

# STANDARD RESIDENCY PROGRAMME

**The European College of Small Ruminant Health Management and the residency program.**

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The European College of Small Ruminant Health Management (ECSRHM) is one of the youngest specialist college in the field of veterinary specialization. It was funded in 2008 and, at present, comprises around 80 members (Diplomates), distributed across 16 countries and 10 officially recognised training centres with a total of 10 residents. It is a fast growing organization, always looking for enthusiastic vets, to help shaping the future of this specialisation, sharing the expertise and the knowledge for the benefit of the whole industry.

The overall vision of the College is the advancement of veterinary knowledge in the field of small ruminant health management. Particular emphasis is posed on evidence-based medicine, by encouraging its members to actively contribute to the specialty through research and publications, both in peer-review journals and through knowledge transfer at veterinary conferences and farmers' meetings. To achieve all of this, the College is actively seeking to promote collaboration between colleagues, with national veterinary associations, farmers and their associations, government institutions and international agencies.

One of the major role of the College is also on setting standard of qualification, to qualify members of the veterinary profession as specialists in small ruminant health management. This is achieved by supervising the professional activities of its members as well as by developing and supervising post-graduate teaching programs toward the award of the title of European Veterinary Specialist in Small Ruminant Health Management (Dip.ECSRHM). This is a very high academic standard qualification, providing members of the College with an internationally recognised professional diploma.

Veterinarians who wish to become members of the College will need a period of formal training (residency), followed by successfully passing the certifying examination of the College. The residency program should be preceded by an initial period of one year in farm animal (ruminants) internship or its accepted equivalent (e.g. a period of at least two years of work at a veterinary practice with significant farm animal component with simultaneous postgraduate continuing education). The residency can then be taken either on a full-time basis, three years program (standard residency program) or as an alternative training program (which may involve, for example, working in a veterinary practice with significant small ruminant work component, as well as undertaking a series of specialist training modules provided by external institutions or organisations). In both cases, the residency training has to be under the direct and regular supervision of at least one Diplomat of the College and approved by the Education Committee of the College.

The main aims of the residency are to acquire in-depth knowledge of small ruminant health management, as well as of related disciplines, to promote excellent skills and proficiency in all aspects of the practice of small ruminant health management and to provide the resident with the opportunity to pursue career goals in teaching, research, clinical service and/or specialist practice.

More details can be found on the ECSRHM website (<https://ecsrhm.eu/>) or by directly contacting one of the Diplomat (<https://ecsrhm.eu/members/>) for more information on the residency program.