

CANDIDATE BULLETIN
SPECIES SPECIFIC EXAMINATIONS
INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR VETERINARY ASSESSMENT

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Introduction

At the request of the American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB), the ICVA has developed species specific examinations for companion animal veterinary medicine and equine veterinary medicine. The ICVA offers these examinations to licensing boards for use in disciplinary cases and for other purposes deemed necessary by the licensing board.

Content Outline

Each examination consists of 100 multiple-choice items (questions) similar to those used on the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE®). All items on the equine examination address the equine species. For the companion animal examination, the species covered include canine, feline, pet bird, and other small animals (e.g., aquatic life, pocket pets, etc.). Two sample items for each examination are presented below.

Additional information on the NAVLE, including practice examinations (NAVLE self-assessments), is available at www.icva.net.

Item and Test Development Procedures

All items were written and reviewed by veterinarians under the guidance of professional testing specialists. The ICVA convened test development committees consisting of veterinarians representing companion animal and equine practice areas to develop the species specific examinations. These committees reviewed the examinations based on the test content outlines, and made changes and substitutions as necessary. After final editorial review, the examinations were printed for administration by licensing boards. The most recent review and revision of the species specific examinations was completed in 2019.

Administration and Scoring

Licensing boards are responsible for determining candidate eligibility and administering the examinations. Two hours are allowed to complete a 100-item examination. After each administration, the ICVA scores the examinations and reports scores to the licensing boards. Score information includes the number and percentage of items answered correctly. Licensing boards are responsible for reporting scores to candidates. Each examination has an ICVA-recommended minimum passing score.

Sample Items

Companion Animal

1. In the management of a cat diagnosed as having diabetes mellitus, it may be necessary to administer insulin twice in each 24-hour period, in order to:

- A. maintain blood glucose at acceptable levels.
- B. minimize allergic reactions to the insulin.
- C. overcome insulin resistance.
- D. avert development of ketoacidosis.
- E. facilitate regeneration of pancreatic islet cells.

2. An 8 year old female toy poodle has a history of a severe dry honking cough induced by excitement or exercise. Which of the following is the most likely diagnosis?

- A. mitral insufficiency
- B. collapsing trachea
- C. infectious tracheobronchitis
- D. heartworm disease
- E. bronchopneumonia

Equine

3. A 7-month-old quarter horse filly is presented with a mucopurulent nasal discharge, anorexia, and depression. The filly is stabled where 4 other young horses are affected. No adults seem to be affected. A physical examination reveals swollen lymph nodes, retropharyngeal swelling, and a fever. Which of the following is the most likely diagnosis?

- A. Actinobacillosis
- B. Equine influenza
- C. Enzootic lymphangitis
- D. Strangles
- E. Vesicular stomatitis

4. A 3-year-old gelding is presented because after a few minutes of exercise he becomes sore and unwilling to move forward. The horse's condition worsens with additional exercise. An immediate physical examination reveals the horse to be sweating, anxious, and reluctant to move; his urine is dark. Which of the following is the most likely diagnosis?

- A. Fibrotic myopathy
- B. Acute epiphysitis
- C. Acute laminitis
- D. Acute colic
- E. Rhabomyolysis

Answers: 1=A, 2=B, 3=D, 4=E