

## **Strategic Plan: 2026 - 2030**

The ECVDI exists to advance veterinary diagnostic imaging in Europe and to enhance the competence of those who practice in this field. Now more than 30 years since its foundation, the College has successfully developed and refined a curriculum that reflects evolving work practices and technological progress. Past achievements built upon by the previous strategic plan include improvements in accreditation and certification, standardisation of image acquisition and reporting, support for knowledge dissemination, development of radiation oncology as a subspecialty, and a strengthened collaboration with the ACVR. All these provide a strong foundation for the next phase of growth.

Looking ahead, the Executive Committee recognises that sustaining these gains will require continued attention. At the same time, the expansion of the College, the diversification of work environments, and the evolution of the discipline present new opportunities and challenges. This strategic plan identifies key areas of focus for the coming four-year period.

### **Quality Standards in Residency Training and Certification**

Maintaining excellence in training and certification remains central to the College's mission. The College will continue to ensure that training centers, in-training milestones, and summative examinations reflect the highest standards of the discipline. As part of this commitment, the College will review its assessment approaches and committee structures to ensure they remain fit for purpose. Strengthening the processes that support training centres and residents will help maintain consistency, fairness, and quality across Europe.

### **Demarcation of Tasks, Functions, and Reporting Structures**

As the number of Diplomates and residents continues to grow, clarity in governance becomes increasingly important. The College's SOPs will remain the framework that defines committee and individual responsibilities, prevents gaps or overlaps, and supports efficient operations. As the organisation evolves from a small to a medium-sized body, the expanding number of committee members creates a need for additional oversight roles. These roles help ensure continuity, strengthen long-term processes, and complement the work of existing committees.

### **Digital Technologies**

Effective administration of the College requires reliable digital systems for communication, record-keeping, reporting, and event organisation. The College will prioritise the identification of robust, interoperable digital solutions that avoid vendor lock-in and integrate effectively with external systems, including those used by the

EBVS. Ensuring a stable and adaptable digital infrastructure will support the College's long-term operational needs.

### **Promote Broad European Relevance**

Although the College defines itself as European, current membership and activity remain concentrated in Western Europe. This reflects historical patterns but does not fully represent the geographic and professional diversity of Europe. Strengthening engagement across Central, Eastern, and Southern Europe is essential for legitimacy, growth, and long-term sustainability. Expanding our reach will create opportunities for a wider range of countries to participate fully in our standards of excellence, while enriching the College with perspectives and expertise not yet fully represented.

### **Recognise and Develop the Full Spectrum of Our Activities**

The 2024 job task analysis identified three major areas of activity within our discipline: academic radiology, on-site clinical radiology, and remote (teleradiology) practice. Each contributes essential expertise but operates under different conditions and expectations. These differences can create natural tensions, yet they also reflect the breadth and dynamism of the field.

The College's future strength depends on recognising and valuing this diversity. By fostering a culture in which all three domains are connected and respected, the College can ensure that scientific development remains clinically relevant, that clinical practice continues to evolve, and that teleradiology is fully integrated into the discipline's growth. Supporting this balance will be central to the College's credibility, influence, and scientific contribution.

### **Share our experiences with the various manifestations of Artificial Intelligence software as a radiological assistant**

The impact in the coming years of artificial intelligence is difficult to predict. Currently the evidence base for AI applications in veterinary radiology is early-stage and narrow. As a result, there is little robust evidence of their utility. Yet they can be promoted as being or about to be, all competent. The College is uniquely positioned as a community of specialists who encounter AI products in clinical practice and who can also detect their advantages and importantly their limitations. By communicating our individual experiences with these software products as they are now and as they come available, the College will be well positioned to adapt and incorporate AI where it is advantageous to patient care, while also identifying risks and shortcomings in its blind adoption.