



American College of  
Laboratory Animal Medicine



The American Society of  
Laboratory Animal Practitioners

### **FAQ: Why do ACLAM Diplomates need to be members of both ASLAP and the AVMA?**

ACLAM has standing and legitimacy as a specialty organization due to our recognition by the AVMA, and we rely on ASLAP as our voice to the AVMA. For ASLAP to maintain its standing as an allied organization within AVMA, a critical mass of members must be both ASLAP and AVMA members in good standing. Because ASLAP was one of the earliest allied organizations to join the AVMA House of Delegates, the absolute minimum number of dual ASLAP and AVMA members has to be 500 individuals residing in the United States.

In recent years, the number of laboratory animal veterinarians who are members of both ASLAP and AVMA has fallen dangerously near that minimum number. **IMPORTANTLY:** if the number of joint members falls below 500, new expectations would require the number of dual members to be 1% of total AVMA membership. In other words, ASLAP would need to have ~900 of its members also be AVMA members. This would be unattainable as ASLAP does not currently have 900 members.

ACLAM strongly encourages its diplomates to sustain membership in both ASLAP and AVMA.

We must maintain an avenue for advocacy of issues important to laboratory animal veterinarians at the national level. Collaborative efforts across laboratory animal medicine and science are essential to promote our vision, ideals and enhancements for animal welfare and the future of biomedical research.

### **More on the AVMA and LAM relationship:**

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) is a not-for-profit association, founded in 1863 that now represents more than 88,000 veterinarians. Its members include veterinarians in private and corporate practice, government, industry, academia and the uniformed services. The AVMA's mission is to advocate for its members and advance science and the practice of veterinary medicine to improve animal and human health.<sup>1</sup> The AVMA has a long history of supporting humane animal-based research.

AVMA governance is through elected leadership and the House of Delegates (HOD). The HOD is made up of delegates and alternate delegates representing each of the state and allied veterinary organizations. The allied organization which represents laboratory animal medicine veterinarians and issues relevant to animal-based research is the American Society for Laboratory Animal Practitioners (ASLAP). Representation by ASLAP provides the **only** voice in the AVMA specifically designated for laboratory animal medicine professionals. The AVMA conducts its business primarily through councils, committees and task forces. To serve on an AVMA entity or participate in an AVMA program, an individual must be an AVMA member. ASLAP has standing representation on two committees important to laboratory animal veterinarians; the Animal Welfare and Legislative Advisory Committees. In addition, ASLAP can nominate members to serve on other AVMA committees and task forces when it is critical to include representation for laboratory animal medicine and animal-based research<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup>AVMA Vision and Mission. <https://www.avma.org/About/WhoWeAre/Pages/mission.aspx>.

<sup>2</sup>"ASLAP, the AVMA and why we need each other."

<https://www.aslap.org/Content/files/files/Public/ASLAP%20White%20Paper%20on%20the%20AVMA%2010-6-15.pdf>

Each year ASLAP nominates early career members for participation in the AVMA Emerging Leaders and Future Leaders programs. Several laboratory animal medicine trainees and ACLAM diplomates have participated in these leadership development programs over the years.

Committees, councils and task forces play an important role within the AVMA by advising the Board of Directors and House of Delegates on matters of importance to veterinarians, developing policy and position statements, and planning initiatives to further the AVMA mission.<sup>3</sup> Of particular importance to laboratory animal veterinarians, the AVMA periodically convenes the Panel on Euthanasia to update and publish the Guidelines on Euthanasia. The panel which produced the 2013 *Guidelines* was chaired by an ACLAM Diplomate.

AVMA policy and position statements of relevance to laboratory animal medicine include:

- AVMA Animal Welfare Principles
- AVMA Guidelines on the Identification of Board-Certified Veterinarians
- AVMA Policy to Promote Veterinary Medical Research and Discovery
- Comparative Medicine and Translational Research
- Joint AVMA-FVE-CVMA Statement on the Roles of Veterinarians in Ensuring Good Animal Welfare
- NIH Support of Biomedical Research Training for Veterinarians
- Transportation of Research Animals for the Purpose of Biomedical Research, Testing and Education
- Use of Animals in Research, Testing and Education

As the only national organization representing all aspects of veterinary medicine, the AVMA frequently responds to federal and state legislation that may impact veterinarians. Some recent examples of advocacy on behalf of veterinarians with relevance to laboratory animal medicine include:

- The AVMA voiced its opposition to the international scheduling of ketamine as a Schedule I controlled substance to both the FDA and the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs.
- The AVMA supported the Veterinary Medicine Mobility Act, signed by President Obama in 2014, which made it legal for U.S. veterinarians to carry controlled substances beyond their physical practice location.
- The AVMA solicited input from veterinarians on the APHIS request for comments on petition to amend research facility annual reporting under the Animal Welfare Act.
- The AVMA regularly provides input and support on budget proposals for the Department of Agriculture, NIH and other federal agencies.

### **Join AVMA**

<https://www.avma.org/Members/HowToJoin/Pages/default.aspx>

### **Join ASLAP**

<https://www.aslap.org/join>

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<sup>3</sup> Councils, Committees, Task Forces and Trusts.

<https://www.avma.org/About/Governance/Councils/Pages/Councils-Committees-Task-Forces-and-Trusts.aspx>