

ACZM Diplomates serve in responsible positions as clinical veterinarians, teachers, researchers, government officials, and administrators of other relevant programs fostering high quality medical care for non-domestic animals. ACZM Diplomates are actively involved in the discovery of new knowledge in the discipline and the dissemination of this knowledge to the veterinary profession and public.

ACZM Diplomates are engaged in the education of undergraduate and graduate veterinarians at a variety of local, state, provincial, national, and international venues and stress the importance of offering medical care to all animals.

ACZM Diplomates serve as supervisors of training programs and mentors for veterinarians seeking advanced studies in zoological medicine.

ACZM Diplomates are actively involved in clinical and basic research to improve the quality of medical care offered non-domestic animals and are actively involved in the preservation of vanishing species through captive propagation programs, careful management of free-ranging populations, and national and international conservation programs.

The American College of Zoological Medicine



Contact the Secretary of the
ACZM for more information

www.aczm.org



**“Dedicated to excellence in
furthering the health and
well-being of captive and
free-ranging wild animals.”**

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HISTORY

Established in 1983, the American College of Zoological Medicine (ACZM) is an international specialty organization recognized by the American Veterinary Medical Association for certification of veterinarians with special expertise in zoological medicine. ACZM is responsible for establishing training requirements, evaluating and accrediting training programs, and examining and certifying veterinarians in the veterinary specialty of zoological medicine.

The discipline of zoological medicine has gained tremendous momentum during the last three decades. The popularity of zoos and aquariums, efforts to maintain populations of free-living wildlife, and the emergence of birds, reptiles, fish, and other non-domestic animals as popular pets has challenged veterinarians to provide appropriate medical care to insure the well-being of these animals. Zoological medicine encompasses a wide variety of traditional veterinary disciplines which by necessity have been adapted to accommodate the diversity of species treated. These include herd health management, preventative medicine, epidemiology, comparative medicine, and the highly personalized, intensive medical care offered companion animals.

MISSION

Zoological medicine is a discipline that integrates principles of ecology, conservation, and veterinary medicine and applies them to wild animals within natural and artificial environments. The American College of Zoological Medicine is dedicated to excellence in furthering the health and well-being of captive and free-ranging wild animals.

Objectives:

- To enhance competency and scientific progress in zoological medicine
- To establish standards for post-doctoral training and experience and to certify veterinarians as specialists in zoological medicine through comprehensive examination
- To encourage medical research that benefits zoological species
- To disseminate information relative to zoological medicine



CERTIFICATION

Individuals seeking ACZM board certification must graduate from veterinary school, obtain veterinary licensure in a country, state or province, and have a satisfactory moral and ethical standing in the profession of veterinary medicine. He/she must either serve a 3-4 year residency in zoological medicine in a training program approved by ACZM under the teaching and guidance of ACZM Diplomates, or he/she must have at least 6 years of experience in zoological medicine.

Once an individual has completed a residency or gained sufficient experience, the board certification process begins first with a credentials package consisting of an application, resume, 5 peer-reviewed publications, and letters of recommendation.

If the credentials are accepted by the ACZM credentials committee, the applicant is allowed to take the ACZM board exam. The exam is a 2 day process consisting of written and practical parts. Finally, after passing all of the above criteria, the veterinarian is recognized as a Diplomate of the American College of Zoological Medicine, or in short, is board-certified in zoological medicine.

