

ACVD Ethics Pledge and Code of Conduct - Completion of Residency

Ethics Pledge

This Ethics Pledge is to be signed by all American College of Veterinary Dermatology (“ACVD”) residents at the end 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 at the completion of 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.”

The ACVD expects members to be familiar with and abide by the ACVD Bylaws, Articles of Incorporation, and policies and procedures as they may be modified from time to time.

Terminology Guidelines of ACVD

It is important that board-certified veterinarians use very specific wording to identify one's diplomate status accurately and responsibly. Board certified status in an AVMA-recognized specialty organization is an achievement and an honor of which one should be proud. Responsible use of the title when representing oneself to the general public and to the veterinary profession is both appropriate and encouraged.

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 an AVMA-recognized specialty organization should refer to themselves as specialists. A board certified specialist who also lists other services in an advertisement or notice should use care in wording the document so that it does not imply board certified specialty status regarding the other services.

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. Therefore, as per the AVMA Guidelines for the Identification of Board-certified Veterinarians, individuals should not use the term board-eligible as a descriptor in promotional materials directed toward other members of the profession or the public.

ACVD Diplomates should utilize the following terminology for Advertising and Directory Listings and in publications for the general public:

Name, Diplomate, American College of Veterinary Dermatology, or
Board Certified by the American College of Veterinary Dermatology.

Acronyms should *not* be used in publications directed to the general public because they are unlikely to be understood. For example, you should *not* use the following:

Name, Diplomate, ACVD, or
Name, DACVD

However, acronyms may be used in publications within veterinary journals.

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 agree to abide by the ACVD Bylaws, Articles of Incorporation, and policies and procedures as they may be modified from time to time.
- 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 acknowledge that upon becoming a Diplomate in the American College of Veterinary Dermatology, I must adhere to the Continuation of Certification requirements as set

forth in the ACVD Bylaws.

- I acknowledge that if I fail to maintain my Continuation of Certification requirements or otherwise lose my status as an ACVD Diplomat, I will cease to be allowed to use the terminology Diplomate, ACVD, or any other intellectual property owned by ACVD.
- I understand that the following are grounds for discipline of ACVD members:
 - Failure to follow the provisions of the Bylaws of ACVD.
 - Failure to maintain the requirements for membership in the ACVD.
 - Failure to adhere to the Principles of Veterinary Medical Ethics as determined by the Judicial Council of the AVMA or comparable body.
 - Failure to comply with conditions of probation established by the Board of Directors.
 - Conviction of a felony or agreement to a plea bargain where the member admits to a felony.
 - Failure to adhere to this Ethics Pledge and Code of Ethics.
- 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.

Printed Name

Signature

Date

Approved May, 2021