DVM vs ABVP Diplomate Credential Reference Guide

> **Companion Reference Sheet for:** ABVP Avian, Reptile, and Mammal Credentials Explained
> Save this PDF to your phone or print a copy for field reference. This sheet does not replace an exam by a veterinarian. If your pet is in distress, call a vet now.

Key Takeaways

- **DABVP** means Diplomate of the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners. The specialty in parentheses tells you which ABVP category the veterinarian earned.
- **Avian Practice** covers birds, **Reptile and Amphibian Practice** covers reptiles and amphibians, and **Exotic Companion Mammal Practice** covers companion mammals such as rabbits, ferrets, and rodents.
- ABVP certification is distinct from association membership, a residency, species-specific experience, or a clinic describing itself as an exotic-animal practice.
- Applicants may use a practice experience route or a residency route. Each has its own application and evidence requirements.
- Use the ABVP Diplomate directory and your state veterinary licensing board to check a clinician's designation and license. Ask whether the veterinarian currently treats your pet's species.
- Typical US estimates for an exotic animal consultation are **$75 to $145**, with diagnostic bloodwork, fecal screening, or imaging estimated at **$95 to $340**. Fees vary by region, clinic, species, and procedure.

What ABVP and the DABVP title mean

Specialty	Species examples	Clinical work examples
1. Avian Practice	Parrots, macaws, cockatiels, budgies, and finches	Preventive care, nutrition, diagnostic testing, and treatment of illness or injury in birds
2. Reptile and Amphibian Practice	Snakes, lizards, turtles, tortoises, frogs, and salamanders	Species-specific examination, husbandry assessment, parasite diagnostics, anesthesia, and treatment
3. Exotic Companion Mammal Practice	Rabbits, ferrets, guinea pigs, rats, mice, and chinchillas	Preventive care, dental and medical assessment, anesthesia, surgery, and species-specific treatment

Certification routes, experience, and case documentation

Route or requirement	What it involves	What to keep in mind
Practice experience route	Clinical practice evidence, case documentation, and specialty credentials	ABVP says clinical practitioners who demonstrate exceptional patient care and abilities may apply after a minimum of **4 years** in practice. ABVP application information
Residency route	Specialty-focused supervised training and evidence specified for the applicant's category	Use the current ABVP instructions for the chosen specialty and route.

Route or requirement	What it involves	What to keep in mind
Case evidence	Records that show the applicant's role in examining, diagnosing, treating, and following patients	Case logs and case reports should reflect the intended specialty and the applicant's own clinical reasoning.

Board examination preparation and reading lists

Visit or service	Typical US estimate	What affects the final fee
Avian board-certified veterinary consultation	**$75 to $145**	Clinic location, appointment type, and the patient's needs
Diagnostic bloodwork, fecal screening, or imaging	**$95 to $340**	Which tests are performed and the equipment or laboratory work involved

How to verify a veterinarian's ABVP specialty

Start with the ABVP Diplomate directory and compare the listed specialty with the title the veterinarian uses. Then check the state veterinary board for an active license and ask the clinic whether the clinician currently treats your pet's species.

- ☐ Match the exact ABVP category to the animal you own.
- ☐ Ask about the clinician's current caseload and experience with your species, including relevant diagnostics, anesthesia, and surgery.
- ☐ Ask who will see your pet at the first visit and who handles after-hours or emergency cases.
- ☐ Distinguish a board-certified specialist from a veterinarian with species-specific experience or a clinic that offers exotic-animal services.

Our directory at Exotic Vets helps exotic pet owners find specialized veterinary care. Viking Trading Group LLC, based in East Longmeadow, Massachusetts, publishes the directory independently; our listings draw on public business records, clinic websites, state veterinary board lookups, association directories, and map listings. If we cannot confirm a credential, we leave it off the listing rather than guess.

Use the directory to identify clinics for follow-up, not as the authority that grants certification. For example, our Indianapolis clinic profile identifies a practice with board-certified Avian and Exotic Companion Mammal specialists. You can also browse the board-certified exotic veterinary listings and ask each practice about the particular clinician you hope to see.

DID YOU KNOW?

To prepare for the examination, set aside 30-60 minutes a day to study.

Source: University of Pennsylvania Libraries

Published by Exotic Vets (exotic-vets.com), a publication of Viking Trading Group LLC.

Source URL: https://exotic-vets.com/guides/abvp-avian-reptile-and-mammal-credentials-explained/