



Recognized as the World Leader in Animal Chiropractic

AMERICAN VETERINARY CHIROPRACTIC ASSOCIATION

AVCA Position Statement – Reciprocity

The American Veterinary Chiropractic Association (AVCA) does not have a reciprocity agreement with any other certification program and will not be entering into any such arrangement for the following reasons:

1. While reciprocity arrangements with other certification bodies may sound good in theory, no two certification programs are identical in eligibility requirements, examinations, and renewal requirements. Accordingly, the certification body with less rigorous requirements tends to benefit when its credential is treated as the equivalent of a more comprehensive and credible credential.
2. Reciprocity agreements tend to be frowned upon in the professional certification world. In fact, grandfathering is specifically prohibited in some accreditation programs for certification organizations. Grandfathering is the concept that certification would be granted to a candidate based upon achieving some other certification program and relying on the other program's eligibility requirements and examination.
3. AVCA has spent a considerable amount of time and money upgrading the quality of our certification program. We do not see any benefit in diluting the impact of these improvements by confusing external stakeholders regarding the meaning and value of the AVCA credential.
4. Reciprocity agreements tend to create marketing/public relation problems in membership organizations because practitioners realize that there are in fact differences in any two certification programs regardless of any designation of reciprocity from sponsoring bodies. This results in perceptions and questions such as "Are you certified in the legitimate program or did you come in on the coattails of another less rigorous process"?
5. Reciprocity agreements send mixed messages to state and provincial legislators that are looking at certification as an alternative or adjunct to their licensure programs. AVCA cannot afford to water down our quality brand in dealing with this critical audience.
6. AVCA certificants should also be thinking about the potential negative messages that are conveyed if you accept and publicize any less stringent certification that has been awarded based upon achievement of AVCA certification. AVCA has positioned their certification as the premier brand for animal chiropractic in North America. Once you have achieved this level of recognition, there is no benefit in claiming any additional less effective certification status.

November 2012