Certification/accreditation of continuing education courses for veterinarians as "approved continuing education" (CE credits / "ATF-hours") in Germany according to § 10 (2) of the articles of the ATF

General information:

Continuing education courses accredited by the Academy of Veterinary Continuing Education (ATF) as obligatory courses for members (according to § 10 of the articles of the ATF) in Germany are accepted as obligatory continuing education courses in Austria and Switzerland as well.

Accreditation by ATF (ATF-credits; *in German*: "ATF-Anerkennung") is comparable to the RACE-accreditation in the USA or, for example, of the Veterinary Council of Ireland (CE-credits). The unit is "ATF-hours".

Criteria:

The following requirements have to be fulfilled in order to receive an accreditation as "approved continuing education course ["ATF-Anerkennung]":

- The course addresses veterinarians only. The host must guarantee that all participants are vets.
- The content of the course is suitable to enhance veterinary qualification and skills or non-veterinary professional skills.
- Speakers must have practical and academic experience that qualifies them to teach the topic covered in the segment, course, or module.
- The host is reliable and trustworthy and will conduct the course faultlessly. The host is obliged to provide information concerning participants and/or course evaluation to the ATF if necessary.
- The course is open to the veterinary public and will be announced publicly. Internal courses cannot be approved.
- Contents of the CE courses must be independent of any commercial interest. Objective information (e.g. on pharmaceutical products) according to scientific criteria is acceptable.
- Certificates of attendance:
  - Face-to-face courses: Certificates can only be handed over after verification of participation on site.
  - Interactive courses: Certificates can only be handed over after passing the written learning success control.

Conversion:

To convert "ATF hours" [CE credits in Germany] into "continuing education credits" [CE credits in other countries] please consider the following guidelines:

Germany

- One ATF hour represents 60 minutes of continuing education.
- Relevant authority: **Akademie für tierärztliche Fortbildung (ATF) , Bundestierärztekammer e.V. Französische Str. 53,10117 Berlin, GERMANY, E-Mail:** atf@btkberlin.de
- Source: https://www.bundestieraerztekammer.de/atf/anerkennung/

Austria

- Conversion: One ATF hour corresponds to one education hour.
- Relevant authority: Austrian Veterinary Chamber https://www.tieraerztekammer.at
- Source: Education Regulations of the Austrian Veterinary Chamber (Effective 26/06/2026) (*Bildungsordnung der Österreichischen Tierärztekammer*)

Switzerland

- Conversion: One ATF hour corresponds to one education hour.
- Relevant authority: Education Commission of the Suisse Veterinary Society https://www.gstsvs.ch/de/
- Source: Regulations governing the award of educational points in the context of continuing and further education of the Suisse Veterinary Society within the Education Regulations (*Effective 15/06/2023*) (*Regulations on the allocation of training hours within the framework of further education and training under the Education Regulations* (R-BSBO))

For any further questions please directly contact the abovementioned organisations or the appropriate authority of your country.