NEW EXAMINATION PROCESS ECVAA **March / April 2024**

General considerations:

- Residents starting their training programme from 01-02-2023 onwards will automatically enrol in the new exam system.
- The exam will consist of 2 parts
    - Part A: Each first Monday in March (start 2025)
    - Part B: Each first Monday and Tuesday in November
        - start 2025 for those who have had their credentials accepted – i.e. previous resident cohorts who switched to the new exam style
        - start 2026 for residents who started their training programme 01-02-2023 onwards.
- The earliest Part A can be taken is **after** 2 years of training programme; i.e. residents in their 3rd year of training can sit Part A.
- The earliest Part B can be taken is after completion of residency programme **and** approval of credentials, and only after passing Part A of the new style exams; or after passing the old-style written exams.
- There will be no practical components to the exam, and essay questions will be removed.
- Residents who started their training before 01-02-2023 may continue along the old examination route, or may opt to take the new examinations if they have been implemented by the time they want to sit or re-sit.
- Previous resident cohorts who passed the old-style written exams but not the orals and decide to change to the new system, must sit and pass the entire Part B examination, even if the old-style written exams have been passed. This is because some components of the old-style oral exams may be assessed within all three (3) Part B exams. NB: these candidates do NOT have to sit Part A.
- Once candidates have participated in the new exam system there will be no option to switch back to the old exam system

Part A of the new exams – **Basic science** *(Part A of the Core Curriculum):*

- Basic science across all species groups including, physiology, anatomy, pharmacology, physics, equipment and monitoring, and statistics
- To be conducted remotely over 1 day
- 50 MCQs and 10 SAQs
- Part A must be successfully passed before being eligible to sit Part B
- The following scores will result in passing Part A:
    - 50% in both MCQ and SAQ exams
    - Fail in 1 exam, as long as the combined score is 50% or more and the failed exam scored 40% or more
- The following scores will result in failing Part A:
    - Failure of both exams (score below 50%)
    - Failure of 1 paper with a combined score below 50%
    - A score below 40% - this can not be compensated for by the other exam
- Both exams need resitting in case of a fail.

Part B of the exams – **Clinical** *(Part B of the Core Curriculum):*

- To be conducted remotely over 2 days
- These examinations will comprise a mix of compulsory questions testing broad clinical knowledge across species and sections where there is an element of choice, allowing candidates to select questions in a species or area of knowledge they prefer. The proportional split is yet to be confirmed.
- Day 1: 50 MCQs and 15 SAQs
- Day 2: Clinical reasoning questions and interpretation. The exact format is under development; more information will be published in March 2024 at the latest
- The following scores will result in passing Day 1:
    - 50% in both MCQ and SAQ exams
    - Fail in 1 exam, as long as the combined score is 50% or more and the failed exam scored 40% or more
- The following scores will result in failing Day 1:
    - Failure of both exams (score below 50%)
    - Failure of 1 paper with a combined score below 50%
    - A score below 40% - this cannot be compensated for by the other exam
- Both exams of Day 1 need resitting in case of a fail.
- Details for passing Day 2 still need to be decided.
- Day 1 and Day 2 do not have to be passed in the same sitting; i.e. a candidate can fail either day and just sit that day at the time of resit.