

Specialist Registration Information Booklet

Veterinary Council of Ireland



1. Purpose of this Information booklet

This information booklet is produced to assist veterinary practitioners who wish to apply for Specialist Registration in Ireland in accordance with the Veterinary Practice Act 2005 and the requirements and procedures of the Veterinary Council of Ireland.

Any applicant must satisfy the legal requirements of Section 46 of the Veterinary Practice Act 2005.

2. Definition of a 'Veterinary Specialist'

A 'Veterinary Specialist' is a veterinary practitioner registered with the Veterinary Council of Ireland (VCI) who has a higher degree of skill and/or knowledge above that of a general veterinary practitioner in the same discipline. A 'Veterinary Specialist' must have successfully completed advanced supervised training in the discipline and have successfully completed examinations from an approved institution. The areas of specialisation must be a branch of veterinary practice that has sufficient breadth and depth to allow a specialist to practice solely in that field.

3. Purpose of Specialist Registration

- To identify, for the public and the profession, veterinary practitioners who have specialised knowledge and skills; who are active practitioners within a recognised field of specialisation; who maintain competence in their specialty through continuing professional development
- To encourage veterinary practitioners to refer cases, as appropriate, to recognised specialists
- To recognise specialised competence in key areas/disciplines, where there are suitable postgraduate qualifications

4. The Law: Section 46 and 47 of the Veterinary Practice Act 2005

Section 46

(1) The part of the Register referred to in *section 34(4)(d)* shall contain a part in respect of each specialty in veterinary medicine standing prescribed by the Council under *subsection (2)*.

(2) Subject to *subsection (5)*, the Council shall prescribe –

- a) the specialities in veterinary medicine that it recognises,
- b) in relation to each such specialty, the titles and qualifications in the specialty that are required to enable a person to be or continue to be registered,
- c) in relation to each such specialty, the body that the Council recognizes for the purposes of providing the specialists training and showing to the satisfaction of the Council that such specialist training has been completed by the person concerned in a manner approved by the body.

(3) The Council may withdraw recognition from any body recognised by it under *subsection*

(4) The specialities in veterinary medicine that may be prescribed under *subsection (2)* shall include such specialities as may be designated for the purpose of giving effect to –

- a) any provision to the Treaties governing the European Communities.
- b) any regulation, directive or other act adopted by an institution of the European Communities, or
- c) a judgment of the European Court of Justice

(5) The Council shall seek and consider recommendations from the Education Committee and any other person that it considers appropriate before prescribing specialties and other matters that it considers appropriate under *subsection (2)*.

Section 47

(1) The Council, on application to it in writing, by a person referred to in *subsection (2)*, in accordance with regulations under *section 52(1)* and on payment of the appropriate fee prescribed under *section 33*, shall register the person in the part of the Register that relates to veterinary specialists.

(2) This subsection applies to a person who –

- a) is registered in a part of the Register referred to in *section 34(4)(a)*,
- b) complies with matters prescribed under *section 46(2)* that apply to him or her,

- c) is of good character and repute and is not an undischarged bankrupt,
- d) has not been convicted by a court in the State or elsewhere, of an offence that, in the opinion of the Council, is such as to render the person unfit to practice veterinary medicine, and
- e) is not prohibited from practicing or suspended from practice of, veterinary medicine, either under *Part 7*, or provisions corresponding to those contained in that Part in force in another state, be reason of a conviction for an offence, or serious misconduct in connection with the carrying out of professional duties as a veterinary practitioner.

(3) If the Council decided that a person who applies to it for registration under this section should not be so registered, it shall notify the person in writing as soon as practicable stating the decision, the reason for the decision and the date on which it was made.

(4) A person who receives a notification under *subsection (3)* may appeal to the High Court against the decision specified in the notification within a period of 3 months beginning on the date of such receipt.

(5) On the hearing of an appeal under this section, the High Court may make –

- a) an order affirming or setting aside any decision of the Council relation to the application for registration concerned
- b) an order remitting the application for registration with or without directions to the Council, for reconsideration and the making of a new decision in relation to it, or
- c) any other order that it considers appropriate

5. List of Specialisms and Training Colleges Recognised by the Veterinary Council of Ireland

In line with Section 46 2 (a) and (b) above, The Veterinary Council of Ireland recognises membership of a European Board of Veterinary Specialisation (EBVS) College as the standard for entry to the VCI Specialist Register.

The following section lists the specialties recognised to date by the VCI along with the colleges recognised to provide training.

