



# European College of Veterinary Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation

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## Strategic Plan 2017-2027

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### Objectives:

- To promote research and heighten the competency of veterinarians in the multidisciplinary specialty of veterinary sports medicine and rehabilitation in Europe. This encompasses the comprehensive examination, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of sport and work-related injuries/disorders, utilizing a holistic approach central to which are controlled exercise, functional training, and various therapeutic modalities.
- To establish guidelines for post-graduate education, serving as prerequisites for becoming a EBVS® European Veterinary Specialist in Veterinary Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation.
- To conduct examinations and certify veterinarians as EBVS® European Veterinary Specialists in Veterinary Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation.
- To bolster communication and knowledge dissemination about veterinary sports medicine and rehabilitation among veterinary professionals and the broader public.

### Mission:

The mission of the European College of Veterinary Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation (ECVSMR) is to promote the advancement of veterinary sports medicine and rehabilitation across Europe through post-graduate training, continuing education, and research. The College aims to cultivate a community of distinguished specialists and produce leaders in clinical practice, academia, and industry to elevate the standard of care for canine and equine athletes.

### Values:

- Clinical Excellence - We uphold the highest standards in patient care and ethical practice.
- Advancement - We seek to continuously improve and innovate in our field through discovery and dissemination of knowledge.
- Community - We promote collaboration, mentorship, and a culture of service to the profession.

- Wellbeing - We prioritize the health, fulfillment, and work-life balance of our residents and members.

### Goals and Strategies:

- Expand residency training opportunities across Europe
  - Develop standard and flexible alternate residency tracks
  - Create modular/part-time formats to improve access
  - Recruit mentors and grow number of training sites
  - Ensure rigorous yet supportive training environment
  - Provide adequate resources and compensation for residents
- Enhance assessment methods to confirm clinical competency
  - Supplement written exams with case-based questioning
  - Consider appraisal of practical skills
  - Consider tools to evaluate communication, collaboration, and professionalism
  - Require research outputs from all residents
  - Utilize multi-faceted assessment approach
  - Develop a sustainable approach to assessment
- Promote the value of ECVSMR specialists to stakeholders
  - Communicate benefits of specialists to veterinarians and animal owners
  - Position specialists as experts in sports medicine and rehabilitation
  - Demonstrate the unique value specialists provide through collaborations
  - Create targeted marketing materials and social media campaigns
  - Develop partnerships with sporting organizations and rehab facilities
- Support wellbeing of residents and diplomates
  - Provide mental health resources and counseling
  - Offer continuing education on topics like work-life balance and burnout
  - Encourage mentors to monitor resident wellness and satisfaction
  - Regularly check in with diplomates and assess wellness needs
  - Facilitate community building and networking amongst members

### Key Activities and Implementation Plan:

- Establish working groups to implement strategic goals and initiatives
- Conduct annual surveys to assess training experience, member wellness, and organizational needs
- Collaborate with European Board of Veterinary Specialisation to evolve assessment methods
- Host annual conferences to connect members and monitor progress

- Appoint spokespeople and engage high-profile veterinarians to promote the specialty
- Cultivate partnerships with veterinary organizations, facilities, and media
- Develop timeline for rollout of new residency programs and assessment tools
- Provide regular progress reports and reevaluate strategies as needed
- Ensure transparency and encourage member participation in decision making processes

Major working points for the near future have been described in our Strategic Plan (see 'documents' section on the website (<https://www.ecvsmr.org/documents-forms/>)).

With concerted effort across these strategic priorities over the next decade, the ECVSMR will continue to excel in providing exceptional specialist training while also building an inclusive, supportive college community that enables members to thrive personally and professionally. This plan lays the foundation for the ECVSMR to solidify its status as the premier European organization advancing veterinary sports medicine and rehabilitation.