



**AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND  
COLLEGE OF VETERINARY SCIENTISTS**

**MEMBERSHIP GUIDELINES**

*Medicine of Dogs*

**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 Medicine of Dogs to be able to give sound advice in this field to veterinary colleagues.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

1. The candidate will have a **sound<sup>1</sup> knowledge** of:
  - a. the aetiology, pathogenesis and pathophysiology of organ dysfunction in the dog;
  - b. the diagnosis, differential diagnosis, treatment and management of canine diseases;
  - c. diagnostic tests and procedures as these apply to the diagnosis of disease conditions in the dog
  - d. preventive medicine as it applies to the dog;

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<sup>1</sup> **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 will have a **basic knowledge** of:
  - a. canine anatomy, physiology and pharmacology;
  - b. chemotherapeutics, vaccines and biologics used for the treatment, prevention and control and management of canine diseases;
  - c. canine nutrition and husbandry, especially as it applies to the management of disease conditions, paediatrics, geriatrics and other special life stage or training requirements;
  - d. canine diseases exotic to Australia and New Zealand but which could be of potential importance to canine health in Australia and New Zealand;
  - e. zoonotic canine diseases, including measures to reduce their public health risk.
  
3. The candidate will **be able to**<sup>2</sup>:
  - a. collect, interpret and record clinical data in canine cases including
    - i. historical and physical examinations of all body systems;
    - ii. the results of common clinical pathology investigations;
    - iii. the results of diagnostic imaging examinations including radiography and ultrasound imaging

*Sound diagnostic expertise is required.*
  
  - b. perform the following technical procedures, with a **basic** level of expertise;
    - i. biopsy techniques (fine needle aspiration and cutting needle core samples, with and without imaging guidance)
    - ii. blood pressure measurement
    - iii. body cavity centesis: thoracic, abdominal, pericardial
    - iv. bone marrow biopsy & aspiration
    - v. cerebrospinal fluid collection
    - vi. electrocardiography
    - vii. enteral nutrition tube placement
    - viii. joint fluid aspiration
    - ix. prostatic massage/ejaculate collection
    - x. thoracostomy tube placement
    - xi. transtracheal aspiration & bronchoalveolar lavage
  
  - c. analyse common clinical problems and make sound clinical judgements;
  - d. communicate effectively with clients and peers

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<sup>2</sup> **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.

## EXAMINATIONS

For information on both the standard and the format of 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): Principles of the Subject  
**Written Paper 2** (two hours): Applied Aspects of the Subject
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 is designed to test the Candidate's knowledge of the principles of Medicine of Dogs as described in the Learning Outcomes using essay-style, short answer and note-point formats. Answers may cite specific examples where general principles apply, but should primarily address the theoretical basis underlying each example.

### **Written Paper 2:**

This paper is designed to (a) test the Candidate's ability to apply the principles of Medicine of Dogs to particular cases/problems or tasks and (b) test the Candidate's familiarity with the current practices and current issues that arise from activities within the discipline of Medicine of Dogs in Australia and New Zealand using essay-style, short answer and note-point formats. The Candidate may be required to justify their clinical approach and treatment options using their knowledge of pathophysiology and pharmacology.

### **Oral Examination:**

This examination requires the candidate to demonstrate achievement of the above mentioned Learning Outcomes. Discussion will be predominantly based on case material. The duration of this examination is approximately one (1) hour. Images and laboratory results are likely to be used during this examination. Four (4) cases are presented with supporting questions asked verbally in a face-to-face setting. The oral examination has a total of 60 marks with each case allocated 15 marks.

## RECOMMENDED READING MATERIAL

The following list of recommended reading material is intended as a guide only. Candidates should not necessarily limit themselves to only studying material on the list.

### Recommended Textbooks

*Textbook of Veterinary Internal Medicine Vols I & II.* Ettinger SJ & Feldman EC (eds), 6<sup>th</sup> Edition. Elsevier Saunders, St. Louis, 2005.

*Small Animal Internal Medicine.* Nelson RW & Couto CG (eds), 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. Mosby-Year Book, St Louis, 2003. *Note: This text does not contain adequate detail regarding pathophysiology.*

*Kirk's Current Veterinary Therapy XIII: Small Animal Practice.* Bonagura JD (ed). Saunders, Philadelphia, 1999 (and any subsequent editions).

### Additional references – non essential but useful reference material if available:

*Kirk's Current Veterinary Therapy XV: Small Animal Practice.* Bonagura JD & Twedt DC (eds). Saunders, Philadelphia, 2014.

*Australian Veterinary Journal*  
*New Zealand Veterinary Journal*

## FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information contact the College Office

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