

16th February 2026

To All Potential Candidates of the AiCVO Diplomate Examination in 2026

Dear Candidates,

AiCVO has decided to host the 2026 diplomate examination in a semi-remote format. The written portion will be held on **17 October 2026** in your country or city, and the surgical portion on **14 November 2026**.

The requirements are below.

- 1) The Multiple-Choice and Image Recognition Questions will be conducted via Examssoft, an examination software. Candidates will download this software closer to the examination date. A trial run using the software will also be conducted closer to the examination.
- 2) Extraocular and intraocular surgery is an in-person examination. The examination will be held in Bangkok, Thailand.

Please ensure that the following requirements are met for any new candidates wishing to proceed with their diplomate examination in 2026.

Requirements and qualifications of candidates:

Candidates wishing to apply for the Diplomate examination must fulfil the following requirements:

Requirements/qualifications:

1. Obtain a license to practice veterinary medicine in an Asian country.
2. Maintain good moral and ethical standards in the profession.
3. Possess a minimum of 6 years of experience in veterinary ophthalmology, encompassing clinical, academic, research, and/or teaching roles, with at least 70% of their time dedicated to clinical ophthalmology practice (the last 3 years of which must include logbook documentation).
4. Handle over 200 new ophthalmology cases per year. Simple cases, such as nuclear sclerosis of the lens, should not be included.
5. Have at least one published hypothesis-based original research paper in ophthalmology as the first author or corresponding author in peer-reviewed journals cited by the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) (SCI-listed journals) within the past 5 years. Case reports, letters, and proceedings are excluded.
6. Have presented one or more oral or poster presentations as the first author at the annual scientific meetings of the Asian Society of Veterinary Ophthalmology (AiSVO), American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists (ACVO), European College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists (ECVO), or the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) within the last 5 years.

Application Materials/Documents:

Veterinarians who meet these requirements and wish to apply for the Diplomate examination should submit the following documents in English:

1. The cover letter indicates an application for the Diplomates examination of AiCVO.
2. A conventional format for a curriculum vitae should include:
 - a. Educational and employment history

- b. The training received in veterinary ophthalmology (including the institute, mentor, etc.)
 - c. Documentation of participation and presentations at national and international veterinary ophthalmology meetings
 - d. Peer-reviewed articles and book chapters written by the candidate
 - e. Instruction in veterinary ophthalmology by the candidate
 - f. Lectures on veterinary ophthalmology presented by the candidate in continuing education courses
3. The complete attached Excel file of records should include a detailed case logbook for the past three years (note that the file contains six worksheets).
 4. Two reference letters: At least one letter must originate from a mentor or supervisor from a past or current job or academic program. The letters should discuss the candidate's high moral character and ethical standing and verify the accuracy of all application documents and records submitted by the candidate.

Additionally, the candidate should submit:

1. An electronic copy (PDF file) of their veterinary medicine practice license. If the license is not in English, please include a translation.
2. PDF files of the first page of all book chapters, peer-reviewed articles, and meeting abstracts authored by the candidate and published in English.

Payment of Examination Fees:

This should be deposited into the Korea AiSVO/AiCVO bank account upon application. The fees consist of two parts, paid at two respective stages:

1. Examination application fee: USD200 for the credential review of candidates' qualifications.
2. Examination fee: Once the Credential Committee has approved the candidate's application, AiSVO/AiCVO will notify the candidate of their eligibility to attend the Diplomate examination. Next, the new candidate must pay the USD 2,000 Diplomate examination fee to the AiSVO/AiCVO bank account before attending the examination. Before making the payment, re-examination candidates should confirm the examination fee amount with the AiCVO/AiSVO. The USD2000 examination fees consist of three parts of the Diplomate examination: 1) the Image Recognition and Histopathology examination, 2) the Written examination, and 3) the Practical examination. Re-examination candidates may pay to retake any failed components from the three parts.

Application Submission:

The deadline to submit the Diplomate examination application and pay USD 200 for document review is 16th March 2026. Dr Kumiko Kato (55kumi.k@gmail.com), the Chairperson of the Credential Committee, must receive electronic copies (as well as printed copies) of all application materials via email **no later than 16th March 2026.**

The Credentials Committee of AiCVO will communicate the review results by email on **4th May, 2026.**

Registration and payment for the examination are due by **4th June, 2026.** Only on-time registrations and payments will be accepted.

Please remit payment to the account below:-

1.
paypal.me/canvet

Or

2.
Bank name: Shinhan bank
Bank address: 20,SEJONG-DAERO 9-GIL, JUNG-GU, SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA
SWIFT CODE: SHBKCRSE
Account number: 180-007-892356
Name: Joon Young Kim

Feel free to email the committee if you have any additional questions.

Yours sincerely



Derek Chow
BVSc (HONS), DACVO, DAiCVO, MANZCVS, MRCVS
Chairman of the Examination Committee, Asian College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists
Specialist in Veterinary Ophthalmology
Adjunct Professor, Jockey Club College of Veterinary Medicine and Life Science, City
University of Hong Kong
Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists
Diplomate of the Asian College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists
Veterinary Specialty Hospital of Hong Kong
1/F 165 Wanchai Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong Island, Hong Kong
Tel:- (852) 24082588, Fax:- (852) 24082518
E-mail:- dwyc@vsh.com.hk