INTRODUCTION:

These Membership Guidelines should be read in conjunction with the Membership Candidate Handbook.

ELIGIBILITY:

Refer to the Membership Candidate Handbook.

OBJECTIVES

To demonstrate that the candidate has sufficient knowledge of and experience in the aetiology and pathophysiology of common surgical diseases of the dog and cat and the ability to appropriately advise veterinary colleagues about the current treatment options for these surgical diseases.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Specific Objectives: The candidate is required to have knowledge and experience of Small Animal Surgery sufficient to be recognised by colleagues as having an additional qualification

1. The candidate will have a sound\textsuperscript{1} knowledge of:

   1.1 the anatomy and physiology of the dog and cat.
   1.2 the principles of surgery as they relate to the dog and cat.
   1.3 the aetiology, pathogenesis and pathophysiology of surgical diseases of the dog and cat.
   1.4 the type and range of commonly occurring surgical diseases of the dog and cat.
   1.5 the treatment of surgical diseases of the dog and cat

\textsuperscript{1} Knowledge Levels:

- Detailed knowledge – candidates must be able to demonstrate an in-depth knowledge of the topic including differing points of view and published literature. The highest level of knowledge.
- Sound knowledge – candidate must know all of the principles of the topic including some of the finer detail, and be able to identify areas where opinions may diverge. A middle level of knowledge.
- Basic knowledge – candidate must know the main points of the topic and the core literature.
2. The candidate must be able to perform the following with a **sound** level of expertise:

2.1 diagnose surgical diseases of the dog and cat, including a sound knowledge of the clinical examination, diagnostic aids and clinical and tissue pathology.
2.2 surgical techniques, anaesthesia and critical care, chemotherapeutics and surgical nursing.
2.3 critical evaluation of the current surgical concepts and literature of surgery of the dog and cat.

EXAMINATIONS

For information on the standard and format of both the Written and Oral examinations, candidates are referred to the *Membership Candidates Handbook*. The Membership examination has **two separate, autonomous components**:

1. **Written Examination (Component 1)**
   Written Paper 1 (two hours): Surgical Principles
   Written Paper 2 (two hours): Application of surgical principles

2. **Oral Examination (Component 2)**
   Oral (one hour)

The written examination will comprise of two separate two-hour written papers taken on the same day. There will be an additional 15 minutes perusal time for each paper, during which no writing on the examination paper is permitted. In each paper you are provided with four (4) questions to answer, worth 30 marks each, giving a total of 120 marks per paper. There is no choice of questions. Questions may be long essay type or a series of shorter answer sub-questions. Marks allocated to each question and to each subsection of questions will be clearly indicated on the written paper.

**Written Paper 1:**
This paper focuses on the principles of surgery and the pathophysiology of surgical diseases.

**Written Paper 2:**
This will include all clinical problems an experience general practitioner with a large surgical load might be expected to face.

**Oral Examination:**
This comprises images, radiographs and other clinically relevant material to assess the candidate’s diagnostic skills, problem solving skills and ability to apply surgical

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2 **Skill levels:**
- **Detailed expertise** – the candidate must be able to perform the technique with a high degree of skill, and have extensive experience in its application. The highest level of proficiency.
- **Sound expertise** – the candidate must be able to perform the technique with a moderate degree of skill, and have moderate experience in its application. A middle level of proficiency.
- **Basic expertise** – the candidate must be able to perform the technique competently in uncomplicated circumstances.
principles to clinical problems. The duration of this examination is approximately 45 minutes. Four (4) cases are presented with supporting questions asked verbally in a face-to-face setting. The oral examination has a total of 100 marks with each case allocated 25 marks.

RECOMMENDED READING LIST

The candidate is expected to read widely within the discipline, paying particular attention to areas not part of their normal work experiences. This list of books and journals is intended to guide the candidate to some core references and other source material. Candidates also should be guided by their mentors. The list is not comprehensive and is not intended as an indicator of the content of the examination.

Core Textbooks

Veterinary Surgery Small Animal

Small Animal Surgery, 3rd Edition
Theresa Welch Fossum, ISBN 0323044395 / 9780323044394  · Hardback  · 1632 Pages  · 2202 Illustrations
Mosby · Published December 2006

Additional Textbooks

Atlas of Small animal wound management and reconstructive surgery , 3rd edition
Publisher WB Saunders 2010

Pathologic Basis of Veterinary Disease  Zachary and McGavin , 5th Edition 2012
Publisher Elsevier

Disease mechanisms in small animal surgery
edited by M. Joseph Bojrab; consulting soft tissue editor, Daniel D. Smek; consulting bone and joint editor, Mark S. Bloomberg

By Donald L. Piermattei, Kenneth A. Johnson, Columbus, Ohio

ISBN 0721687075 / 9780721687070 · Hardback
Saunders · Published February 2004


Donald L. Piermattei, Gretchen L. Flo, Charles E. DeCamp ISBN 0721692141 / 9780721692142 · Paperback · 832 Pages · 1834 Illustrations Saunders · Published
April 2006

Veterinary Surgical Oncology, editors Kudnig and Seguin
Published Wiley and Blackwell 2012
isbn978-0-8138-0542-9/2012

Withrow and MacEwen's Small Animal Clinical Oncology,, 4th Edition
By Stephen J. Withrow, David M. Vail ISBN 0721605583 / 9780721605586 ·
Hardback · 864 Pages · 275 Illustrations Saunders · Published February 2007

Journals

Veterinary Surgery
Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association
Journal of Small Animal Practice
Journal of the American Hospital Association
Compendium of Continuing Education
Veterinary Clinics of North America ( Small Animal )
Veterinary Comparative Orthopaedics and Traumatology
Australian Veterinary Journal
Australian Veterinary Practitioner

FURTHER INFORMATION

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