
Appendix E: Information on Dental Organizations

There are a number of veterinary dental organizations around the world. Some of them are national societies with local mandates. Others are international in scope and are explained below.

The American Veterinary Dental Society

The American Veterinary Dental Society began in 1976 as a small group of like-minded individuals with a keen interest. Since then, it has grown immensely. With close to a thousand members (and growing) in all corners of the globe, the AVDS has been a major influence on the development of the discipline.

The most visible activity of the Society is the publication of the quarterly *Journal of Veterinary Dentistry*. This is a peer-reviewed, full colour journal, which is considered the journal of record and the official journal of veterinary dental societies all over the world. With articles from beginner to advanced, product announcement, a calendar of events and meetings and abstracts for the human and veterinary literature, there is something for everyone in the JVD. There is a journal website at www.jvdonline.org.

To become a member of the AVDS, go to www.avds-online.org.

The Academy of Veterinary Dentistry

Some years after starting the AVDS, that same core of people (many of them anyway) wanted to take things to the next level. In 1987, they incorporated the Academy of Veterinary Dentistry. The mission of the AVD is “to recognize those individuals who dedicate a significant amount of their professional activities to the research, instruction and practice of veterinary dentistry. The Academy is dedicated to the continued improvement of practice standards and knowledge in veterinary dentistry. We further these goals by encouraging instruction and research at veterinary medical educational institutions and by sharing our knowledge and experience with practitioners through continuing education programs.”

To become a Fellow of the AVD requires submission of an extensive credentials package, including two years worth of case logs and four case reports suitable for publication. If the package is deemed acceptable, candidates must then pass an examination based on written and visual questions.

From its inception, the focus of the AVD has been small animal dentistry. Recognizing that there is a great need for education and promotion of proper equine dentistry, an equine track was developed. In 2003, the AVD welcomed its first Fellow of the Academy of Veterinary Dentistry/Equine. The Academy looks forward to great things in the future of equine dentistry.

The Academy currently had roughly 70 Fellows, most of who are in North America, but there are also several in Europe and Australia.

More information on the AVD and becoming a Fellow can be found at www.avdonline.org.

The American Veterinary Dental College

One year after incorporating the ADV, the same band of intrepid pioneers petitioned the AVMA for specialty status and was granted same. Thus in 1988 did the American Veterinary Dental College come into being as the organization charged with granting specialist status on those deemed worthy. At the time, members of the AVDC were the only ones entitled to call themselves veterinary dental specialists. There is now also a European Veterinary Dental College.

Becoming a Diplomate of the AVDC is a long, hard grind. At the time of writing, there are only four university residency programs available. There are also some residency programs available in private practices. Many people working toward specialization in veterinary dentistry do so via the alternate pathway program, which can be described as a mentor-guided self-study program. The alternate pathway takes a minimum of five years to complete. At the end of the programs (residency or alternate pathway), a credentials package is submitted for review. If the package is acceptable, candidates are invited to take the three-part, three-day examination.

More information about the AVDC, its activities and methods of becoming a Diplomate can be found at www.avdc.org.

The Veterinary Oral Health Council

Many products claim to have a beneficial effect in the prevention and treatment of dental disease in pets. Many manufactures were keen to get the endorsement of the AVDC. In response to this, the VOHC was established. The VOHC has laid out specific protocols and criteria for the approval of products. Manufacturers wishing to obtain a VOHC endorsement must submit suitable research for review. If the methodology is deemed to be sound and the result significant, then the product is granted approval. Some products are approved for the control of tartar and some for the control of tartar and plaque.

At present, many national veterinary dental societies have adopted the VOHC and so it is well on its way to becoming the internationally recognized seal of approval.

More information about the VOHC can be found at www.vohc.org.

The Annual Veterinary Dental Forum

Co-sponsored by the AVDS, AVD and AVDC, the AVDF is a three-day conference devoted to veterinary dentistry. The program includes lectures and wet-labs for all levels of interest and experience. There is a session specifically for technicians, an equine program, a series of lectures on exotic animal dentistry and much more. The exhibit hall is packed with the latest in materials and equipment. There are also some great social events. If you have any interest in veterinary dentistry at all, this would be an excellent conference for you to attend.

To obtain more information and a registration form, go to www.walkermgt.com/avdf.htm.

Other

There are many more veterinary dental organizations and groups around the world. Many of them have their own websites and links can be found at the sites listed above as well as at my own site (www.toothvet.ca).