North American Veterinary Licensing Examination

**Practice Analysis Summary
and Implications for Examination Blueprint**

for

Veterinary Stakeholders- April 25, 2018

To ensure licensure examinations required for the practice of veterinary medicine remain highly job-related, the International Council for Veterinary Assessment (ICVA) periodically conducts practice analyses. The most recent analysis updates previous studies by asking an even larger, more representative sample of North American veterinarians about the species they see in their practices and the diagnoses they are required to manage.

About the Practice Analysis Survey
- Consisted of three sections: Demographics and Practice Characteristics, Species and Diagnoses, and Clinical and Professional Competencies. Respondents evaluated specific species or competency statements based on their responses to demographic questions at the beginning of the survey.
- Administered via the web in 2016 to a sample of 19,829 licensed veterinarians throughout the United States and Canada. The web-based survey tailored questions to each respondents' area of practice due to its dynamic design. A total of 6,975 responses, or 35% of the sample, responded to enough of the survey questions to be included in the survey analysis.

In addition, the NAVLE Practice Analysis Study asked Subject Matter Experts (SME) to further refine NAVLE specifications. Their evaluation identified the criticality of the diagnoses and the competencies. The SMEs also assisted the project team by classifying competency statements into meaningful groups based on their similarities. This information was used to determine the final subgroupings of competency statements.

Study Findings

Based on the results of these activities, a blueprint for the future NAVLE was developed and approved by the ICVA Board (see Fig. 1 and 2). The blueprint consists of three dimensions: (1) Diagnoses (nested within Species), (2) Competencies, and (3) Foundational Veterinary Sciences. **The most notable change in the blueprint is the representation of Public Health, which was removed from the species dimension and integrated into the competency dimension since many public health activities are tran-species.**
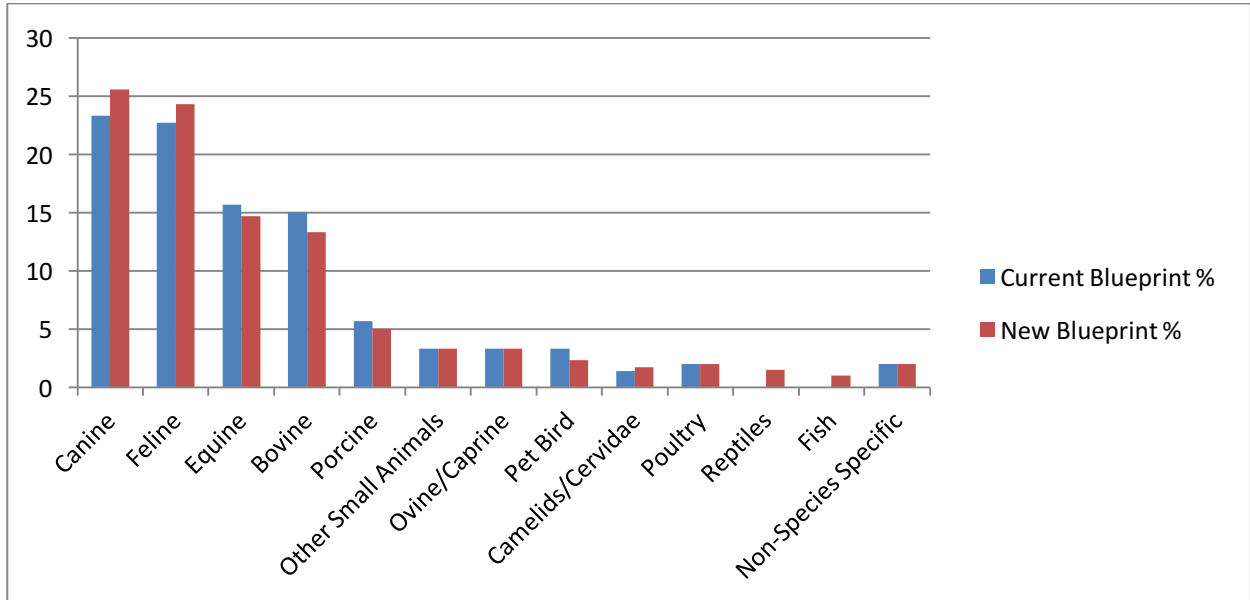
Next Steps: SMEs and National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) staff began to recode the NAVLE item bank based on the new diagnoses and competency codes in the fall of 2017.

Moving Ahead: An item-writing workshop was held in February 2018 to train new item writers in the areas of Aquatics and Reptiles. Additionally, **the need for more items about communication skills was identified.** The ICVA will convene a Communications Task Force to start exploring how to increase the item bank of communications items.

In 2018, beginning with the November/December administration, **examinees will see an increase in aquatics items** as we begin to pretest this content to build the item bank. Also, both Examinee and School feedback will be modified to contain subscores on the new competency domains.

In 2019, we anticipate updated examination forms will be built following the new blueprint as permitted by the bank of available items.

(Fig. 1) NAVLE Specifications Based on Species

(Fig. 2) NAVLE Specifications Based on Competencies