than the scientific publications in which they are first author or co-authors.

(3) In case the Resident chooses to opt for more than one subspecialty, a case diary in the requested format for each subspecialty is required.

4.8.2. Supervisor Progress Report

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 and Supervisor, after verification, compiles an annual progress report to submit to the Education and Residency Committee within March 31st. If these documents are received within 30 days after the deadline, extra fees will be charged for examination admission. If the documents are received more than 30 days after the submission deadline, the College Board may recommend that the trainees programme be suspended.

4.9. Quality Assurance of Training Programmes

4.9.1. Procedures to Evaluate a Candidate for Exam Admission

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

4.10. 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, updated case and activity diaries in the requested format both verified by the Supervisor and a letter from the Supervisor must be included in the application for the examination. The application shall be submitted before June 15th of the examination year to the Education and Residency Committee for evaluation. After the deadline, no application will be accepted.

(2) The College Board in conjunction with the Examination Committee will be responsible for the formulation and administration of the examination.

(3) The ECAR examination consists of a general and a subfield-specific examination.

(4) 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.

(5) 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.

(6) The candidates must pass the examination within eight years of being notified that they meet the requirements for admission to the examination. The number of re-applications to sit the examination is limited to three (3) (four (4) attempts in total). Failure to pass the examination within five (5) years of the first sitting will prevent the candidate from being certified. A candidate who fails either of these requirements must resubmit 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.

(7) 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. Subspeciality Part of the Examination

(1) The second (subspeciality) 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 subspeciality, 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.

(4) Candidates can choose up to three subspecialities, but candidates can only take one subspeciality at a particular examination. Each additional subspeciality can be added at subsequent exams only (after a case diary for the subsequent subspecies has been accepted by the ERC). 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 subspeciality 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 subspeciality 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 subspeciality part of the examination and an overall score of 65-70% 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 and are entitled to be awarded by the EBVS the title of European Veterinary Specialist in Animal Reproduction.

(2) The subspeciality 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 subspeciality fields.