5 (i) Specialisms recognised by the VCI

1. Laboratory Animal Medicine
2. Animal Reproduction
3. Animal Welfare and Behavioural Medicine

4. Aquatic Animal Health
5. Bovine Health Management
6. Equine Internal Medicine
7. Porcine Health Management
8. Poultry Veterinary Science
9. Small Ruminant Health Management
10. Veterinary Anaesthesia and Analgesia
11. Veterinary and Comparative Nutrition
12. Veterinary Clinical Pathology
13. Veterinary Dermatology
14. Veterinary Diagnostic Imaging
15. Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care
16. Veterinary Internal Medicine – Companion Animals
17. European College of Veterinary Microbiology
18. Veterinary Neurology
19. Veterinary Ophthalmology
20. Veterinary Pathology
21. Veterinary Pharmacology and Toxicology
22. Veterinary Public Health
23. Veterinary Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation
24. Veterinary Surgery
25. Zoological Medicine
26. Veterinary Dentistry
27. Veterinary Parasitology
28. Miscellaneous (any individual specialty not listed above, recognising that new specialties are developing and evolving all the time):
 - a. Specialisms awarded by American Speciality Colleges,
 - b. Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (Postgraduate Diplomas)
 - c. Australian College of Veterinary Scientists (Fellowship)
 - d. Specialisms awarded by other specialist colleges and institutions which are considered on provision of evidence of supervised training of sufficient duration and depth.

5 (ii) Colleges Recognised to Provide Specialist Training

1. European College of Laboratory and Animal Medicine
2. European College of Animal Reproduction

3. European College of Animal Welfare and Behavioural Medicine
4. European College of Aquatic Animal Health
5. European College of Bovine Health Manage
6. European College of Equine Internal Medicine
7. European College of Porcine Health Management
8. European College of Poultry Veterinary Science
9. European College of Small Ruminant Health Management
10. European College of Veterinary Anaesthesia and Analgesia
11. European College of Veterinary and Comparative Nutrition
12. European College of Veterinary Clinical Pathology
13. European College of Veterinary Dermatology
14. European College of Veterinary Diagnostic Imaging
15. European College of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care
16. European College of Veterinary of Internal Medicine – Companion Animals
17. European College of Veterinary Microbiology
18. European College of Veterinary Neurology
19. European College of Veterinary Opthamologists
20. European College of Veterinary Pathologists
21. European College of Veterinary Pharmacology and Toxicology
22. European College of Veterinary Public Health
23. European College of Veterinary Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation
24. European College of Veterinary Surgeons
25. European College of Zoological Medicine
26. European Veterinary Dental College
27. European Veterinary Parasitology College
28. Additional Specialist Colleges:
 - a) American Speciality Colleges,
 - b) Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (Postgraduate Diplomas)
 - c) Australian College of Veterinary Scientists (Fellowship)
 - d) Qualifications from other specialist colleges and institutions which are considered on provision of evidence of supervised training of sufficient duration and depth. In these cases, the training programme must include while not limited to evidence of scholarship, including preparation of case reports, presentations at national and international scientific meetings, completion of research projects related to the discipline, and publication of manuscripts in peer reviewed journals, character references and any other information relevant in the context of the application.

6. How to Apply / Application Materials

For applicants who are Diplomats of one of the 27 EBVS Colleges listed in section 5 (ii) *Colleges Recognised to Provide Specialist Training* 1-27 above, the following application materials are required:

- Application Form
- Certified copies of post-graduate qualifications
- Evidence of current registration with Specialist Board.

For applicants who are not Diplomats of EBVS Colleges listed above and who fit the category 5 (ii) *Colleges Recognised to Provide Specialist Training* 28 (d) above, the following application materials are required:

- Application Form
- Full curriculum vitae listing professional employment and activities, including publications, conference attendance and conference participation.
- Certified copies of post-graduate qualifications
- Confirmation of completion of a supervised approved training programme and details of examinations.
- Any other relevant information which may include but is not limited to experience in a particular area/field, preparation of case reports, presentations at national and international scientific meetings, completion of research projects related to the discipline, publication of manuscripts in peer reviewed journals, character references and any other information relevant in the context of the application.

For further information on applications or information relating to the Specialist Register, please contact the Veterinary Council of Ireland at education@vci.ie or info@vci.ie where a member of our team will be pleased to assist you.

This document was last reviewed by the Veterinary Council of Ireland on the 27th July 2022.