

AMERICAN BOARD OF VETERINARY OPHTHALMOLOGY

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ABVO Board Summary, 2013-14

The ABVO Board has had a busy year, meeting in Puerto Rico on November 4, 2013, and again in Fort Worth, Texas on April 13, 2014. Much has taken place since the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists (ACVO) created the ABVO to administer its credentialing program. The ABVO Board has worked closely with Stacey Daniel, the ACVO Executive Director, and the ACVO Board of Regents to create a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the ACVO and the ABVO ([provided on ABVO.us](http://www.abvo.us)). The MOU is an important document that describes in detail the expectations of the ABVO with respect to financial matters, including budgeting, use of trademarks, and mechanisms for gaining approval of, and reimbursement for, credentialing expenses. Equally important, the ABVO Board and our Credentials, Residency and Exam Committees have finalized a comprehensive set of credentialing policies and procedures. Most recently, the ABVO has completed its website [ABVO.us](http://www.abvo.us). The ABVO Board would like to acknowledge the excellent work done by Stacey Daniel and the ABVO office staff in developing the new website. The ABVO.us site will now house all credentialing information, including access to all residency, credentialing and examination information and forms (online portal access included). The ACVO.org site will no longer provide this information but will focus on membership, public relations and conference services. All ABVO documents are now accessible at ABVO.us to any interested persons.

Since the inception of the ABVO, significant changes have not been made to our credentialing policies. In 2014 the deadline for submitting applications to sit the certification examination was extended for 1 month as a consequence of our website containing potentially misleading information. We expect this to be a one-time event as steps have been taken to ensure that this will not be an issue in the future. All critical deadlines and dates will be provided on one page of the new website. Prospective resident mentors need to be aware that our Residency Committee has recommended the ABVO Board consider altering our residency training guidelines to require a minimum of two mentors per training program. The rationale for this recommendation is that residents from single mentor programs are considerably less successful at passing the certification exam than those from multi-mentor programs (first time pass rates of 22% versus 51% respectively). The ABVO Board will discuss this proposal and supportive documentation at the fall, 2014 board meeting in Fort Worth. Diplomates are encouraged to contact the ABVO if they have input they would like the Board to consider.

Dr. Carmen Colitz will be leaving the ABVO Board after the fall, 2014 board meeting. Nominations for her replacement have been solicited, and elections will take place electronically during the month of June, 2014. If your email address is current in the ABVO portal you will receive an email with instructions on how to vote in early June. The ABVO Board encourages all ACVO Diplomates to take part in the election process. The individual elected to the Board is expected to attend the fall, 2014 Board meeting in preparation for officially assuming Board duties immediately following the meeting.

The Board would like to remind all Diplomates that the Maintenance of Certification (MOC) program officially begins in 2015, one year prior to the 2016 deadline imposed by the American Board of Veterinary Specialties. Although only Diplomates certified after 2014 are required to comply with MOC guidelines, the ABVO encourages all Diplomates to voluntarily participate. Dr. Tom Kern, our MOC Committee Chairman, will be available at our annual question and answer session immediately following the ACVO Business Meeting, to discuss the program and answer any questions you may have.

ACVO Diplomates with questions about the ABVO credentialing program are encouraged to contact either members of the ABVO Board or the ACVO/ABVO office at any time.

Sincerely,

The American Board of Veterinary Ophthalmology
Drs. Carmen Colitz, Cynthia Cook, David Maggs, Mark Nasisse (Chair), and Mr. Douglas Jack (Public Member)