

Veterinary Specialist in Dentistry

Knowledge, Skills and Competences of Diplomates of the European Veterinary Dental College (EVDC)

A Veterinary Specialist is trained to level 8 of the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) (equivalent to a doctoral degree). The learning outcomes at this highest level include; knowledge level at the most advanced frontier, the most advanced and specialised skills and techniques, including synthesis and evaluation, required to solve critical problems in research and/or innovation and to extend and redefine existing knowledge or professional practice. In addition, you should be able to demonstrate substantial authority, innovation, autonomy, scholarly and professional integrity and sustained commitment to the development of new ideas or processes at the forefront of work or study contexts including research. By his/her expertise, the Specialist should have developed the self-confidence, self-criticism and sense of responsibility that are essential for the practice of the speciality.

This distinguishes the Specialist level from the first clinical degree (Masters) level, which is EQF level 7, and the “middle tier” or the “Advanced Practitioner”.

Overall, specialists will have the intellectual qualities, professional (including transferable) and technical skills necessary for successful employment in professional environments requiring the exercise of personal responsibility and largely autonomous initiative in professional or equivalent environments.

A. In particular in relation to knowledge, specialists will be veterinarians who have demonstrated:

1. a systematic acquisition and understanding of a substantial body of facts, principles, theories and practices, which is at the forefront of their area of professional practice;
2. a high moral and ethical standard with regard to his/her contribution to the protection of animal health and welfare, human health and the environment;
3. willingness to maintain up to date knowledge through congresses and literature;
4. the ability to be acquainted with the structure, objectives, approaches and problems of the veterinary profession and specifically with regard to veterinary dentistry;

5. the ability to developments become familiar with new methods, before applying these in practice; keep abreast of new in the speciality and
6. understanding of the limitations of the speciality of veterinary dentistry;
 7. understanding of the possibilities that other specialties may have to offer;
 8. familiarity with the potential of multidisciplinary cooperation;
 9. awareness of current E.U. and national regulations with regard to all aspects of veterinary dentistry
 10. the ability to conceptualise, design and implement research projects relevant to their own professional practice for the generation of new knowledge, applications or understanding at the forefront of veterinary dentistry;
 11. a detailed understanding of applicable techniques for research and advanced professional enquiry to support all the above.

B. In particular in relation to skills, specialists will be veterinarians who have demonstrated ability to:

1. perform at a high level of professional expertise in the speciality area of veterinary dentistry including the ability to make informed judgements on non-routine and complex issues in specialist fields, often in the absence of complete data
2. use a full range of investigative procedures and techniques to define and refine problems in a way that renders them amenable to the application of evidence-based approaches to their solution
3. use patient safety knowledge to reduce harm and complications
4. communicate their ideas and conclusions clearly and effectively to specialist and non-specialist clients and audiences
5. act professionally in the provision of customised and optimal solutions to problems with regard to animals, clients, colleagues, public health and the environment
6. apply high level knowledge and skills at the forefront of the specialist area of veterinary dentistry to their own professional work
7. approach problems in an analytic, scientific way and attempt to find solutions
8. assign priorities to identified problems
9. use modern standards of skills and equipment
10. find required information quickly
11. organise all aspects of his/her work efficiently and effectively.

C. In particular in relation to competences, specialists will be veterinarians who have demonstrated ability to:

1. perform at a high level of competency through teaching, research and practice in the speciality of veterinary dentistry
2. carry out their responsibilities safely and ethically;
3. create, evaluate, interpret and apply, through clinical studies or original research, new knowledge at the forefront of their professional area, of a quality to satisfy peer review, and merit publication and presentation to professional audiences;
4. promote, within academic and professional contexts, technological, social or cultural advancement in a knowledge-based society;
5. promote aptitude and proficiency in the field of veterinary dentistry.
6. continue to undertake research and/or clinical studies in the field of veterinary dentistry at an advanced level, contributing substantially to the development of new techniques, ideas or approaches in the speciality;
7. develop their professional practice and produce a contribution to professional knowledge;
8. maintain both professional expertise and research through advanced scholarship;
9. develop applied research relevant to their professional area and other scientific activities in order to contribute to the quality of the speciality of veterinary dentistry.