



## Routes Leading to Board Certification

The American College of Animal Welfare (ACAW) offers two options for board certification:

- ✓ Formal Residency, and
- ✓ The Individual Training Program (ITP).

**Formal Residency:** The ACAW currently has three (3) approved Institutional-based Residencies:

- University of Pennsylvania
- North Carolina State University
- The Ohio State University

Veterinarians participating in these programs will design a course of study with the Course Director. At the Completion of their course of study, and with the verification by the Course Director that the course of study has been completed, the ACAW Credentials Committee shall review the documentation noting program completion and will verify the individuals credentials to sit for the certifying examination.

**Individual Training Program (ITP):** The ITP is designed for persons seeking board-certification who do not have the ability to participate in a traditional residency program. The ITP is expected to be as robust and as high-quality as a formal residency in animal welfare. The primary difference between the ITP and a formal residency is the training methodology:

- Formal residencies are structured along classic academic educational processes, completed in a shorter period, and have a prescribed course of study.
- The ITP is structured for 'independent study,' as determined by the mentor Diplomate and the applicant and crafted by the candidate and their diplomate mentor. The ITP is expected to meet the specific proficiency requirements of the ACAW – the same as a formal residency process.

Applicants submitting their training plan are expected to follow the Job Task Analysis (JTA) procedures described within.