

Solicitation of Public Comment on the Proposed Creation of the American College of Veterinary Botanical Medicine and Recognition of the Specialty by the AVMA American Board of Veterinary Specialties

A petition detailing the proposed establishment of the American College of Veterinary Botanical Medicine (ACVBM) has been submitted to the AVMA American Board of Veterinary Specialties (ABVS). As part of the ABVS specialty petition review process, public comment is solicited. During this time, any member of the veterinary profession or public is encouraged to comment by letter or e-mail on the establishment of the specialty, including whether it would fulfill a distinct need in veterinary medicine and provide an essential service to the public. Comments, concerns, and questions received will be considered by the reviewers appointed by ABVS and forwarded to the ACVBM Veterinary Botanical Medicine Specialty Organizing Committee for response. The period of public commentary will close September 1, 2017.

The value of a specialty in veterinary botanical medicine that would serve a public need is confirmed by the fact that herbal therapy is one of the most common topics offered in complementary and alternative veterinary medicine (CAVM) courses offered by veterinary schools, the number of faculty members with training in botanical medicine at veterinary colleges is increasing, externship sites for 18 veterinary schools include sites that use botanical medicine, CE programs are available for veterinarians through 4 sites (Chi Institute, Veterinary Information Network, International Veterinary Acupuncture Society, College of Integrative Veterinary Training) and is included in most national veterinary conferences, including those of ABVS-recognized specialty organizations,

There has been increasing interest in veterinary botanical medicine, such that a core group of veterinarians now practice this specialty at a high standard. There is currently no system for recognition of those individuals that perform at a board-certified specialist level. By forming a recognized specialty under the existing American College of Veterinary Botanical Medicine, validation of the necessary training and the minimum level of competence required for veterinary specialists in veterinary botanical medicine can be established, and appropriate mechanisms to ensure that these standards are met can be put into practice. The petition describes these standards and the credentials review and examination procedures that will be required for recognition of individual veterinarians as board-certified specialists in veterinary botanical medicine.

In addition to an enhanced understanding of the importance of botanical medicine in current and new pharmaceuticals (approximately 25% of prescription drugs dispensed in the USA contain at least one active ingredient of plant origin), with the emergence of problems such as organisms with extreme resistance to multiple antibiotics it is imperative that veterinarians with in-depth knowledge of correct use of botanicals be available to enable their use in situations when there is no equivalent pharmaceutical answer.

There is increasing recognition of the value of training in veterinary botanical medicine, evidenced by; 1. Increasing numbers of veterinarians have pursued training and continuing education in this subject, 2. Increasing number of veterinarians who are members of organizations such as the Veterinary Botanical

Medical Association. 3. Increased demand of veterinary botanical medicine continuing education programs by specialty organizations such as the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (ACVIM), and the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners (ABVP), as well as NAVC, CVC, and WVC. Formation of the ACVBM veterinary botanical medicine specialty will result in formal identification of veterinarians who can authoritatively address the complex issues regarding veterinary botanical medicine on a state and national level and lead the profession in the creation of safe, broadly accepted standards of care.

A link to the ACVBM petition in .pdf format as submitted to ABVS can be found on the Home Page of www.ACVBM.org. Please send all comments regarding consideration of recognition of the American College of Veterinary Botanical Medicine as a veterinary specialty organization to the American Board of Veterinary Specialties c/o Mr. David Banasiak, 1931 N. Meacham Rd, Suite 100, Schaumburg, IL, 60173 or by email to DBanasiak@avma.org