

NEEC - Examination procedure

Revised by the NEEC, February 2026

For being successful in the exams and in the work as an Eye Scheme Examiner ("a panelist"), the candidate must:

- Understand ocular embryology, anatomy, and physiology
- Master basic examination techniques and diagnostic pharmacology
- Recognize inherited and breed-related ocular diseases and genetic testing principles
- Develop basic competency in Neuro-Ophthalmology
- Critically assess and apply scientific literature on known and presumed Hereditary Eye Diseases (KP-HED)
- Engage in continuing education and professional development

To achieve this, the candidate must

- study the relevant issues -see the suggested reading list: (*ECVO Manual, Chapter 3, Appendix B*)
- attend courses and continuing education and congresses on the specialty (including, but not only, the subjects mentioned in the *Common Nordic Education Program on Diagnostics of Hereditary Diseases of the Eye in Dogs and Cats relating to Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden*)
- attend meetings of the national society/panel when applicable
- fulfill the requirements of examining animals (*ECVO Manual, Chapter 3, appendix A*)

REQUIREMENTS THAT NEED TO BE FULLFILLED BEFORE APPLYING TO SIT THE EXAM

Slides exam: A case log (signed by respective panelists) of a minimum of 750 eye examinations together with a panelist. The Slides exam is valid for the next 3 years.

Written and practical exam: Credentials of all the requirements given in common Nordic Education Program on Diagnostics of Hereditary of the Eye in Dogs and Cats relating to Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden.

Retakes of written and practical exam: Once accepted, the credentials will expire unless the exam(s) are completed within 6 years from the acceptance of the credentials (see «Education Program»).

Non-Nordic trainees: Signed formal acceptance for sitting an ECVO ESE exam from ECVO. Non-Nordic candidates will be allowed to sit the Nordic exam pending upon availability, but the Nordic candidates have priority.

Credentials must be submitted to the national NEEC representative no later than 2 months before the given exam. Credentials must be submitted in a “Credentials submission form” as instructed by the national NEEC-representative.

APPLICATION TO SIT THE EXAMS;

A written application (email) to sit the exams shall be submitted to the national head organization no later than 1 month before the exam. The national head organization then informs the national NEEC-representative.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE EXAMS:

- The candidate is allowed to sit each part of the exam a maximum of four (4) times
- The results of each exam will be given orally or by e-mail within a week after the exam.
- No aid (books, cell phones, notes etc) is allowed for the exams. If the candidate is found using unauthorized means to improve the result of the exam, the candidate will be expelled from the exam, and the result of the exam will be disapproved. In severe cases the candidate will be excluded from all future exams. Examples of such actions are using the internet, phone, oral communication, copying other trainee's answers, manipulating answers after the examination is over etc.
- Payment for exam related expenses for the slide exam and the written and practical exam are covered by the attending candidates and decided by the national Head Organisations.

1. Slides exam

- usually organized in conjunction with the Nordic Eye Meeting (NEM)
 - the exam consists of 45 slides.
 - the candidate is given 1 minute per slide.
 - at least 75% of the maximum points must be achieved to pass the exam.
 - the exam is valid for 3 years (i.e. 3 examination periods) if the candidate has not participated in the written and practical exams by then, the slides exam must be retaken

2. Written exam

- Is organized before the practical exam.
- Is organized only if there are 5 or more candidates.
 - the examination time is 3 hours (50 Multiple Choice Questions- MCQ)
 - the candidate must sign a non-disclosure form stating that they are not allowed to reveal questions from the written exam
 - at least 75% of the maximum points must be achieved for the candidate to pass the examination

3. Practical exam

- Is organized usually in January-March
- Is organized only if there are at least 5 candidates. For practical reasons, the maximum number of candidates per exam is 8.
- Retakes have a priority for the exam. Other candidates are accepted depending on the order in which their credentials are approved. The order of priority is: Nordic retake – new Nordic candidates – non-Nordic retake – new non-Nordic candidates.
- the exam consists of 7 cases, dogs and cats to be examined. The number of cases can be altered due to force majeure. Pupils are normally dilated prior to examination.
- the NEEC members examine the animals prior to the exam and decide the criteria for obtaining full score (10) on each case.
- the candidate is responsible for bringing his/her own equipment needed to do a full eye-scheme examination including indirect ophthalmoscope, slit-lamp biomicroscope etc
- the candidate is allowed 15 minutes for examination of each animal, plus 5 minutes to fill in the ECVO-certificates.
- the certificate should be filled in in detail according to the description given in the ECVO-scheme and guidelines, including the concluding part.
- at least 80% of the maximum points must be achieved to pass the exam.
- a list of serious misdiagnoses has been defined. If the candidate fails any of these, he/she achieves 0 points for this patient regardless of other findings.

The official language of the NEEC is English. All correspondence considering matters handled by the NEEC must be in English

Appeals

- Any candidate who wishes to appeal against the decision on failure in the examination must do so within 90 days from the exam date. A written appeal in English should be directed to the NEEC-chairman via the national representative. The appeal shall include a statement of the grounds for reconsideration and documentation in support of the petition. Copies of exam papers will not be given to the candidate due to confidentiality of the exam questions.
- If the NEEC does not follow the appeal, a further appeal can be made to the ECVO within 90 days from the decision made by the NEEC.

Common Nordic Education Program on Diagnostics of Hereditary Diseases of the Eye in Dogs and Cats relating to Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden

**List of "serious misdiagnosis" in the practical exam,
i.e. misdiagnosis of a hereditary eye disease that would exclude the
animal from breeding.**

A serious misdiagnosis will automatically lead to 0 points for the case where a serious misdiagnosis has been made.

1. The candidate states that an animal is affected by an ophthalmic disorder in the absence of signs of said disorder.

This includes the following disorders:

- Cataract (i.e. a cataract excluding from breeding)
- Lens luxation
- PHTVL/PHPV grade 2 or higher
- Optic nerve hypoplasia / micropapilla
- PRA
- Retinal detachment
- Coloboma
- Other disorders of considerable genetic and/or clinical significance.

2. The candidate do not state that an animal is affected by an ophthalmic disorder despite obvious signs of said disorder in the animal in question.

This includes the following disorders:

- Clearly visible cataract (i.e. a cataract excluding from breeding)
- Clearly visible lens subluxation
- Lens luxation
- PHTVL/PHPV degree 2 or higher
- Optic nerve hypoplasia / micropapilla
- PRA, moderate degree or worse
- Clearly visible retinal detachment
- Coloboma, moderate size or larger
- Other disorders of considerable genetic and/or clinical significance.