

Press Release: October 1, 2011

The American College of Veterinary Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation announces requirements for application for board certification.

The American College of Veterinary Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation will be offering the initial examination for board certification in both canine and equine sports medicine and rehabilitation in May 2012. The Credentials and Residency committee is now accepting credentials applications from qualified individuals. Applications for submitting credentials and other details are available on the college's website (<http://www.vsmr.org>).

This path to ACVSMR board certification is for those individuals who have sufficient credentials to sit for the examination without completing any additional training. Initial applicants must fulfill at least one of the following criteria:

- Be a faculty member actively involved in clinical and research aspects of veterinary sports medicine and rehabilitation in a college or department of veterinary medicine.
- Be an author of important peer-reviewed, hypothesis-driven publications resulting from research or practice in this specialty.
- Have at least 10 years experience in this specialty and, by teaching, research, or practice, have contributed substantially to the development of the specialty as evidenced by significant publications or presentations.
- Have advanced training in the specialty and have demonstrated competency through teaching, research, or practice in the specialty to which most of the individual's professional time is devoted.

Individuals that are interested in pursuing board certification through the American College of Veterinary Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation, but do not meet the above requirements, may seek qualification via one of the following pathways:

Board-certification Requirements	Credentialing Pathways		
	Practice Experience	Academic Residency	Non-Traditional Residency
1. Clinical experience	5 years of approved practice experience	1 year internship; 3 year residency	1 year internship; 3 to 6 year residency
2. Sports medicine and rehabilitation (72 weeks)	No	Yes	Yes
3. Specialty practice	Yes (12 weeks)	Yes (22 weeks)	Yes (22 weeks)
4. Independent study (36 weeks)	No	Yes	Yes
5. Individualized rotations (26 weeks)	No	Yes	Yes
6. Experience	Yes	Yes	Yes
7. Skills	Yes	Yes	Yes
8. Seminar & continuing education	Yes (125 hours)	Yes (250 hours)	Yes (250 hours)
9. Publication	Yes	Yes	Yes
10. Case reports	Yes	Yes	Yes
11. Examinations	Yes	Yes	Yes

Brief descriptions of the above requirements are included below. Complete details are listed in the ACVSMR Practice Experience Path Guidelines, Academic Residency Guidelines and Nontraditional Residency Guidelines documents, which are available for download on the American College of Veterinary Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation website (<http://www.vsmr.org>).

Board-certification requirements

Sports medicine and rehabilitation immersion includes clinical activities with supervision by an ACVSMR diplomate. Applicants will be required to submit a case log that includes 400 canine cases or 300 equine cases.

Specialty practice immersion includes required rotations in specialty areas with supervision provided by boarded individuals within each of the areas. These rotations include: diagnostic imaging (8 weeks), surgery (6 weeks), internal medicine (3 weeks), neurology (3 weeks), and pain management (3 weeks). Applicants who are board certified in one of the above specialties will be required to devote that designated time to a sports medicine and/or rehabilitation rotation. For example, a boarded radiologist will need to spend 8 weeks in sports medicine and/or rehabilitation instead of meeting the diagnostic imaging rotation requirement.

Independent study is intended to allow development of independent thought, staff mentoring and teaching skills, focused study in specialized facets of sports medicine and rehabilitation, further elective rotations, further supervised or independent rotations in sports medicine and rehabilitation, cross species training in sports medicine and rehabilitation, or human physical therapist interactions.

Individualized rotations are designed to provide additional training in research or clinical investigation, preparation of scientific manuscripts, or further training in areas of individual interest within the field of sports medicine and rehabilitation.

The experience requirement is for observation and participation in specific clinical problems, procedures, or cases. The skills requirement includes a list of skills critical to the practice of sports medicine and rehabilitation. The skills must be learned through discussion and demonstration by the supervisor and mentors. Continuing education is required in the areas of sports medicine and rehabilitation. This may include active participation in clinical case rounds, scientific literature reviews or seminars. The American College of Veterinary Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation will organize future continuing education programs to help applicants meet this requirement and to provide education in topics to be covered in future board-certification examinations.

The publication requirements include submission of a peer-reviewed, hypothesis-driven publication that is relevant to veterinary sports medicine and/or rehabilitation. Five high-quality case reports will also be required to describe the diagnosis and treatment of medical and surgical conditions in animal athletes or rehabilitation of performance or non-performance animals. The case reports will be evaluated based on satisfactory case management with attention to logical thought processes, clinical knowledge and appropriate treatment. The case reports must be written to the standard format acceptable for publication by appropriate journals.

The written examinations will be given annually over two days and will consist of two examinations. The first examination will be taken by all candidates and will contain questions on core knowledge related to tissue injury and healing, exercise physiology, diagnostic tools, biomechanics, kinesiology, and rehabilitation. The second examination will be species-specific and will cover similar topics with candidates taking either the canine or equine examination depending on their area of interest. Reading lists will be provided for applicants to help prepare for the examinations and are available for download on the American College of Veterinary Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation website (<http://www.vsmr.org>).

Please e-mail any questions to the ACVSMR Secretary at info@vsmr.org.