

ACVD Ethics Pledge and Code of Conduct – Incoming Residents

To be signed by ALL incoming ACVD residents to show that the resident understands the ethical standard that the ACVD expects of their residents in training.

Ethics Pledge

This Ethics Pledge is to be signed by all American College of Veterinary Dermatology (“ACVD”) residents at the start of their residency to demonstrate their understanding of the ethical standard that the ACVD expects of candidates for board certification and membership in the ACVD. This document must be signed and returned prior to starting your residency.

The ACVD expects members 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>).

The ACVD does not tolerate harassment or discriminatory conduct in any form and fully supports the following PVME statement:

“As health professionals seeking to advance animal and public health, veterinarians should strive to confront and reject all forms of prejudice and discrimination that may lead to impediments to access of quality animal and public health care for clients/patients or lack of educational, training, and employment opportunities for veterinary colleagues/students and other members of the animal health care team. These forms of prejudice and discrimination include, but are not limited to, race; ethnicity; physical and mental abilities; gender; sexual orientation; gender identity; parental status; religious beliefs; military or veteran status; political beliefs; geographic, socioeconomic, and educational background; and any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law.”

Terminology Guidelines of ACVD

The PVME state that it is unethical for veterinarians to identify themselves as members of an AVMA-recognized specialty organization if such certification has not been awarded. Only those veterinarians who have been certified by the AVCD should refer to themselves as Board certified. The terms “board eligible” or “board qualified” are misleading and should not be used by any veterinarian. One is either board certified, having met all of the criteria of the specialty college or board, or one has no board credentials.

RESIDENTS: 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 have read and agree to abide by the Terminology Guidelines of the ACVD.
- I understand that until such time as I am awarded Diplomate status in the ACVD, I (or an employer, employee, or agent of mine) shall not call myself a veterinary dermatologist or a dermatologist, nor shall I suggest or refer to myself as a veterinary dermatologist.
- I will not use the term “board-eligible” or “board-qualified” as a descriptor in promotional materials directed toward other members of the profession or the public, but rather will qualify myself, when needed, as “practice limited to dermatology” or “residency trained in dermatology.”
- I promise not to accept nor disclose ACVD examination materials or other confidential ACVD materials.
- I understand that any employment outside of my ACVD Dermatology residency program must be disclosed to and approved by my ACVD mentor (s), that this outside employment cannot be in the field of veterinary dermatology unless listed specifically in the ACVD residency documentation as an approved supplemental activity.
- I understand that everything I submit in the credentialing process must be performed and completed during my residency program.
- I acknowledge and agree that I will immediately notify ACVD if I am convicted of a felony or have my veterinary license suspended or terminated.
- I understand that the following are ground for the termination of my residency program by either the ACVD or my mentor and rejection of credentials submitted to the ACVD:
 - Failure to maintain the requirements for of my residency.
 - Failure to adhere to the Principles of Veterinary Medical Ethics as determined by the Judicial Council of the AVMA or comparable body.
 - Conviction of a felony or agreement to a plea bargain where the member admits to a felony.
 - Failure to maintain the requirements for of my residency.
 - Failure to adhere to this Ethics Pledge and Code of Ethics.

Printed name of ACVD Resident in Training

Signature of ACVD Resident in Training

Date

Signature of ACVD Resident Mentor

Date

Approved ACVD Residency Location / Clinic / Institution

Approved May, 2021