PURPOSE OF THE COLLEGE

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Background

The European College of Laboratory Animal Medicine (ECLAM) is a veterinary speciality organisation established within Europe for the speciality of laboratory animal medicine (LAM) and, like other veterinary specialty colleges, is overseen by the European Board of Veterinary Specialisation (EBVS, www.ebvs.org). ECLAM was founded in 2000 following an initiative of the European Society of Laboratory Animal Veterinarians and was awarded full recognition by EBVS in 2008.

Purpose

The major tasks of the ECLAM are to improve

- Prevention, diagnosis, control and treatment of diseases of laboratory animals
- Prevention, alleviation, and minimisation of laboratory animal pain and distress
- Training of scientific, animal care and ancillary staff
- Design and operation of laboratory animal facilities
- Control of the environment (e.g. physical, social) of laboratory animals
- Selection and production of animals for research
- Design and conduction of research

and to

- Provide research support (e.g. animal research techniques), information (e.g. comparative and normative biology, nomenclature), and services (e.g. pre- and post-operative care, critical care, anaesthesia and analgesia, euthanasia)
- Develop and manage animal husbandry programs (incl. genetic and microbiological standardisation procedures)
- Prepare and review animal use protocols
- Provide consultation and advice on compliance with laws, regulations and standards
- Contribute to the humane use of animals in biomedical research together with the search for alternatives.
Activities

The primary objectives of the ECLAM are to advance laboratory animal medicine in Europe and increase the competence of those who work in this field by:

- establishing guidelines for post-graduate education and experience, prerequisite to becoming a specialist in laboratory animal medicine
- examining and qualifying veterinarians as specialists in laboratory animal medicine
- encouraging research and other contributions to knowledge relating to the pathogenesis, diagnosis, therapy, prevention and control of laboratory animal diseases, and
- promoting the communication and dissemination of this knowledge