



March 2024

Dear Colleague,

Thank you for your interest in having your hospital become a participating member of the Veterinary Trauma Center (VTC) network. The ACVECC Veterinary Committee on Trauma (VetCOT) is excited to have the possibility of working with you and your hospital to continue toward achieving the *vision*:

To create a network of lead hospitals that seed development of trauma systems. These hospitals will work collaboratively to define high standards of care and disseminate information that improves trauma patient management efficiency and outcome.

The expectations for this wave of centers include:

1. Documentation of resources as described in the VTC [Resources document](#), including a robust performance improvement program (PIP; Appendix I)
2. Development and implementation of a process for identifying all trauma cases presenting to the hospital and documentation of data for entry into the VetCOT Trauma Registry.
3. Commitment to involvement with the VetCOT committee either through direct committee participation, VetCOT conference meetings attendance (Spring: Las Vegas) by a representative from the trauma team and/or coordinating hospital visits by VetCOT leadership.
4. Willingness to provide feedback to the VetCOT subcommittees (Registry, Resources and Support, Identification and Verification, Education, Trauma Support Team, Communication) to ensure continued improvement of processes of the larger initiative.

We acknowledge that this will take a great deal of time and commitment from each of the centers, and as such, require a letter of support from hospital medical director acknowledging they have read the [Resources document](#) and reviewed your hospital's application documenting hospital resources prior to submission.

What does the [process](#) look like?

From the applications received by **11:59 PM PST Friday May 31, 2024**, the VetCOT will recommend **identification** of provisional VTCs to the ACVECC Regents. After approval by the Regents, the hospitals will be invited to participate in the VTC network. The checklist of required documentation is listed at the end of this letter.

Throughout the year a VetCOT and/or verified VTC lead representative will work collaboratively to help the provisional VTC with the processes associated with internal committee set up, registry data entry details, documentation of resources, and other items as needed. A large amount of detail and information will be shared during 1-2 initial emails or virtual discussions between the VTC representatives and VetCOT leadership.

Application for verification and documentation of meeting expectations (above) will be due approximately 12-18 months after identification (current target: **October 2025**). Final documentation from the identified VTCs will be reviewed by the VetCOT committee, which will then recommend **verification** of VTCs as either Level I, Level II or Level III to the ACVECC Regents.

We are truly appreciative of your interest, and look forward to the opportunity to work with you and your hospital as this initiative grows and expands, enhancing exceptional trauma patient care delivery to veterinary patients. Please contact us if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Megan Davis, VetCOT Identification and Verification committee chair
Kelly Hall, VetCOT Executive Director

Checklist for veterinary hospitals applying for the Veterinary Trauma Center identification process:

- Hospital resources documented via Redcap checklist
<https://redcap.link/VetCOTresourcesurvey>
- A letter from the proposed VTC director confirming intent to meet expectations as outlined above.*
- A letter of support from the hospital medical director to include acknowledgement of the expectations as outlined above (1-4), and verification that they reviewed hospital resources as submitted by the proposed VTC director via the RedCap survey.*

*Note: Letters can be emailed in pdf format to:
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