

THE EUROPEAN DIPLOMA SYSTEM

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There are many different career pathways available for graduate vets with an interest in exotic animal, zoological, wildlife, and conservation medicine. One of these is the European Diploma system. The European College of Zoological Medicine (ECZM) was formed in 2009 and was established to make further progress in research and practice to benefit the health and well-being of free-ranging and captive non-domesticated animals. It recognises five separate specialties under the ECZM umbrella; Avian, Herpetology, Small Mammal, Wildlife Population Health, and Zoo Health Management.

The Zoological Medicine residencies are advanced training programmes allowing the participant to acquire in-depth knowledge of zoological medicine as it pertains to the relevant specialty. On successful completion of the residency programme and ECZM examination, the participant gains recognition as a European Veterinary Specialist in Zoological Medicine. In order to be eligible for a residency, a one-year rotating general internship or at least two years in general practice must have been completed. The residency itself consists of at least three years of specialty-focused training under the supervision and guidance of an ECZM diplomate. It may be affiliated with a university, allowing the resident the opportunity to undertake an MSc in Veterinary Science and gain experience in other disciplines (e.g. imaging, anaesthesia).

Each residency programme will vary depending on specialty. For the majority, alongside clinical training, the resident is required to undertake and publish research, participate in journal clubs and rotations with diplomates from other disciplines (e.g. pathology), complete clinical and pathology case logs, submit case studies and preventative medicine reports, and present their research at international conferences. Following satisfactory completion of the above, the resident may sit the ECZM examination consisting of multiple choice and written questions. For further information and to view available residency positions, visit the European College of Zoological Medicine website: <https://www.eczm.eu>