

27/02/2014

Report: Behaviour Medicine Examinations Committee 2013

Dr Jacqui Ley  
Behaviour Medicine  
Examination Committee Chairperson

The Examinations committee has been working very hard to continue to develop the examination information for candidates. We currently have one re-sitting candidate for the examinations who will sit her examination in December 2014. We may also have a resubmit for videos from another candidate.

With regards to our goals for the past year:

1. To Increase the members on the committee. Our committee has added two new members, Dr Tiny de Keuster and Dr Sagi Deneberg. Both bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the committee.

We would like more people to be involved in the examinations and would be very happy for the board to suggest members of the college for the committee. We would also be willing to put forward names for consideration by the board.

2. Continue working on the guidelines for marking all parts of the examination. The information for examination candidates is still being developed but an updated version will be ready for uploading after the congress. Information from the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists and the American College of Veterinary Behaviorists has been used to continue to develop comprehensive and defensible guidelines.
3. Video Cases. These have caused considerable consternation for examiners and confusion for candidates. Many are unsure of what they need to show, diplomats have been confused as to how to advise candidates. In some cases, the candidate has had to go to

extreme measures to ensure that a diplomat from any college was available to oversee their video cases. The examinations have been difficult to mark in a way that is defensible in the case of an appeal by a candidate.

The video cases are unique to the European College Behavioural Medicine examination. They provide important information to the college regarding a candidate's ability to conduct a behaviour consultation; that is collect a history, make a diagnosis and develop a treatment and management plan. But given the stress the video cases cause for candidates and also to have them fail at this final obstacle seems harsh.

As a possible way forward, the examinations committee would like to suggest some possible solutions.

- a. That the video cases become part of a candidate's credentialing for examination. The candidate can show they are ready to sit the examinations by providing information of their case load, research and publishing and by demonstrating that they can conduct a behaviour consultation. Because it would be a hurdle requirement for the credentialing, they would be able to resubmit to get it right, rather than failing outright and having to resubmit 12 months later. As it would not be an examination, it would not be a requirement that a diplomat be present making it easier for candidates to organize and complete.  
How the cases are evaluated is still a problem.
- b. Change the video cases to a written report will remove the language and subjective assessment problems. The cases would be presented in English. They could either be a credentialing requirement or an examination/assessment.
- c. The videos are retained either as an examination or a credentialing requirement. However, the videos should have a written case report in which the candidate can describe what we see in the video, but also what we do not see. For example, if the candidate has reviewed the animal's medical record and found that the referring veterinarian has already discussed with the client possible medical differentials,

he/she can write in the case report that medical differentials have not been discussed in the video because they were previously addressed by the referring veterinarian. He/she can discuss the medical differentials in the case report, even though we will not see any discussion in the video.

4. Liaise with the Credentials committee. The two committees have been sharing information regarding the timelines for candidates to credential and information about the candidates to help with planning for examinations.
5. 2014 examinations. The 2014 examinations are set for the first weekend in December 2014 in Ghent. This year's examination has highlighted that candidates who are eligible to resit their examination are a bit forgotten. The Examination committee will be looking at a timeline for regular reminders for this group of candidates so they can plan to resit.

My committee and I are excited about the next 12 months and are looking forward to continuing working on improving the next examinations.



Dr Jacquie Ley

BVSc(Hons)FANZCVS(Veterinary Behaviour) PhD DipECAWBM

Chairperson Behavioural Medicine Examinations Committee