

**RESOLUTION #5 — 2011
Regular Annual Session**

Substitute

Submitted by

Arkansas Veterinary Medical Association
California Veterinary Medical Association
Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association
Montana Veterinary Medical Association
New Mexico Veterinary Medical Association
Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Association
Texas Veterinary Medical Association
Utah Veterinary Medical Association

Formation of Foreign Accreditations Task Force

RESOLVED, that the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) House of Delegates (HOD) recommends to the AVMA Executive Board (EB) that they form a task force to perform a peer review of the accreditation of foreign veterinary schools, addressing the impact of the AVMA Council on Education (COE) procedure and the consequences of this program on the (1) veterinary profession in the U.S., and (2) the quality of standards for the veterinary profession in the U.S. Furthermore, the HOD recommends to the EB that the task force membership be selected from the general membership of the AVMA representing the various employment types/categories/geographic regions. The HOD requests that the results of the review be reported to the HOD within one year after formation of the task force.

Statement about the Resolution

Although the Council on Education must maintain total independence and confidentiality in their deliberations and decisions, the Council does follow the philosophical lead of the AVMA on the accreditation of foreign veterinary schools. Over the last seventy (70) years, sixteen (16) foreign schools have been accredited by the COE. Eleven (11) foreign schools have been accredited since 1998, two of which were accredited in 2011. Since the majority of state licensing boards recognize AVMA COE accreditation as the standard, the recent accreditation of two foreign schools and other foreign schools requesting accreditation site visits raise the concerns regarding the effect on that standard regarding foreign veterinary graduates who are no longer required to follow required routes to licensure through the ECVFG or PAVE. It is vital to ensure member confidence that the AVMA policy on accrediting foreign schools be openly reviewed by representative members of AVMA constituencies, not necessarily participants in formal AVMA governance entities (HOD, Committee members, Council members).

We respectfully propose that an AVMA task force assess the merits of foreign school accreditation by answering the following questions:

- What is the logistical burden in time and expense required by the AVMA and COE in accrediting foreign schools, now and for the next 10 years?
- How will the continued accreditation of foreign schools impact the veterinary profession in the U.S.?
- What is the impact on U.S. standards resulting from the increasing accreditation of foreign schools?
- What are the potential adverse effects on standards in the U.S. by waiving the certification test (ECVFG or PAVE) for graduates of foreign schools?
- What concerns are anticipated from international pressure on the COE to have their schools accredited?
- How does the accreditation of foreign schools serve the needs and interests of the U.S. public?
- How does the accreditation of foreign schools serve the needs and interest of AVMA's membership?

Financial Impact: \$25,000 – This estimate includes participation of ten (10) task force members in two (2) meetings at the AVMA Headquarters, as well as at least four (4) teleconferences.