

Petition for Recognition of Nephrology/Urology as a Recognized Veterinary Specialty Organization

The Organizing Committee for the proposed specialty of Small Animal Nephrology and Urology is seeking recognition by the American Veterinary Medical Association as a new Registered Veterinary Specialty Organization, The American College of Veterinary Nephrology and Urology (ACVNU). The clinical scope of urinary disease, embodied in the disciplines of veterinary nephrology and urology, have advanced in scope, complexity, and delivery of care. These advancements, based on scientific research and a deeper understanding of the pathophysiology of urinary diseases, have been translated into innovative new directions in the diagnosis and management of numerous urinary tract diseases. These include, but are not limited to, chronic kidney disease, acute kidney injury, glomerular diseases, urolithiasis, urinary tract infection, incontinence, and urologic neoplasia. The evolution of sophisticated techniques including extracorporeal therapies and interventional endourology have become the advanced standards-of-care for urinary disease. These clinical advances overlap to a limited extent with expertise associated with internal medicine, critical care, surgery, and pathology. Hence exclusive training in any one of these specialties contributes only limited expertise to urinary disease. Advanced care in nephrology and urology is best provided by clinicians with the necessary focused expertise that ensures the correct application and safe and effective delivery of these therapies. Consequent to these developments and advancements, training in the advanced diagnosis and treatment of urinary disease is optimally delivered by those with the focused training and expertise to steward nephrology and urology's ongoing development and provision of care. The objectives of the specialty organization are to establish standards of practice excellence for the evaluation and care of urinary disease in companion animals and to organize and promote the science, education, and innovation leading to the advancement of these disciplines through specialized training and certification of in urinary disease.

A fundamental goal of the proposed specialty organization is to integrate affiliation with other specialties (e.g., internal medicine, emergency and critical care, surgery) whose activities intersect some aspects of urinary disease to build upon the foundations of diverse specialties for clinical care requiring greater urinary dedication and expertise. The proposed minimal training requirements include completion of a two-year, web-based core curriculum in nephrology and urology and at least three full-time-equivalent years of focused clinical experience in nephrology and urology. A visionary clinical training program is proposed to provide the broadest training opportunities for qualified candidates.

The mandate for advanced clinical training and recognition of expertise in nephrology and urology has arrived to ensure the most appropriate diagnosis and delivery of care for animals with urinary disease. The Organizing Committee for the proposed specialty organization is active and directed to steward the recognition of this specialty college and discipline.

Individuals wishing to comment on this petition for recognition should send comments prior to July 6, 2020 to ABVS@avma.org