

NEEC - Examination procedure

Revised by the NEEC, September 2017

For being successful in the exams and in the work as an Eye Scheme Examiner ("a panelist"), the trainee must be familiar with

- the examination techniques, instrumentation and pharmacologic agents used in ophthalmic examination (direct and indirect ophthalmoscopy, gonioscopy, biomicroscopy, tonometry, evaluation of the tear film, including the principles of their function and use).
- ophthalmic embryology and anatomy
- neuro-ophthalmology
- diseases presumed to be inherited in the dog and cat, including genetics and available genetics tests.

In order to achieve that, the trainee must

- study the relevant issues (see the suggested reading list)
- attend courses and continuing education and congresses on the specialty (including, but not only, the subjects mentioned in the requirements)
- attend meetings of the national society when applicable
- fulfill the requirements of examining animals

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.

Non-Nordic trainees: Signed formal acceptance for sitting an ECVO ESE exam from ECVO. Non-Nordic candidate 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 have to 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 trainee is allowed to sit each part of the exam a maximum of four 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 trainee is found using unauthorized means to improve the result of the exam, the trainee will be expelled from the exam, and the result of the exam will be disapproved. In severe cases the trainee 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 slides exam and the written and practical exam are covered by the attending aspirants and decided by the national Head Organisations.
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1. Slides exam

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

2. Written exam

- Is organized together with the practical exam, usually in January-March
- Is organized only if there are 5 or more trainees.
 - the examination time is 3 hours
 - the trainee has to sign a form stating that they are not allowed to reveal questions from the written exam
 - at least 75% of the maximum points has to be achieved for the trainee to pass the examination
 - if a trainee passes the written exam and fails the practical, the result of the written test is still valid
 - the result of the written test is not given until after the practical test.

3. Practical exam

- Is organized together with the written exam, usually in January-March
- Is organized only if there is at least 5 trainees. For practical reasons, the maximum amount of trainees per exam is 10. Retakes have a priority for the exam. Other trainees are accepted depending on the order in which their credentials are approved.
- the exam consists of 8-10 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 trainee is responsible for bringing his/her own equipment needed to do a full eye-scheme examination including indirect ophthalmoscope, slit-lamp biomicroscope etc
- the trainee is allowed 15 minutes for examination of each animal, plus 5 minutes to fill in the ECVO-certificates. Trainees educated in Sweden have to use the “Swedish-certificate”
- the certificate should be filled in in detail according to the description given in the ECVO-scheme, including the concluding part. Trainees educated in Sweden fill in their certificates according to the Swedish scheme.
- at least 80% of the maximum points have to be achieved to pass the exam.
- a list of serious mistakes (“Lethal issues”) has been defined. If the trainee fails to any of these, he/she fails the exam regardless of the total score.

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

Appeals

- Any trainee that 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 trainee due to confidentiality of the exam questions.

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 "lethal issues",
i.e. mistakes that automatically means a trainee fails the practical examination.**

Trainees taking the practical examinations will automatically be failed when one or more of the mistakes listed below are made. This is valid irrespective of the total score of the examination as a whole.

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

This includes *but is not limited to* the following disorders:

- Cataract
- Lens luxation
- PHTVL/PHPV grade 2 or higher
- Optic nerve hypoplasia / micropapilla
- PRA
- RD (irrespective of type)
- Retinal detachment
- Coloboma
- Other disorders of considerable genetic and/or clinical significance.

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

This includes **but is not limited to** the following disorders:

- Clearly visible cataract
- Clearly visible lens subluxation
- Lens luxation
- PHTVL/PHPV degree 2 or higher
- Optic nerve hypoplasia / micropapilla
- PRA, moderate degree or worse
- Clearly visible retinal folds
- RD, moderate degree or worse, irrespective of type
- Clearly visible retinal detachment
- CEA/CRD, moderate degree or worse
- Coloboma, moderate size or larger
- Other disorders of considerable genetic and/or clinical significance, the signs of which are clearly visible by ophthalmic examination, such as normally performed when screening for inherited disease.