



Species Specific Candidate Bulletin

Introduction

At the request of the American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB), the ICVA has developed Species Specific Examinations for companion animal and equine veterinary medicine. The ICVA offers these examinations for use by licensing agencies in disciplinary cases and other necessary purposes, as determined by the licensing agency. Licensing agencies interested in ordering a Species Specific Examination for the first time should contact mail@icva.net.

Content Outline

Each examination consists of 100 multiple-choice items (questions) similar to those used in the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE®).

- **Equine Medicine** – contains multiple-choice items that address the equine species.
- **Companion Animal Medicine** – contains multiple-choice items that address the species of 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

Multiple-choice items for the Species Specific Examinations are 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 conducted a rigorous review of the examinations based on the test content outlines, assuring the highest standards of fairness and accuracy. They made updates and substitutions as necessary to ensure examination quality. After the final editorial review, the examinations were printed for administration by licensing agencies. The most recent review and revision of the Species Specific Examinations was completed in 2019.

Administration and Scoring

Licensing agencies oversee candidate eligibility and examination administration:

Ordering

- Licensing agencies interested in ordering a Species Specific Examination for the first time should contact mail@icva.net.

Administration

- Exam can be administered in person or remotely
 - Licensing boards must provide a staff person or representative to proctor the exam
 - Licensing boards are provided with step-by-step guides on how to administer and proctor the exam
 - Candidates are allotted two hours (120 minutes) to complete the 100-item examination.

Scoring

- ICVA scores the examination and reports score to the licensing agency, including the number and percentage of items answered correctly.
- Licensing agencies then share scores with candidates.

Note: 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. Rhabdomyolysis

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



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