

Petition for Recognition of Nephrology/Urology as a Recognized Veterinary Specialty under the Auspices of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (ACVIM)

The Organizing Committee for the proposed specialty of Nephrology and Urology within ACVIM (ACVIM-N/U) is seeking recognition by the American Board of Veterinary Specialties as a new veterinary specialty.

The clinical scope of urinary disease, embodied in the disciplines of veterinary nephrology and urology, has a long-standing history of expertise and focused clinical relevance within internal medicine. More recently these integrated disciplines have advanced in scope, complexity, and delivery of care with advancements in the diagnosis and management of chronic kidney disease, acute kidney injury, glomerular diseases, urolithiasis, urinary tract infection, as well as a broad spectrum of other lower urinary tract diseases. The evolution of sophisticated techniques including extracorporeal therapies, uroendoscopy, and interventional endourology have become the advanced standards-of-care for urinary disease and must be provided by clinicians with appropriate training and expertise to establish their indications and safe and effective delivery. Consequent to these developments and advancements, the diagnosis and treatment of urinary disease can no longer be practiced or developed at its highest levels by veterinary internists and warrants establishment of a unique specialty within ACVIM to steward its ongoing development and provision of care. The objectives of the ACVIM-N/U are to establish standards of practice excellence for the evaluation and care of urinary disease in companion animals and to organize and promote the scientific and educational advancement of these disciplines through advanced training and certification of veterinary internists.

A fundamental directive of the ACVIM-N/U is to integrate (rather than splinter) affiliation with internal medicine and the ACVIM by establishing the Specialty within ACVIM. The foundations for the ACVIM-N/U are based in internal medicine, and diplomate certification in ACVIM-Small Animal Internal Medicine is a prerequisite for the proposed Specialty. Minimal training requirements include completion of a one-year, web-based core curriculum in nephrology and urology required of all diplomates and at least three full-time equivalent years of focused experience in these intergraded disciplines. Another unique feature of the Specialty is the establishment of a virtual clinical training program to provide the broadest training opportunities for qualified candidate diplomates. Recognized experts in nephrology and urology who are not eligible for diplomate certification will be able to participate in candidate training and selected aspects of the Specialty as Affiliate Members (not boarded diplomates) of the ACVIM-N/U.

The mandate for advanced clinical training and recognition of expertise in nephrology and urology has arrived to ensure the most appropriate diagnosis and delivery care for animals with urinary disease. The Organizing Committee for the ACVIM-N/U is active and directed to steward the recognition of this specialty board.

Individuals wishing to comment on this petition for recognition should send comments prior to March 12, 2019 to ABVS@avma.org