



Volunteer Opportunity

ACVS's Alternate Representative to the Veterinary Specialty Organizations Committee

ACVS seeks a volunteer to serve as ACVS's alternate representative to the Veterinary Specialty Organizations Committee (VSOC). VSOC is a partnership of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) and AVMA-recognized veterinary specialty organizations (RVSOs). VSOC serves in an advisory role to AVMA's American Board of Veterinary Specialties (ABVS), which recognizes veterinary specialties and specialty organizations. The voting membership of VSOC consists of one representative from each RVSO. ACVS's representative is a voting member of VSOC. The alternate representative serves as a voting member when the representative cannot attend the in-person or virtual meetings or cannot complete the term of their appointment. ACVS's representative and alternate are appointed by and report to the ACVS Board of Regents.

Responsibilities: The alternate representative remains informed of VSOC business through ongoing communication with the ACVS representative and staff liaison. The alternate representative attends the VSOC annual in-person meeting as a guest for the first two years of their term, at a minimum, and attends periodic virtual meetings when the representative cannot.

If the representative is unable to complete their term, the responsibilities of the alternate representative are

- Communicates issues affecting ACVS and its membership from and to the Board of Regents or membership to the VSOC.
- In concert with the credentialing programs director and chief executive officer, develops and submits annual and three-year in-depth reports to the ABVS.
- Provides a written activity report to the Board of Regents three times per year and a written report for the Diplomates' Annual Business Meeting.
- Fulfills the following responsibilities of a voting member of VSOC:
 - Elects VSOC members to serve on the ABVS.
 - Receives from and provides to the ABVS information regarding best practices for RVSOs and recognized veterinary specialties in credentialing, examination, certification, and maintenance of certification.
 - Jointly creates and approves standards for recognition of new and current RVSOs.
 - Assists groups expressing an interest in the establishment and recognition of a new veterinary specialty organization.
 - Provides commentary from ACVS to the ABVS regarding new organizations interested in pursuing AVMA recognition.
 - Advises the AVMA Board of Directors in matters related to specialized veterinary medicine.
 - Promotes education of the public regarding veterinary specialization.
 - Promotes advocacy efforts toward state veterinary medical boards concerning the use of the term "specialist" and similar aligned terminology, as well as advocates for the status of veterinary specialists with federal and state agencies.
 - Promotes information sharing and collaborative efforts between RVSOs.

- Facilitates information sharing with international entities performing accreditation/recognition of veterinary specialty organizations.
- Participates in VSOC subcommittees as needed. VSOC comprises executive, nominating, standards of recognition, advocacy and communications, best current practices, and post-graduate committees.

Meetings: VSOC holds an annual in-person meeting of at least one day each year preceding the ABVS meeting. The meeting is typically held late in February or early March. The representative attends this meeting. The alternate representative may also attend the annual meeting as a guest, subject to the approval of the VSOC chair and ACVS. The alternate should anticipate attending the annual meeting for the first two years, at a minimum. ACVS pays the alternate's travel expenses when attending as a guest, subject to ACVS expense reimbursement policies. The alternate representative attends virtual VSOC meetings between annual meetings when the representative cannot.

Workload: Light to moderate. The alternate attends the annual in-person meeting for the first two years, at a minimum. The alternate attends periodic virtual meetings when the representative is not available. Throughout the year, the alternate remains informed of VSOC business through communication with the ACVS representative.

Term of service: Term begins February 1, 2024, and ends at the close of the 2028 annual session of the AVMA House of Delegates (July 18, 2028), which is held in conjunction with the AVMA annual convention.

Requirement: Member of the AVMA and ACVS.

Implicit Bias Training: Please note that ACVS requires that volunteers and leaders complete implicit bias training or indicate previous participation in implicit bias training required by their practice setting or other organization once within each term of service. ACVS provides no-cost options for this valuable training that can be completed in under an hour.

The deadline for volunteering is December 1, 2023. All volunteers will be notified by December 29, 2023, about their appointment status. If you have questions about the position, contact Kimberly Soehnlein, credentialing programs director, at ksoehnlein@acvs.org or (301) 916-0200 x104.

To volunteer, please [complete the online form](#).