

European, American and RCVS Specialty Diploma holders exclusively within the highest level on the professional scale

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The “Veterinary Specialization Project of the General Council of Colleges of the Veterinary Profession of Spain”, promoted and presented on September 18 by the Veterinary College Organization (OCV), has been developed over the last two years within this institution through a committee made up of 11 members. One of them has been Antonio Cruz, a European and American board certified veterinarian, President of AVEDE and invited to the committee for his extensive professional career, who has also been one of the main promoters of this project.

Thanks to this project, for the first time this profession will be organised according to the educational level of veterinarians, using a national scale established from criteria in which knowledge and professional competence will prevail. **Antonio Cruz believes that “the development of the professional scale linked to a training scale should translate into positive changes for the veterinary profession in Spain in the medium and long term” and hopes that it will facilitate dialogue between the sector and the Ministry of Health, “because we must not forget that as a health profession we depend on it to carry out professional organisation that is approved by the Spanish Government”.**

Keys to the new veterinary professional scale

As the OCV has made public, one of its mandates and electoral commitments of the current president is the internal organization of the profession and, therefore, “the recognition of European and American Diploma holders as the highest level of the professional scale”, which is established in three levels: OCV diploma holders (highest level) by specialty, OCV certificate holders (intermediate level) by species and graduates/license holders (basic level). At the intermediate level there are the variants “with VET CEE endorsement” and “without VET CEE endorsement”.

As explained by the OCV in the presentation of the project, with the appropriate training a veterinarian will be able to move from one level to another and be, for example, OCV Certified in small animals and OCV Diploma in Veterinary Pathology. However, it is not necessary to go through the intermediate level to reach the maximum. It should also be noted that at these two levels a re-certification will be required every 5 years.

Professional and social benefit

Thanks to this structuring, the profession will be organized, which will allow for its cohesion and prestige, as well as making it easier for consumers to have all the information on the skills of veterinarians, something necessary for making free choices, the essence of any free market. “Respect by professionals and the media for the restriction on the use of the terminology 'specialist' will be essential to avoid ambiguities and confusion between the public and the profession. The appropriate designations are graduate or licensed veterinarian, OCV Certificate in the corresponding species and OCV Diploma in the corresponding specialty, as has been agreed by all parties and by the Council,” says Dr. Cruz.

Recognition of graduates within each Member State is necessary to achieve a professional structure at European level, but it is not yet uniform today. With this Specialisation Project, Spain follows the example of other countries that already have a similar professional organisation and serves as a model for others that do not yet have one.

“This organisation was pending and it was important not to delay it any further,” says Antonio Cruz, who also highlights the willingness and dialogue of the parties involved in the project and states that the members of AVEDE have welcomed its launch “in an extraordinary way”.

About AVEDE

AVEDE (Association of Board Certified Veterinary Specialists of Spain) is a non-profit professional organization created in 2013 that has more than 100 associated veterinarians.

Its objectives are the promotion and development of veterinary specialization and continuing education in Spain, as well as advising public and private institutions on this matter, all in collaboration with other scientific associations that contemplate veterinary specialization and acting as a link with the European and American specialization bodies

that hold the EBVS (European Board of Veterinary Specialization) and the ABVS (American Board of Veterinary Specialties), respectively, and the Colleges approved by them.

AVEDE is currently working to achieve recognition of a training scale structure in Spain where qualified veterinarians are placed at the highest level, in order to achieve official and national recognition.

For more information, visit <https://avede.es>

For interviews, please contact comunicacion@avede.es