



## Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges

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TO: Deans  
Associate Deans for Academic Affairs  
Associate Deans for Research  
Chairs, Departments of Comparative Medicine

A recent report from the National Research Council of the National Academies identified a critical shortage of veterinarians in biomedical research.\* One aspect of this shortage involves the comparative medicine veterinary workforce and the postgraduate training of comparative medicine veterinarians. The report made a number of recommendations to deal with the shortage of comparative medicine veterinarians, including changes to the veterinary school curriculum:

To introduce a wider population of veterinary medical students to the field of comparative medicine, all veterinary schools should offer at least elective courses in laboratory animal medicine, and more veterinary schools should require coursework in laboratory animal medicine.

In order to implement this recommendation, AAVMC invited the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine to develop guidance for teaching laboratory animal medicine to veterinary medical students. The ACLAM recommendations (attached) are divided into required and elective elements in recognition of the diversity of veterinary teaching programs, including early specialization and tracking, and the difficulty of adding more material into an already full curriculum.

The ACLAM report was submitted to the AAVMC Board of Directors at their March, 2007 meeting. The Board has requested that it be forwarded to you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Andrew T. Maccabe, DVM, MPH, JD  
Associate Executive Director

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\* National Need and Priorities for Veterinarians in Biomedical Research. National Research Council, Institute for Laboratory Animal Research. National Academies Press, Washington, DC (2004). Available at [www.nap.edu](http://www.nap.edu)