Knowledge, Skills and Competences
of ECLAM Diplomates

Training of Veterinary Specialists: EQF level 8 (doctoral degree)

The minimum 4-year training programme allows graduate veterinarians, who have completed (1) a minimum of one year internship programme or its equivalent, as defined by the Credentials Committee, and (2) a minimum of a 3-year College-approved residency training programme to acquire in-depth knowledge of the scientific field of veterinary laboratory animal medicine and its supporting disciplines under the supervision and guidance of a Diplomate of the College.

This distinguishes the Specialist level from the first clinical degree (Masters) level, which is EQF level 7, and the “middle tier” or the “Advanced Practitioner”.

Overall specialists will have the intellectual qualities, professional (including transferable) and technical skills necessary for successful employment in professional environments requiring the exercise of personal responsibility and largely autonomous initiative in professional or equivalent environments.

By his/her expertise, the specialist should have developed the confidence, self-criticism and sense of responsibility that are essential for the practice of the speciality.

A. In relation to knowledge, specialists will be veterinarians who have demonstrated:

1. systematic acquisition and understanding of a substantial body of facts, principles, theories and practices at the forefront of their area of professional practice;
2. high moral and ethical standard regarding their contribution to the protection of animal health and welfare, human health and the environment;
3. willingness to maintain up to date knowledge through congresses and literature;
4. acquaintance with the structure, objectives, approaches and problems of the veterinary profession and specifically regarding laboratory animal medicine;
5. ability to keep abreast of new developments in the speciality and become familiar with new methods, before applying these in practice;
6. understanding of the limitations of the speciality of laboratory animal medicine;
7. understanding of the possibilities that other specialties may have to offer;
8. familiarity with the potential of multidisciplinary cooperation;
9. awareness of current E.U. and national regulations about all aspects of laboratory animal medicine;
10. ability to conceptualise, design, implement and report research projects relevant to their own professional practice for the generation of new knowledge, applications or understanding at the forefront of laboratory animal medicine;
11. detailed understanding of applicable techniques for research and advanced professional enquiry to support all the above.

B. In relation to skills, specialists will be veterinarians who have demonstrated ability to:
   1. perform at a high level of professional expertise in laboratory animal medicine including the ability to make informed judgements on non-routine and complex issues in specialist fields, at times based on incomplete data;
   2. use a full range of investigative procedures and techniques to define and refine problems in a way that renders them amenable to the application of evidence-based approaches to their solution;
   3. use patient safety knowledge to reduce harm and complications;
   4. communicate their ideas and conclusions clearly and effectively to specialist and non-specialist clients and audiences;
   5. act professionally in the provision of customised and optimal solutions to problems involving animals, researchers, colleagues, public health and the environment;
   6. apply high level knowledge and skills at the forefront of laboratory animal medicine to their own professional work;
   7. approach problems in an analytic, scientific way and attempt to find solutions;
   8. assign priorities to identified problems;
   9. use modern standards of skills and equipment;
   10. find required information quickly;
   11. organise all aspects of work efficiently and effectively.

C. In relation to competences, specialists will be veterinarians who have demonstrated ability to:
   1. perform at a high level of competence through teaching, research and practice in laboratory animal medicine;
   2. carry out their responsibilities safely and ethically;
   3. promote a culture of care;
   4. create, evaluate, interpret, and apply, through clinical studies or original research, new knowledge at the forefront of laboratory animal medicine, of a quality to satisfy peer review, and merit publication and presentation to professional audiences;
5. promote, within academic and professional contexts, technological, social or cultural advancement in a knowledge-based society;

6. promote aptitude and proficiency in the field of laboratory animal medicine;

7. continue to undertake research and/or clinical studies in the field of laboratory animal medicine at an advanced level, contributing substantially to the development of new techniques, ideas or approaches in the speciality;

8. develop their professional practice and make contributions to the advancement of laboratory animal medicine;

9. maintain both professional expertise and research practices through advanced scholarship;

10. develop applied research relevant to their professional area and other scientific activities, contributing to the advancement of laboratory animal medicine.