

Sport & Industry

Alphabet soup of equine veterinary qualifications explained

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Palm Beach Equine Clinic's Dr Christopher Elliott is an MANZCVS in Equine Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation. He also holds DACVSMR, BVSc, and MRCVS qualifications. *Photo courtesy of Dr Christopher Elliott*

Veterinarians often have a lot of letters after their name – but the average horse owner has no idea exactly what these mean. Here, the [Palm Beach Equine Clinic](#) outlines what each of the specific veterinary qualifications means. Many of the clinic's staff members hold multiple qualifications.

Here's what each of the letters behind a vet's name stands for.

DVM – Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine: This qualification is given to graduates of veterinary colleges. Although this was once only for graduates of American veterinary colleges, the abbreviation is now given to graduates from several other universities around the world.

DACVS – Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons: Holders of this qualification are board-certified specialists in Surgery. Board-certified means that the veterinarian has a mastery of advanced knowledge and skills after completing required testing. There are five such specialists at the Palm Beach Equine Clinic (PBEC).

DACVIM – Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine: This qualification means that the veterinarian is board-certified in Internal Medicine.

DACVR – Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Radiology: This qualification indicates the holder is a board-certified specialist in Radiology.

DACVSMR – Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation: A relatively new specialty, this qualification indicates the veterinarian is a board-certified specialist in Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation.

BVETMED – Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine: This distinction is given to veterinary graduates of the Royal Veterinary College (RVC) in London, which is the first and oldest English-speaking veterinary college in the world.

BVM&S – Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine & Surgery: These letters indicate a graduate of The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies in Edinburgh, Scotland, which is Scotland's oldest veterinary school.

BVMS – Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine & Surgery: This particular abbreviation is given to graduates of several British veterinary schools.

BVSc – Bachelor of Veterinary Science: These letters were typically associated with veterinary graduates from Commonwealth countries such as Australia and New Zealand. The qualification is now granted by numerous vet schools around the world.

MVB – Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine: This renowned abbreviation indicates graduates of the University College Dublin School of Veterinary Medicine, which is Ireland's only veterinary school.

MVZ – Medico Veterinario Zootecnista: This qualification is given by several Spanish-speaking veterinary schools.

MRCVS – Member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons: These celebrated letters indicate the holder as satisfying the stringent regulatory requirements to practice as a Veterinary Surgeon in the United Kingdom. Eight of the veterinarians at PBEC hold this qualification.

MANZCVS – Member of the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists: These letters indicate the veterinarian has studied at the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists and is an advanced practitioner in a particular area of veterinary science.

CERPM – Certified in Equine Rehabilitation & Performance Medicine: This is a post-veterinary school qualification focusing on the early diagnosis of performance deficits, how to correct them, and rehabilitation after injury.

CVA – Certified in Veterinary Acupuncture: Veterinarians with this post-veterinary school qualification have studied the fundamentals of equine acupuncture including points and techniques.

CVMMP – Certified Veterinary Medical Manipulation Practitioner: This is a post-veterinary school qualification where veterinarians are educated in how to perform medical manipulation to treat musculoskeletal problems.

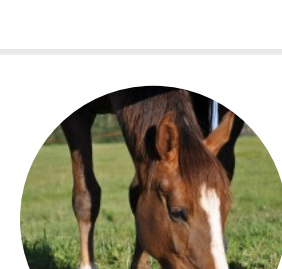
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